

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Big Brothers Big Sisters Program in Santa Fe**

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region dedicates the Danny O'Neil Memorial Big Brothers Big Sisters Headquarters on December 17, 2015**

Santa Fe, NM – December 16, 2015. Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region will hold an open house on December 17, 2015 to dedicate the Danny O'Neil Memorial Big Brothers Big Sisters Headquarters, celebrating the life of Daniel O'Neil, 1948-2014.

On December 17, 2015 Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region will dedicate its office on South St. Francis Drive to Daniel O'Neil. Says Board President Randy Dry, "Due to the generosity of Danny's friends, Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region will no longer have to pay a mortgage on our building, leaving extra funds to do what we do best – making life-long friendships for over 1,000 New Mexico kids."

Danny was a generous friend and mentor to many, a world-class cook, a writer, an athlete, a raconteur, a book lover, an accomplished poker player, a whisky connoisseur, a gardener and a pilot. He wrote under the name John Dublin and boxed under the name Mysterious Dan O'Neil.

Danny had a tremendous impact on many children and their families, coaching Little League baseball and supporting his wife Robin Smith in her match with Little Sister Carrie. Robin and Carrie were matched when Carrie was seven years old. At the time Carrie lived with her grandmother in a tough part of Santa Fe, where over the years many of the neighborhood kids chose life-challenging paths. With support from Robin and Danny, Carrie was successful in school, attended college, and has entered the nursing program at CNM.

After Danny's passing, his friends Whitney and Meredith George pledged a challenge gift in tribute to Danny's heartfelt commitment to mentoring—his colleagues, his neighbors, and Robin's Little Sister's entire family. This gift is life-changing for children throughout the Mountain Region because it allows the agency to pay off the mortgage on their office at 1229 S. St. Francis Drive.

The open house will take place at 1229 S. St. Francis Drive, Suite C from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, with the building dedication at 6:00. For further information contact Chief Development Officer, Monica Martinez-Pringle at [Monica.Martinez@bbbsmountainregion.org](mailto:Monica.Martinez@bbbsmountainregion.org) or call the main office at 505-983-8360.

***About Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region***

*Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has been the leader in one-to-one youth service for over a century, with proven success in creating positive friendships that benefit children, volunteers, families, neighborhoods and communities. Research has shown positive relationships between adult mentors and at-risk children have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. Youth in the program perform better in school, get along better with their families, and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol. In 2015 BBBS of Southwestern New Mexico merged with BBBS of Northern New Mexico to form BBBS Mountain Region. BBBS Mountain Region currently serves nearly 1,100 local youngsters and their families in Dona Ana, Grants, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, McKinley, San Miguel, and Mora Counties.*

**PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS AND FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**