

Could you spare \$4.60 a week to become a Regular Giver?



WE NEED MORE BLOKES!

We are always looking for more volunteer mentors, especially blokes for all parts of the city! Know someone who might be interested? Direct them to our website www.bbbschch.co.nz.

REGULAR GIVING PROGRAMME

Our generous Regular Givers set up an automatic payment (weekly or monthly) to support Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch. For as little as the price of one cup of coffee per week you can support a new mentor match!

Email or call us on 358 4019 to discuss this opportunity further.



KIWI LABELS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the team at Kiwilabels who donate the design and layout of this newsletter to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thanks to Nic and Guy for their patience, creativity and valuable time!

Do you have a business that could help BBBS Christchurch?
Contact christchurch@bigbrothersbigsisters.org.nz



I WANT TO HELP

Do you want to help Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch go the extra mile?

- \$200 pays for our office rental for a month
- \$127 recruits a new volunteer
- \$90 pays for 6 children to attend one of our group events
- \$56 pays for resources in a school for a mentor
- \$26 pays for training a new mentor

Please fill in this form and return it in the enclosed reply paid envelope.

Cheques should be made payable to Big Brothers Big Sisters Christchurch

Or debit my Credit Card with\$

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on Card

Signature

Card Number

Expiry Date CCV Number

☐ Please send information on how I can support Big Brothers Big Sisters through regular giving.

☐ Please send information on how I can help Big Brothers Big Sisters through volunteering.

☐ Please send information on how I can help the Big Brothers Big Sisters through my will.

Full Name

Postal Address.....

Email Address..... Telephone



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ONE TO ONE



FUELLED FOR THE FUTURE

As far as garage projects go, the Electric Penguin rivals them all. The 1000 watt Lithium battery powered go kart can reach speeds of about 50kms. It took Rod and Josh four months of meeting together on Tuesday afternoons in Rod's garage to complete the conversion from petrol to battery power.



Josh takes huge pride in the go kart and Rod videoed Josh explaining the process of the build. Rod has really enjoyed the

project himself, but it is mostly Josh who has gained from all the skills and knowledge he has developed.

Josh likes Rod because "He's a good guy. He is really wise, he is the smartest person I know. He gets a tool and just knows how to use it". He says he doesn't get to see his dad much but Rod is always reliable and consistent. He says that he and Rod should be "Friends forever, for life!"

To see more of the Electric Penguin, search for it on youtube.com

WHAT HAVE OUR MATCHES BEEN UP TO:

- Haylee and Ali went to gymnastics
- Taine and Pete went biking at Mcleans Island
- Zoey and Kara made Christmas cookies
- Madison and Laura gave her dog a bath
- Chanh and Paul went to Sumner beach
- Piper-Rose and Gayle went to a farm
- Jamie and Alex went to laser strike
- Melissa and Coral made a pillow for her little brother
- Lizzy and Tabitha watched a movie with popcorn
- Corbyn and Dave played soccer
- Brianna and Angeline went to the fort at Spencer park
- Ronald and Ryan went fishing
- Samantha and Lindy made banana fritters
- Libby and Jude went grocery shopping
- Sarah and Nikki went to Denny's
- Paige and Chloe baked brownies
- Amber and Sarah went to Luminarium Arts Festival
- Hope and Pip made a doll

PREDICTING THE FUTURE TAKES TIME



Sometimes bad things just happen. There is no choice in it, nothing you could do to avoid it. There's no sense of justice, it's just plain unfair. It seems even more unfair when children are born into circumstances that appear to give them little hope of having a good life. Thank goodness that some people have committed to being part of lifelong longitudinal research studies such as the recently aired Dunedin research study TV series.

A similar Hawaiian longitudinal study began in 1955 and continues today. It considered if you've got it good at the start of life, does it guarantee future success. If you've got it tough at birth, is there any chance for you? The study made a most encouraging discovery that there most certainly is hope for anyone, despite the most challenging of circumstances some face as they enter the world. Often referred to as risk factors, these circumstances are a surprisingly poor predictor of whether you can do well in life, especially compared to a set of much better predictors: The presence of nurturing, caring adults, alongside an ability to think independently. You can study genes and life circumstances at birth all you like, but key relationships at different times of life are much more likely to make the long term, positive

difference. In short, just because you may have been dealt an unfair hand in life, there is every chance you can make it when you put good people around you. Lots of our kids don't have the text book best start, but it's influences like our mentors in their lives that can help make a difference.

