

PROCLAMATION

Resolution No. 85-63

WHEREAS, the Big Brother concept was born on July 4, 1903, when Cincinnati businessman Irvin Westheimer befriended a young boy scavenging for food, and Mr. Westheimer encouraged others to befriend fatherless boys in the community. In 1904 the first Big Brother program was formally organized by a New York City court clerk who noted that the majority of boys appearing in court did not have fathers in the home. In 1908 the first Big Sister program was established through the Childrens Court of New York City under the direction of Mrs. Willard Parker and Lady Armstrong-Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt. In 1946 thirteen Big Brother agencies met in Philadelphia to form a national organization and in 1958 the 85th Congress granted Big Brothers of America, Inc., a federal charter. In 1970 Big Sisters International was formed, headquartered in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and was relocated in Philadelphia in 1974. In June 1977 at Orlando, Florida, the two programs were merged to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the fastest growing youth-serving organization in the country, which currently oversees 150,000 matches between adults and children through more than 370 affiliated agencies throughout the country. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of St. Johns County began as an outgrowth of a group called the St. Johns County Council on Children which was formed as a result of a child abuse seminar sponsored by the Junior Women's Club.

WHEREAS, in 1985 the Congress of the United States, and President Ronald Reagan by proclamation, designated a 1985 National Big Brothers and Big Sisters Week to recognize the contributions of volunteers who give their time to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to youths in need of adult companionship. And,

WHEREAS, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of St. Johns County, Inc., is a private, non-profit agency whose purpose is to serve children from single-parent homes through screened and monitored volunteers, assigned to a child on a one-to-one basis, not as a parent substitute but rather a very special long-term friend; and through this friendship to produce positive changes in the child, including a strengthened sense of self-worth and improved relationship and performance at home, in the school, and in the community and county. And,

WHEREAS, this Board wholeheartedly agrees with President Reagan that no task is more important to the future of our society than raising the next generation, and that Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America are adding new luster to our old American tradition of helping neighbors. And,

WHEREAS, during the month of May 1985 the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of St. Johns County will be conducting its major fund-raising drive co-sponsored by the St. Johns County Jaycees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THIS 23rd day of April, 1985, that the Board of County Commissioners proclaims

MAY 1985

BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS MONTH

in St. Johns County, and urges all citizens to recognize this outstanding civic-service program.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Francis N Brubaker
Vice Chairman

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK

By: Marie Hudson
Deputy Clerk