

Peninsula Co-op Supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria in a Big Way

March 25, 2015

“The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization gave me things I may never have had in my life: a friendship and a mentor I can look up to and learn from, the experience of sailing the sea and the opportunity to attend university and pursue a career” said Nathan, a 21 year-old little brother of Big Brothers Big Sisters Victoria.

Nathan met his big brother, Simon, when he was 11 years-old and recently wrote a letter reflecting on the tremendous impact the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program has had on his life. In the letter, Nathan describes his big brother as “such an incredible role model” and recalls many of the hobbies and activities they have shared together. Board games, TV shows, hiking, working on the house, “he was also just as geeky as I was and we could geek out over new technology together for hours.” Nathan lost his father and grandfather when he was very young, he and his twin brother were raised by his aunt and grandmother.

“Peninsula Co-op is pleased to support the Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program with a donation of \$10,000 to help other kids like Nathan have meaningful relationships and role models” said Penny Sopel, Marketing and Community Relations Manager for Peninsula Co-op. “They are a wonderful organization and all kids should have the opportunities that Big Brothers Big Sisters provide.”

For 35 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters have been helping children in our community. Their mentoring programs give children a sense of belonging, self-worth, resiliency and capacity to make healthy, well-informed choices. Supporting them gives kids like Nathan opportunities they may not have otherwise had. “With the support of Peninsula Co-op we are committed to sustaining and strengthening the Community Mentoring Program in communities across Southern Vancouver Island. The success of the program is rooted in its ability to encourage and support relationships between caring citizens and vulnerable children” said Rhonda Brown, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Victoria.

Last year Peninsula Co-op gave back over \$400,000 to more than 220 local charities, organizations, youth groups, student awards and community projects. By supporting organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, they are truly “moving ahead, by giving back.”