Matt Button

GOING THE DISTANCE

"How do you know your presence in his life has had an impact?"

"I don't."

We've been a nice fit, an easy fit...but I don't do it with expectation."

After a mentor relationship lasting longer than 8 years, John's role as Zac's mentor has become a regular part of his week. The early years were filled with cooking, model-making and pottering round John's house. Now after many years the pair have settled into a familiar routine: Sharing

dinner every Saturday evening.

For John, it's simple. His approach to mentoring is one of camaraderie, friendship and guidance. "It's about involving them in the things you do. It's not entertainment, it's practical. Doing stuff together that is part of life so that all the parts of life - the work ethic - rubs off."

Though a little nervous to start, John was surprised at his age being no barrier. "It's a relaxed relationship which doesn't present expectations. Zac's always keen to catch up."

While John humbly speaks of his commitment as relatively easy and a matter of getting it in the diary, these past 8 years have had their challenges. Consistent mentoring has meant following Zac round the many different schools he's attended as well as navigating the sixteen house moves Zac has had. Not to mention John's overseas travel for work.

Easy?

That's what he said.

John's relationship with Zac has turned out to be a win-win, he says. "Finding the time has been a great discipline, not in the sense of me doing something for Zac, but doing something for me. It's as good for me as it is for Zac."

"It's great to have some input. Providing insight,

guidance and thoughts with their decisions. Letting them take responsibility of decisions and money. Allowing them to make mistakes in order to make good decisions... At the end of the day, it's his own motivations and actions that determine his future."

John is strongly guided by a desire to see that a person's value is never mistaken or misrepresented. "If you're placed under expectation, your value is then under expectation." Value is not something given and received in a mentor relationship. It is identified. "You give them confidence to see their value."

So what's the secret of maintaining a long-lasting mentoring relationship? Apparently, it's not about seeing the evidence of impact. This hasn't been the deal-breaker for John. How outstanding is a commitment which does not require a visible success to stick with it, rather is content in the simplicity of being a friend on the journey. It's legends like John who demonstrate the simplicity of just being there...for the long haul.



PASS THE PARCEL



If you were to picture an average child's birthday party there would be cake, balloons, laughter and no doubt there would be presents. Daniel Seaward proved that he is unlike the average child when he celebrated his 8th birthday in May this year. Instead of asking for a list of toys and cool gadgets as presents, he asked that his friends and family who came to his birthday party to give him money instead so he could donate it to a charity of his choice. Lucky for us, he chose Big Brothers Big Sisters as that charity!

Daniel is a fantastic example of a generous and kind young person who is not only giving to the community, but doing so at the expense of gaining something himself.

LEARNING AND GROWING...ALWAYS



One of the values that fuels the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters is developing and growing. The twist is that this is often a two way street. The lessons and crafts that mentors impart to their little sister or brother is just part of the bigger picture. 'Ako' is a concept of reciprocal learning that we find in many teaching and learning relationships. It is the idea that we all have something to teach and something to learn. This has proven true in our mentoring matches. Below are words from our matched young people

who share with us what they have learnt from their mentor and what they have taught their mentor.



Mentors have taught their young people:

- How to cook without burning stuff
- To be more kind
- Use my manners all the time
- How to speak Russian
- How to use self control and be confident
- How to fish • how to use tools
- How to be a good friend
- How to stand up for myself
- How to make calendars, sew and stitch
- How to bake
- How to kick a ball straight • Do a Torpedo rugby pass
- How to stop being naughty • stop complaining
- How to make lip balm

Young people have taught their mentors:

- To wear a seat belt • how to have fun like a kid
- How to shape your hair good
- Maori words and traditions
- Stuff about animals
- How to slow down a bit
- How to play checkers • play with lego
- How to skate backwards on iceskating
- How to make loom bands
- How to play gutterboard
- How to run fast
- How to read instructions • Be patient
- How to go down the slide on your tummy
- Not to slack off when he's playing chess

MASCOT MADNESS IS ON IT'S WAY!

We have a new mascot @ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Christchurch. The naming of our mascot, outings and crazy mascot and match selfies...Sheer mascot madness coming your way soon!



OUR SUPPORTERS

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