

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hays County

Quickfacts

In collaboration with Texas State University, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hays County provides community based mentoring to elementary and middle school students in San Marcos CISD as well as provides the opportunity for mentored students to participate in our Promise Scholarship Program. We began community-based mentoring in Fall 2007 and will work with San Marcos CISD to develop school-based programs at campuses with the greatest need in 2008.

We aim to provide caring mentoring relationships for 20 students in 2007; 100 students in 2008; and 200 students in 2009. Our target population is the 4,236 students who attend first through eighth grades in San Marcos CISD. They are 68.8% Hispanic, 25.3% Caucasian, 5.2% African American and .08% other. Of this population, 61.8% is classified as economically disadvantaged, 51.2% as at-risk, 7.2% as LEP (Limited English Proficient) and 1.9 as students with disciplinary placements.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas provided more than 82,000 hours of mentoring to 1,588 children in Travis, Williamson, McLennan and Brazos counties throughout 2006. We match children, ages 6–16, with supportive adult mentors who share everyday experiences with the child. We have proven success in creating and nurturing positive relationships that benefit the volunteer, the child, the family and the community.

Mission

To help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships.

Vision

Successful mentoring relationships for all children who need and want them, contributing to better schools, brighter futures, and stronger communities for all.

Goal

To initiate and develop a strong research-based mentoring program in San Marcos over a three-year period which will become self-sustaining.

Big Impact

Little Brothers and Little Sisters are:

- 75% less likely to drop out of school
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 33% less likely to be abusive and they get along better with their parents and peers
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol

Initial Programs and Services

One-to-One Mentoring

Community Based: An adult volunteer spends time with his or her Little Brother or Little Sister 3 times a month for a minimum of one year. Volunteers and youth are paired based on mutual interests.

Educational Services: Tutoring, educational workshops and testing, summer camp scholarships, school supplies, bus passes, college campus tours, and more.

College Scholarships: Students who are in a school-based mentoring relationship for six months become eligible for a \$1,000 Promise Scholarship; those who remain in either a school or community-based mentoring relationship for a year or more are eligible for a \$2,000 Promise Scholarship.

Match Support: Highly-trained staff provides on-going support for every child, family and volunteer.