



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS *Of Island County*

OH Office: 913 E. Whidbey Avenue Oak Harbor, WA 98277 • (360) 279-0644; (360) 279-1356 fax • bbbs@whidbey.net
Coupeville Office: Coupeville Middle/High School • 501 S. Main Street • Coupeville, WA 98239 • (360) 678-4409 ext. 2015
SW Office: South Whidbey High School • 5675 Maxwellton Rd. Langley, WA 98268 (360) 221-6808 ext. 5417; (360) 221-5797 fax

For Immediate Release

Mayor honors Big Brothers and Big Sisters with proclamation

Mayor Jim Slowik honored volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County with a proclamation on January 19 during the regular City Council meeting. Big Brothers Big Sisters Match Coordinator Carrie Riepma was there with her Little Sister Cheyanne Winchester, along with Big Brother Jonathan Morales, who accepted the proclamation with his Little Brother Jacob Urista on behalf of all Bigs on Whidbey Island. Morales and his Little Brother have been matched for 3 years next month. Morales is in the US Navy and the mayor thanked him for his service to the community through his work in the Navy and Big Brothers Big Sisters. "I want to encourage everyone to take a moment to thank the person who has been a mentor and role model to you in your own life" said Carrie Riepma, Match Coordinator during the Council presentation.

The mayors of Langley and Coupeville will also issue proclamation this month to celebrate National Mentoring Month, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2011. The goal of this celebration is to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits can work together to increase the number of mentors, and brighten the futures for young people. The Whidbey Island mayors follow the lead of President Obama who signed a similarly-worded proclamation in December.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County has been helping bring volunteer mentors together with youth in our community for the past eleven years. Formed in 1999 by a caring group of community members, the non-profit youth organization pursues the mission of improving the lives of children right here in our communities. Long-time executive director, Peggy Dyer states "Every individual contribution to children in our community now, helps to change our collective futures in a positive way. These efforts will pay huge benefits to all concerned." To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County, please visit www.bbbsislandcounty.org, or call 279-0644 or e-mail bbbs@whidbey.net.