

A Mothers Point of View
The Impact of a Big Brother / Big Sister on a Family
By: Martha Lewis

The impact of a Big Brother/Big Sister on a family is hard to describe. Scott was matched with a Big Brother shortly following the death of my husband after a two-year battle with cancer. George's illness was hard on the whole family, but it seemed to be especially hard on Scott. Fortunately, a friend was aware of Big Brothers and referred me to the organization as an "emergency need." Charles Ecord chose Scott and it made the difference in Scott and his ability to grow into a fine young man. Scott had difficulty in school and with relationships in school, home and with friends. Chuck and his wife Carol were the stabilizing influence in his life. Regardless of the type of behavior Scott exhibited, Chuck and Carol were there for him. Chuck seemed to know how to let Scott know that he was a valuable person and that he would always be there for him.

Chuck had many opportunities to give up on his relationship with Scott. For example, when he and Carol had their first daughter and then a son Chuck could have easily used the excuse that they were now too busy. Instead, they chose Scott as the middle name for their baby son and continued the relationship. Chuck and Carol are the type of people that anyone would choose to be friends with and to instill values in their child. Chuck was always interested in what was going on with Scott. He was someone that Scott could talk to when he was not happy with what was going on in his life.

I was working full time, working on my Masters degree, which was required for my job and trying to take care of a large home and three young children. I truly believe that Chuck was the main reason that Scott did not get into trouble with the law or experiment with drugs or alcohol. Scott did not want to disappoint Chuck and Carol.

After the match officially ended, Scott and Chuck continued their relationship. When Scott went to Dallas for school, Chuck maintained an interest and kept in touch with Scott. Chuck was a groomsman in Scott's wedding and he and Carol became friends with Scott's wife Lynette. This close relationship has continued since 1979 regardless of where each lived. I consider the Ecord's friends, but more than that I consider them family and I am personally indebted to them for the chance they gave Scott. No matter how much I loved him, I was the parent and could not be the friend he needed. I have since served on the Board of Big Brothers, have contributed to the organization financially, and was a Big in Schools. I believe that Big Brothers/ Big Sisters is an organization that plays a valuable and positive role in both the community and in the lives of the young people they serve. Thank you Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, you were there when a family needed you!