

# September is Big Brothers & Big Sisters Month

## Special Edition of Mentoring Matters

This September get involved and be a part of something BIG!



People across the country are celebrating **Big Brother Big Sister Month**.

This month help spread the word. Visit [www.sharealittlemagic.ca](http://www.sharealittlemagic.ca) and learn how you can be a part of Canada's leading youth mentoring organization.

*Become one of the 22,000 volunteers who bring magic to more than 23,000 children every day.*

On September 2nd, everyone is encouraged to visit [www.sharealittlemagic.ca](http://www.sharealittlemagic.ca) and tell as many colleagues, friends, family and contacts you know to generate a BIG amount of visibility for Big Brothers Big Sisters. The Share A Little Magic website counter will roll back to "0" after Labour Day and we will begin counting the number of hits for the month of September.

Last year we had more than 40,000 hits in September which generated over 1000 volunteer inquiries! It would be amazing if we could help another 1000 children across Canada through the September campaign.

### **The Durham Cruisers Afterschool Program Commences Again in September.**

The program will be based at the Big Brother & Sister house at 23 Scugog Street, Bowmanville each Wednesday from 3:30-6:00 pm. Participants will have the opportunity to work in the computer lab, play board games, read books, do arts and crafts, play pool or air hockey, watch movies, play Play Station 2 and hang out with their peers. This program is open to all children involved with the agency. If you would like more information about the program, please give Darlene a call at 905-623-6646.

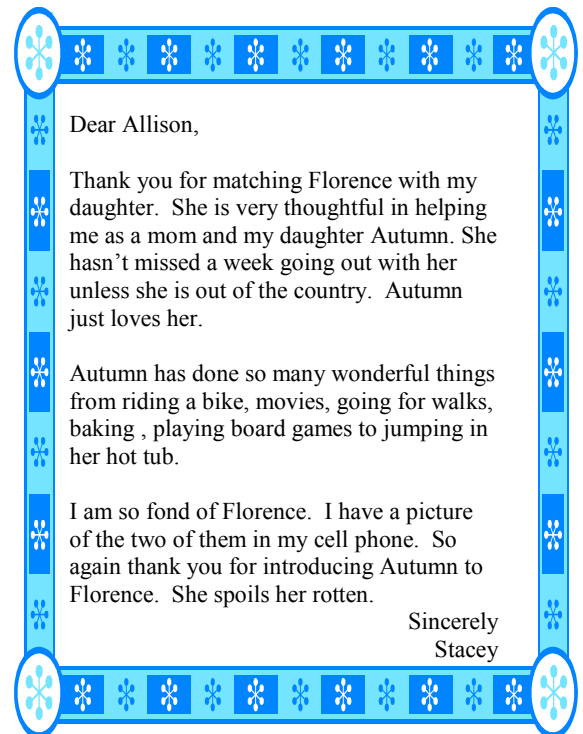
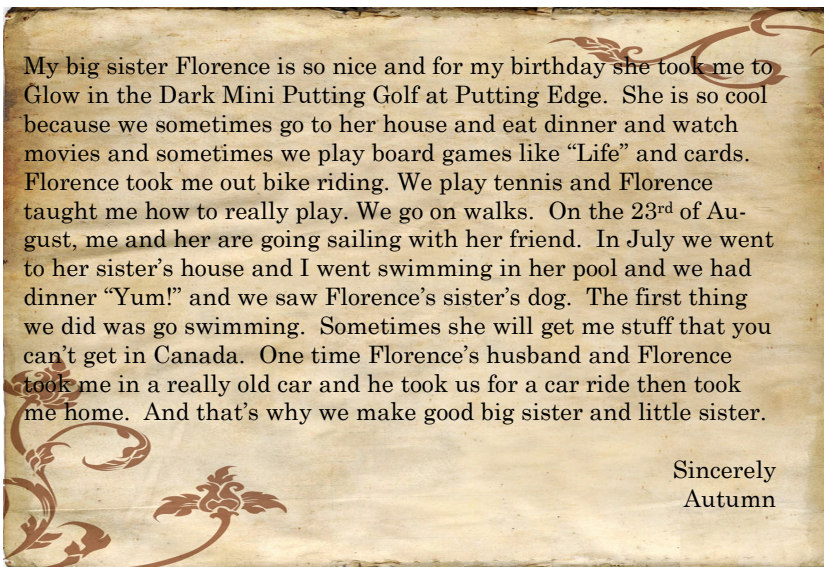
## Looking for a meaningful relationship?

With **15** children in Clarington currently on the waiting list eagerly looking for friendships with adult mentors, there's no time like the present to get involved. **Already a Mentor — Share your story.** Join us in helping to **spread the word about the power of mentoring!**

Finding a meaningful friendship is not as tough as you might imagine and more rewarding than you ever thought possible. For the mentors, it's an enjoyable and meaningful opportunity to make a profound difference in the life of a child. For the child, it's a chance to make a new friend and spend a little time with an adult who can open a whole new world of experiences. You don't have to be perfect to be a mentor to a child, just caring and reliable. When asked what they were looking for from a "Big", here are what three "Littles" responded:

*"Someone who will be nice to me, care for me, helps me out when I'm sad" "Someone to spend time with" "Someone nice, fun, who'll pick me up when I'm down."*

The relationships that develop are truly magical and are a great way for a child to gain self-confidence and self-esteem and get advice on some of the tough challenges they need to deal with. Little Sister Autumn and her mom Stacey share their experience.



By spending just a few hours a week having fun you could be changing the life of a child. Here are profiles of three children on the waiting list:

**14 year old boy** - *very energetic, has an enthusiastic attitude, loves to play video games and all sports, very funny and caring*

**10 year old boy** - *very intelligent, funny, likes playing soccer, bike riding, swimming, playing with friends. Would greatly benefit by having a strong male role model in his life*

**11 year old boy** - *loves soccer, football, swimming, outdoors and video games. He would greatly benefit from having a male role model in his life that could help build his self-esteem*

To find out more about how you or someone you know can make a difference in a child's life please contact Darlene at 905-623-6646 or check out our website at [www.bigbrothersandsisters.ca](http://www.bigbrothersandsisters.ca). **Share the Magic of Mentoring.**

**Three Cheers for our Volunteers — Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray!** Big Brothers & Sisters of Clarington would like to thank our many volunteers who give their time and share their experience to bring the magic of mentoring into the lives of Clarington's children. Whether you serve on a committee or mentor a child, **you** are making a difference and we thank you!