

Creating Friendships • Changing Lives



I think my big sister Karen should win big sister of the year. Karen and I have been together for about 3 and a half years and she has a very special place in my heart. Karen and I enjoy doing various activities such as swimming, sewing, going out to the movies, watching movies at her house, playing pool. And those are only some of the things we have done. Karen helps me with many things like school, homework and she is even my sponsor for my confirmation. Besides helping me Karen also helps my mom with her work and financial help, she also takes my sister out with us. Also Karen works at many local charities. Karen is my role model she makes me want to be a better person and helps me see the good in people. Karen makes

everything special – birthdays, holidays or even just going over to her house. Karen does so much for me and this is one of the things I can do for her. Please consider her as Big Sister of the Year.

Thanks
Holly

I have been a Big Sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oshawa- Whitby for over four years. I was first matched with my Little Sister when she was in grade 5. At the time she was a timid and shy girl who was always bullied in the school yard, lacked self-confidence and felt she had no one to turn to, to discuss her troubles or teenage concern about life. I am very proud to say my Little Sister Holly is now a young lady filled with dreams and aspirations. She is no longer bullied anywhere and if she was I know she has the confidence to handle the situation and speak up about her feelings. She sets high goals for herself now and is planning to attend university to study fashion design and creation.

Having a Little Sister in my life has allowed me to stay young, active and plugged into the youth of our community. I believe being a Big is an excellent example of the theory **PAY IT FORWARD**. Holly now volunteers at both the library and the BBBS organization. She can hardly wait to become a Big Sister herself after she graduates from university.

Karen T.

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Former Little shares his story....

When I was 9 years old I walked through the doors of the Big Brothers Association to meet Ray for the first time. I am now 28 years old and I still get that sense of excitement each and every time we do something together.

My name is David Longley and I am a living, breathing example of how important the Big Brother Association is in the lives of the people it touches. Due to extenuating circumstances I found myself a nine-year-old boy, growing up without a strong male role model. Right from the start Ray and I clicked together as Little Brother / Big Brother. He may have started out taking me for ice cream, or throwing the ball around, or catching a game or two

but this soon turned into inviting me as part of his family on camping trips, hockey tournaments and other family holidays. I soon turned from being Ray's Little Brother to becoming a part of the Sanford family. Ray, his wife, Cindy and their daughter Crystal welcomed me with open arms and to this day treat me like another member of the family. We may have met 19 years ago but to this day we are still playing ball together and still hanging out together like best friends and I plan on keeping it like that forever.

As a child I did not realize the impact that getting involved with a Big Brother would have. At that time Ray was an adult who came over and took me to great places and with whom I had a lot of fun. However, looking back on it as an adult, Ray was the most important person in my life in making me the man I am today. He taught me about right and wrong and stood beside me as I struggled through the growing pains of life. He helped me to see where I went wrong and how to learn from my mistakes so I may come away from them a better person. I do not know where I would be without the guiding influence of my Big Brother.

Ray was there for all the milestones of my life. He watched as I became more and more involved in hockey and baseball, as I got my drivers licence and as I graduated high school and later college. He came with me as I searched for my first home, and helped carry boxes as I moved in. He has been there for every birthday, every Christmas and to this day not a single New Year's clock strikes midnight without his best wishes for a happy year to come. Most recently on November 15th, 2008 I stood waiting for my bride to walk down the aisle and there was no one I would have considered having stand beside me as my best man than Ray. I said it best during my wedding speech that same night when I explained, "I could not have asked for a better best man to stand beside me on my wedding day as Ray is the definition of a best man and a best friend. I am forever grateful for what Ray and his family have done for me and that we will forever be a family."

Being a part of the Big Brother Program has impacted me in a way that I cannot even begin to express with words. As I continue on my pathway of life I know that it will be with the continued support and love of Ray and his family. The Big Brother's Association did not just supply me with a male role model it provided me with a loving, nurturing family and friendship that will last a lifetime and for that I will be forever grateful. Thank you Big Brother's Association for bringing Ray into my life and consequently playing an integral role in making me the man I am today.

David Longley
Little Brother

