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## Media Alert

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Dorado County (BBBS-EDC) Announce Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year**

Cameron Park, CA-- Congratulations to Kelly Seymour and Chuck Neilsen who have been named the 2018 “Bigs” of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Dorado County.

“It is a difficult choice to select just one Big Sister and one Big Brother of the year”, said Executive Director Brenda Frachiseur. “Every one of the volunteer “Bigs” are so special and give so much of their time and of themselves”.

Kelly Seymour served on the BBBS Board of Directors for 10 years. Kelly was responsible for bringing the Beyond School Walls Program to the Blue Shield Campus. Once she resigned as a Board Member in 2013, Kelly became a Big Sister to Mia who was struggling to make the transition from elementary school to junior high. She was “older than her years” and had a keen interest in art, but lacked self-confidence, suffered academically and had very few friends. Mia is now a Junior in high school and although she has transformed into a much more confident young lady, she still loves meeting her Big at the Beyond School Walls Program every other week. Mia is also looking toward a career centered around her artistic talents thanks to Kelly’s encouragement.

Matched with his Little, Tommy (not real name) since 2014, Chuck Neilsen was chosen as this year’s Big Brother of the Year. Unfortunately, Tommy, now 16, was removed from his parents due to substance abuse and custody was given to an aunt and uncle, who physically abused him. With no other living relatives, Tommy was placed in the foster care system at the age of three and has lived in various group homes. Chuck has traveled from Placerville to Eureka to Modesto in order to maintain their relationship. Tommy has a love for animals and the outdoors. Chuck has taken Tommy camping,

taught him to fish, and even shared his dog Tulo with him.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Dorado County is looking for mentors. If you are interested in being a Big Brother or Big Sister, you are encouraged to call 530.626.1222. BBBS-EDC has served the youth of El Dorado County since 1977. The mission is to build and support one-to-one relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for youth.

**#Defenders of Potential**