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Media Alert

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Sierra (BBBSNS) Announce Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year

Placerville, CA-- Congratulations to Big Sister Dina and Big Brother Brian who have been named the 2021 "Bigs" of the Year" by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Sierra (BBBS-NS).

"Youth empowerment is a catalyst for positive change in our communities and around the world," said BBBSNS Chief Executive Officer Brenda Frachiseur. "Our Bigs serve as this catalyst for change by setting our Littles on a path towards a brighter future, one that may not be possible without the selfless mentorship they provide vulnerable children and their families week to week." We have highlighted these champion Bigs' and their inspirational stories of mentorship below.

Big Sister Dina has been a dedicated, caring, conscientious and compassionate Big Sister for four years. Her Little Sister, Bella, who had no positive adult female role model in her life and was somewhat introverted and reserved. Dina's patience, tenacity and ability to be a good listener helped encourage Bella to come out of her shell and become more talkative and self-confident.

Dina has been matched with Bella since November of 2018. Over that period of time they have been matched, Dina and her Little Sister have had a lot of fun together doing a variety of activities throughout the community. Dina is a strong advocate for quality education and personal achievement. Her input has helped encourage her Little Sister to pursue higher education after high school and get involved in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at her school.

Dina also advocates for BBBS in the community. She inspired a new Beyond School Program at the El Dorado County Office of Education and as a volunteer leader of the local Kiwanis Club she has encouraged her colleagues to mentor at-risk children in the local community.

Big Brother Brian has been matched with his Little Brother Alex for two years. Alex is 12 years old and, unfortunately, has endured traumas and instability in his life. Alex's grandparents have had guardianship of Alex since his parents went missing. Although well intentioned, Alex's grandparents have a multitude of health problems between them.

When Brian became a Big Brother volunteer, he told BBBSNS he would like to take on a child who could really benefit from being part of a family environment. Brian and his wife have three children of their own and, despite their busy schedules, have included Alex in their family's activities like dirt biking and swimming.

Over these past two years, Brian has gotten to know Alex and his grandparents and established wonderful, supportive friendships with all of them. After their first year being matched, they all decided that due to the grandparents' deteriorating health issues, Brian and his wife would adopt Alex and, due to recent developments in Alex's home life, the family moved Alex in, as well as Alex's older teenage brother.

Alex is now attending 6th grade at the same school as Brian's kids this year. Due to Brian's continued efforts and support, Alex is completing his schoolwork, attending school regularly and getting good grades, which is a huge accomplishment for him. Alex is a very active boy and living at Brian's house has given him opportunities to play sports, be a kid and be part of a healthy, fun, loving home environment.

While BBBS-S loves sharing these positive stories of our champion defenders of potential, our work is never done. The agency's waitlist continues to grow with children and they are in need of more volunteers like Dina and Brian. Currently, there are 46 kids waiting to be matched.

If you know of anyone that would be a good Big, encourage them to check out the BBBSNS website or have them call the agency's Enrollment Manager, Chelsea, for more information: 530- 556-5015. It takes only a few hours a week to change a child's life for the better. BBBSNS has served the youth of El Dorado, Nevada and Placer Counties since 1977.

#Defenders of Potential