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FY 12/13
 Outside Agency
 Report

November 25, 2013

Samuel L. Neal, Jr. County Judge
 Nueces County Courthouse
 901 Leopard, Rm. 303
 Corpus Christi, TX 78401-3697

County Judge \$500
 Commissioner Pct 2 \$1,500

2cm
 12/3/13

RE: Big Brothers Big Sisters Serving the Coastal Bend Final Report

County Judge Neal:

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (BBBS) and the children we serve, thank you to the Nueces County Commissioners Court for your generous support. Your funds help to facilitate positive and engaging one-to-one mentor relationships for over 267 at-risk youth in Nueces County for 2013. With your support and our services, we are ensuring a more healthy and prosperous Nueces County by changing the lives of our at-risk youth for the better, forever.

Through the consistent support of their mentors, our youth improved their academic performance, attitudes, and the developmental assets they need to navigate the obstacles of adolescence to become healthy adults. According to **Program-Based Outcome Evaluations**, completed annually by mentors:

- 95% reported healthy self-confidence and self-esteem in their Littles;
- 86% of mentored youth improved their academic performance;
- 97% are more trusting of their mentor, and 96% improved their ability to communicate and express their feelings;
- 87% have a positive attitude towards school;
- 92% have positive relationships with their families.

Results from **Youth Outcomes Surveys** completed by mentored students in the Coastal Bend reveal similar positive gains in attitudes, behaviors, and academic performance as those demonstrated above:

- 97% of the Littles acknowledged the presence of a special adult in their lives whom they felt they could trust.
- 97% of mentored youth recognize that delinquent behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, violence, and skipping school are unacceptable and harmful;
- 69% reported their school attendance and tardiness had improved over the course of the year;
- 100% felt confident in their school work and scholastic competency;
- 89% of mentored students expect to graduate from high school, 81% plan to attend college after graduation.

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Each Little's story is different, as is the impact the mentor has within his or her life. Every month our case managers hear success stories about the youth in our programs which reinforce the impact mentors can have on a child's life.

For example, when six year old Jeremy joined BBBS, he had been living with his dad and grandparents. Through tragic circumstances, Jeremy lost both his Dad and Grandfather within one month of the other. Scared that he would lose his grandmother, Jeremy began to starve himself and struggle in school. Through the support of his Big Brother, Jerry, Jeremy is now on the road to recovery. He was even invited to celebrate this coming Thanksgiving with his Big Brother.

Thank you for your continued support for our mentoring programs. Your contribution supports the impact of countless youth like Jeremy within Nueces County. Together we can ensure the future of our youth to become well-adjusted, productive citizens, engaged leaders, and a strong workforce within our community.

Sincerely,

Denise Barkhurst
 President and CEO

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