



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Alaska USA Foundation gives \$15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Operation Bigs**

**Anchorage, Alaska** – The Alaska USA Foundation has donated \$15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska to support the *Operation Bigs* program, which provides mentors for children of military families and volunteer opportunities for military members. The program was launched in January 2010 and currently serves over 150 mentorship matches in Alaska.

“Kids growing up in military families have unique challenges – frequent moves, separation from extended family – and coping with the deployment of a parent adds tremendously to those challenges,” said CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska Taber Rehbaum. “Working with schools and military parents, our program helps kids over the rough spots – providing fun, friendship and positive attention that can help them gain the resiliency and confidence that will lead to success. We are grateful and honored that the Alaska USA Foundation has partnered with us to support Operation Bigs. This donation will allow us to serve more kids whose families are serving our nation.”

The Alaska USA Foundation donation will help to increase program participation in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su by identifying and enrolling more military “Littles” and partnering with military leadership to increase the number of adult “Bigs.” In addition, it will aid in expanding current school-based programs on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Ft. Wainwright, and Eielson Air Force Base.

#### **About the Alaska USA Foundation**

The Alaska USA Foundation was established in 2003 to support 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that provide needs-based services to children, veterans, and active duty members of the military and their families. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed over \$1 million to these organizations and is honored to assist those that provide direct services in support of its mission.

Learn more about the Alaska USA Foundation at [alaskausafoundation.org](http://alaskausafoundation.org).

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**Photo:** The Alaska USA Foundation has donated \$15,000 to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska's *Operation Bigs* program. Pictured (from left) are Dan McCue, Alaska USA Senior Vice President Corporate Administration, Gracia O'Connell, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska board member and Alaska USA Documentation and Compliance Officer, Taber Rehbaum, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska, and Chris Wilder, Alaska USA Vice President of Branch Administration for Alaska.

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