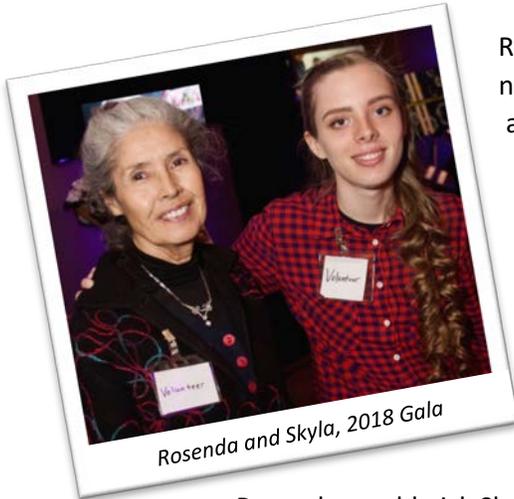# Big Brothers Big Sisters.
## MOUNTAIN REGION


*Rosenda and Skyla, 2018 Gala*

Rosenda and Skyla were matched in 2010, when Skyla was only nine years old. She was a quiet, shy, agreeable girl being raised along with her three siblings by her single father.

When they first met, Rosenda took Skyla to the museum and noticed that she was struggling to read the information on the signs. Rosenda then resolved to become a strong advocate for Skyla, helping her in all aspects of her education. She got involved with her teachers, found her tutors, read books with her, and attended her IEP meetings and parent-teacher conferences with her father.

Rosenda would pick Skyla up from school each day and help her with her homework until dark. Even though Rosenda knew that was not necessarily her role as a Big Sister, she was determined to help Skyla reach her potential, knowing that her father was unable to give her that level of support at home.

Rosenda's whole family loves Skyla and has also helped to build her confidence. Two years ago, Rosenda helped get Skyla into the Upward Bound Math and Science/UNM program in Taos, which allowed her to receive more enriching educational experiences, and even a stipend. She works with her on life skills as well, helping her navigate riding the bus, working with her on time management, and many other practical things.

*"Skyla gave me renewed life and opened my eyes to new things and a feeling of appreciation for what I have,"* says Rosenda. *"It's a good feeling to make a positive impact in a child's life; I could not have done it without her. It's been a win-win as far as I am concerned!" – Big Sister Rosenda*

Skyla is 17 years old now and a junior in high school. Her grades have gone from D's and F's to A's and B's. Her reading has improved, and she is learning to type. Skyla is a thoughtful, social, creative, artistic, and poised young lady with a great imagination and a desire to major in media/digital arts someday.


*Skyla makes clay swans as gifts for 2015 gala sponsors*