

# You Don't have to Change your Life to Help *Change* the Life of a child



School-based Mentoring Programs help hundreds of disadvantaged children and youth in communities across Central and Southern Vancouver Island. Volunteers commit to visiting a child at a local elementary school for one hour each week for one academic year.

Children and their volunteer mentors play games and sports, read, work on projects, and create wonderful memories together. Over time, a volunteer mentor will help a child build self-esteem and confidence, improve literacy and learning, and introduce new skills, ideas, and tools to enhance positive risk taking and problem-solving. These things will help the child at school, at home, and in life.

Volunteer mentors must be over the age of 16 and do not need special skills or knowledge. There is no cost to be a school-based mentor.

Big Sister Alison and Little Brother Jordon were matched at elementary school two years ago when Jordon was just 8 1/2 years old. At the time, Jordon was a shy boy who struggled to learn and to make friends at school.

Jordon was scheduled to attend a spring break camp and on her first visit to the school after spring break Allison had a million questions for Jordon about his adventures. Jordon was upset and had nothing to say.

After some time Jordon confessed that not only did he not go to this spring break camp, but that he could never go to any camp—ever! His soft spoken words broke Alison's heart.

Jordon said he could not go to camp because he only eats lunch at school and his single parent Dad can't afford to buy food. His Dad lost his job months ago and cannot find work.

Jordon decided that if he went to camp other kids would know he is different and they won't like him, people will know that he is poor, and worse yet, what if he and his Dad are separated? Jordon decided that to protect his family, he should never have friends or get involved, he should never draw attention to himself, and he should never go anywhere.

Alison cried. Then she asked Big Brothers Big Sisters to help change Jordon's world.

Jordon is going to camp this summer. He will have new clothes to wear, a backpack, and lunch every day. Donors have paid for his camp fees. Jordon is ready and excited to make friends, to learn new things, and to have fun. Alison told Jordon every week that he is important and that he can succeed. Jordon told Alison that he's going to love camp.



## Volunteer, Participate, Donate

### Big Brother Big Sisters

*Arbutus RV & Marine Sales are strong local community supporters across Vancouver Island. We have created a bond and partnership with a very important organization – Big Brothers Big Sisters*

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