



Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region

Zaira's grandfather passed away when she was twelve. That loss triggered a flood of emotional challenges that spiraled her mom Stephanie into a dark place. During that time, Stephanie recounts, her daughter "experienced things that I never wanted to happen to her, and I was not the mom she deserved." Zaira's life lacked structure, discipline, and the attention and love she needed.

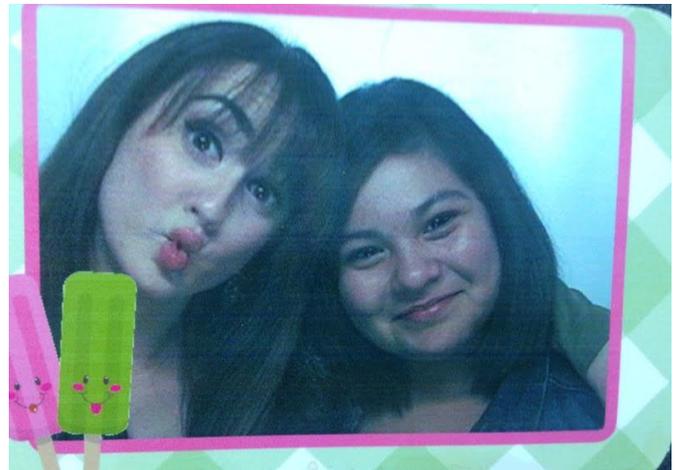
Fortunately for Zaira and for more than 1,000 children, Big Brothers Big Sisters was there. Our goal is to start and support one-to-one relationships built on trust, unlocking unlimited potential for children throughout northern and southwestern New Mexico.

As a donor supported volunteer organization, your gift is essential to help us create more life-changing, professionally supported matches throughout the Mountain Region.

Stephanie could see that Zaira was in a bad place. She had no close friends, she was self-conscious about her weight, and she was doing poorly in school, often refusing to go.

Stephanie reasoned that while she confronted her own issues, her daughter needed a role model, someone she could confide in and look up to. So she turned to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

First came the interviews and then the waiting. That was tough. But a few months after starting the process, they received the call that they had found a Big Sister for Zaira.



Both Zaira and her mother were nervous about the match meeting. They are private people and letting someone into their lives was daunting. Says Stephanie, "We didn't know what to expect, who we were going to meet, if that person was trustworthy, if Zaira would be embarrassed, shy or feel awkward and not like the person they matched her with. But we met Cori and I immediately loved her."

Zaira and Cori went on their first match outing the following week and the bond was almost instantaneous, a credit to the amazing skills of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program staff in finding the perfect match. Zaira came home smiling and full of stories about her time with Cori.

Today Zaira has faith in life again. She is now a strong, confident, happy fifteen-year-old. She brags about how awesome Cori she is, how much fun they have and how proud she was of Cori's great volleyball skills. She is now hopeful and optimistic about her life.

Zaira's mom Stephanie could not be happier. ***"I feel so blessed and grateful that BBBS was able to make a great everlasting impact on my daughter.*** The bond that was created will last a lifetime. Cori is the angel that was sent to me through BBBS to get my baby back on track in life."

These one-to-one mentoring relationships are the driving force behind helping children on a path to future success. Measurable outcomes and independent research prove that when children have a positive adult mentor walking beside them, they learn that it is okay to dream **BIG**. Littles in our program are less likely to skip school, be involved with violence, or use drugs.

Every one-to-one relationship is unique. Zaira and her Big Sister like to hike and do teenage girl stuff like makeovers. Big Brothers Big Sisters, through the skills and support of our program staff, helped change not just the life of Zaira, but her mom and family as well. What all matches have in common is that every Big and Little need your support to make their special bond last. Our sustained growth stems from the assistance of community-minded individuals like you. ***Your gift will contribute to the children and families seeking better futures and stronger community.***

Please support Big Brothers Big Sisters this holiday season. Your gift begins relationships that change lives for the better, forever. That change ripples through a family, a school, and throughout our community. We would like you to be a part of creating opportunity for children here in New Mexico.

Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of more than a thousand children in the coming year.

Warmest regards,



Dawn Starostka
Regional Director, Doña Ana and Grant Counties

