



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida announces Okaloosa County Big of the Year

FORT WALTON, Fla. – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida announces that Big Brother Michael Duhart has been selected as the Okaloosa County Big of the Year. Michael’s commitment to his Little Brother Javon and playful nature make him an excellent Big Brother.

When Michael’s friend, also Javon’s previous Big Brother, had to move unexpectedly, Michael decided to step up and become Javon’s mentor. “What’s important is the impact that we make on others’ lives – spending time with people and giving to people, especially people in need,” Michael says.

These adventure-seekers love to enjoy outdoor activities together including biking, fishing, and skateboarding. Michael has taught Javon many new skills, and has even helped him catch his first fish.

“Michael is so supportive of Javon,” says Match Specialist Yoselin Morris-Calderon. “This year he spent a lot of time attending Javon’s football games and cheering him on for his very first season. He always treats Javon like family.”

“Michael has come to speak at several events to show people the impact that these programs have on these kids,” says Big Brothers Big Sisters President and CEO Paula Shell. “They are always smiling or laughing about something! They are a lot of fun to be around.”

“Michael has been a great role model for Javon and we appreciate all of his support,” says Javon’s Mother, April.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida has been the area’s leader in one-to-one mentoring for 29 years by serving children ages six to 18. Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida served 616 children in Northwest Florida.

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Photos attached.