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PHILANTHROPIST MACKENZIE SCOTT DONATES 1.1 MILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPORT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHERN NEVADA

Generous gift will support new growth and services to mentor kids in our region

RENO, Nev. (Wednesday, July 13, 2022) Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada (BBBSNN) is thrilled to announce receipt of a \$1.1 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The agency is excited and energized by Ms. Scott's investment in defending the potential of our northern Nevada youth and grateful for her support of the power of mentoring, which includes more than \$121 million for other BBBS agencies nationwide.

BBBSNN is one of just 38 agencies out of 230 nationally to receive funding. As This transformative donation, partnered with continued support received from the northern Nevada community and its charitable foundations, will lead to new growth and diversification in services for the nearly 150 children in our community who are waiting for one-to-one mentorship and nurturing. With sustained community support, BBBSNN's plan is to use this funding to broaden its benefit to the community in several key ways over the next five years.

First is through BBBSNN's service area. Traditionally, BBBSNN has served Reno, Sparks, and Carson City. But as more families move to rural areas in the face of rising rent costs, there is an urgent need to expand match enrollment to Lyon County. With great partners in the City of Fernley and Lyon County Human Services, BBBSNN is looking forward to significant growth in this new region with the help of this gift.

Second is through BBBSNN's service models. Though the agency has seen great success with traditional community-based and site-based mentoring programs, they recognize the potential impact in the community of launching a Bigs with Badges program. Bigs with Badges maintains an emphasis on one-to-one mentoring, but specifically recruits mentors from within the first responder community.

"This is community policing at its finest," said Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam. "When you talk to anyone in law enforcement and you ask them why they got involved in law enforcement, one of the first things they always say is 'we want to help somebody.' And this Big Brothers Big Sisters and Bigs with Badges, that's exactly what you're doing. You're going into our community, you're helping local kids that just need a little bit of help, a little bit of mentorship, and you're having a tremendous impact, a lifelong impact."

Police officers, firefighters, EMTs, nurses and more will be able to build strong, positive connections with youth in the communities they serve. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is BBBSNN's first major partner in this new programming and with funding from Ms. Scott, considerable growth is anticipated for this model in Washoe County.



Finally, most simply but most crucially, this gift will allow BBBSNN to increase the number of youth served annually. The agency currently supports 300 youth per year in one-to-one mentoring relationships. That number will increase to 750 by 2025 and to 1,000 by 2027. That means 1,000 children in northern Nevada will have a trained, professionally supported mentor in their corner to help champion their academic and social success as well as their mental health.

"During the height of the pandemic, we know that many of our community youth struggled with their mental health," said BBBSNN CEO Derek Beauvais. "However, nearly a quarter of youth in our programs significantly improved their depressive symptoms. It's just one more example of the major impacts mentors can make in our community."

BBBSNN is grateful for Ms. Scott's contribution to the future of the agency, and is confident that with continued community support, her generosity will be converted into meaningful outcomes for northern Nevada's most vulnerable children. BBBSNN knows no one person, organization or gift alone can drive the significant positive effect mentorship can have on a young person's life. It takes a village of mentors, volunteers, and donors. This investment in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada and mentoring is an invitation for more people and partners to defend the potential of young people today and for generations to come. Only with continued support from our community will this gift be able to have the transformative impact intended.

For more information on these plans and to learn how you can help, please visit bbbsnn.org.

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Established in 2001, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring relationships that give them the tools to succeed in life. Our mentoring program is backed by 111 years of experience, proven success and positive outcomes. By pairing youth with caring adult mentors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada contributes to brighter futures, better schools and stronger communities for all.