



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Jon Goldstein
Santa Fe: (505) 476-2248

First Lady Barbara Richardson Announces Historic, \$4 Million Funding Package for Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

SANTA FE – First Lady Barbara Richardson today announced her and Governor Richardson’s support for a historic \$4 million funding package for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Mexico. This funding will include \$2 million in ongoing support for programs next year and another \$2 million one-time allocation to build the infrastructure to make Big Brothers Big Sisters a truly statewide organization.

“The Governor and I have made helping children a major part of our efforts during my husband’s administration. This has meant major improvements in education, health care and after school activities all across New Mexico,” said First Lady Barbara Richardson. “I think we’re all aware of the positive impact Big Brothers Big Sisters has on New Mexico’s kids. We all recognize that early intervention is a deterrent to later crimes such as substance abuse and violence. Big Brothers Big Sisters is one of the most effective groups, and this is an effort to address the needs of kids who are in our rural areas.”

This \$4 million in funding will allow Big Brothers Big Sisters to expand into every New Mexico County and begin serving additional New Mexico communities including Deming, Hobbs, Gallup and Raton. It will also help match an additional 4,200 children with mentors.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Mexico has undergone tremendous growth in the past few years, from serving 1,997 kids in 2002 to 3,100 in 2006. This funding will help that growth continue. Big Brothers Big Sisters expects to reach 5,100 children in 2007 and at least 7,300 children by 2010.

BBBS works to help boys and girls achieve their potential by matching them one-to-one in positive relationships with adult volunteers. A volunteer does not need any special skills to be a Big Brother or Big Sister. They only need to be interested in sharing special moments with a child. Just by sharing experiences, celebrating accomplishments, and listening to a child's concerns, a Big Brother or Big Sister can make a difference in the life of a child.