

# America's Promise

THE **5 PROMISES** 1 CARING ADULTS 2 SAFE PLACES 3 HEALTHY START 4 MARKETABLE SKILLS 5 OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS: A MODEL FOR SERVICE

On Jan. 29, 2002, President George W. Bush invited Conrad T. Rodriguez to attend his State of the Union address. Rodriguez, a mentor from Boston proudly sat with First Lady Laura Bush as the President called on all Americans to devote 4,000 hours over their lifetime to community service.

A mentor for **Big Brothers Big Sisters** of Massachusetts Bay, Rodriguez was honored by the President because he exemplifies a caring adult serving his country by making a difference in his community. He does this by simply spending time with a young person.

For the past four years, Rodriguez has been spending quality time with 13 year-old Stephen from Canton, Massachusetts. As with most good friends, they have fun together no matter what they are doing, whether it's telling jokes, playing basketball, going to the movies, or just "hanging out." According to Stephen's mother, Rodriguez has served as a second "guidepost" in her son's life, helping him grow up to be a positive, responsible young man.

There are many other caring adults like Conrad Rodriguez who are impacting young lives throughout the country. Currently, there are nearly a quarter-million Big Brothers Big Sisters relationships in the United States. And that number is sure to grow.

"Nationally, Big Brothers Big Sisters is responding to the President's challenge by setting a goal of having 1,000,000 mentors annually by 2010," says Judy Vredenburg, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

If you would like additional information on how to become a Big Brother or Big Sister, call (617) 567-7000, email [national@bbbsa.org](mailto:national@bbbsa.org) or visit [www.bbbsa.org](http://www.bbbsa.org).

## POLL RESULTS

**Will you answer President Bush's call to volunteer 4,000 hours throughout your lifetime?**

81% Yes

18% No

*Source: americaspromise.org, week of Jan. 28*

## ICOULDBE.ORG FOSTERS MARKETABLE SKILLS IN YOUTH

New Alliance member **icouldbe.org** recently pledged to provide 3,000 students with career mentors and bolster their marketable skills by the year 2004. The not-for-profit Web-based organization provides America's high school students with the tools needed to conduct career planning.

In crowded high schools, students often lack the attention and career counseling they need at a very critical time in their lives. Adam Aberman, CEO of **icouldbe.org** wanted to ensure that young people have a source for career information in a "teen-friendly" venue. He created a career center in cyberspace. **Icouldbe.org** connects students with a mentor in the field they choose to explore. The students may converse with the mentors electronically in "chat rooms" or correspond via email. To find out more about this great resource, contact Adam Aberman at (646) 734-8133.

## EMAIL DISTRIBUTION OF APB

Beginning the week of **Mar. 4**, this bulletin will convert to an email distribution system. If you would like to continue your subscription to the APB, send your email address to [APBEditor@americaspromise.org](mailto:APBEditor@americaspromise.org). Please include the exact fax number to be removed from our database. If you have any questions, contact Cecyll Seballos at (703) 535-3824.

AMERICA'S PROMISE  
909 N. WASHINGTON STREET  
SUITE 400  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1556

PHONE: (703) 684-4500  
FAX: (703) 535-3905  
[WWW.AMERICASPROMISE.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICASPROMISE.ORG)  
APB ARCHIVES: VISIT OUR WEB SITE  
AND CLICK NEWS AND EVENTS.

AMERICA'S PROMISE  
"THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH"



TO SUBMIT A STORY: CONTACT  
CECYLL SEBALLOS (703) 535-3824  
[APBEDITOR@AMERICASPROMISE.ORG](mailto:APBEDITOR@AMERICASPROMISE.ORG)

Pull your weight.