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## ***Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's Office***

### ***Helps Big Brothers Big Sisters Drive Kids to Success***



#### ***A New 'Big Brothers Big Sisters-branded License Plate is Getting Closer to Production.***

During the month of February citizens who stopped by **Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's** five offices, may have noticed a Florida beach scene on the normally blank walls. It was a part of a month-long promotion of the new **Big Brothers Big Sisters** specialty license plate.

Right now, vouchers for the plate are being sold in advance. Statewide, a total of 1,000 vouchers must be sold before the plates are produced. Thanks to the dedicated staff in the five Pasco County government offices, 34 additional vouchers were sold! "So far, statewide, 409 vouchers have been sold as of the end of February so we're getting closer and working hard to reach that goal," said **Stephen Koch, President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay**. "This campaign has also been a great opportunity to share our message. Thanks to the support from **Mike Fasano** and his staff, we've had people reach out to us to say

they believe in the power of mentoring so much, they have signed up to volunteer with our agency throughout Pasco County.”

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** pairs caring adult mentors (called ‘Bigs’) to children (called ‘Littles’). The child may be growing up in a single-parent home, have an incarcerated parent, or perhaps they are being raised by a grandparent. Independent studies show children paired with a mentor are more likely to graduate to the next grade level and less likely to end up in the juvenile justice system. Sales from the license plate vouchers will help the agency match more kids who are on the waiting list, including 100 boys and girls in Pasco County.

“We’re proud to partner with **Big Brothers Big Sisters**,” said **Tax Collector Mike Fasano**. “We know the agency is fulfilling a huge need in the community. We’ll continue to promote the **Big Brothers Big Sisters** license plate voucher project, knowing this will not only make a difference today, but will make an impact on a child’s future, too.”

The cost of the voucher is \$25, which is in addition to the normal registration and related fees. For more information regarding this promotion or other services provided by the **Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office** please contact Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations at 727-847-8179 or visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com).

For more information about **Big Brothers Big Sisters**, call 813.769.3600 or visit [www.bbbstampabay.org](http://www.bbbstampabay.org).

#### **About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, Inc.**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay is part of the nation’s largest donor and volunteer-supported mentoring network, and holds itself accountable for children in its program to achieve measurable outcomes, such as educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence and better relationships. Partnering with parents/guardians, schools, corporations and others in the community, Big Brothers Big Sisters carefully pairs youth, or ‘Littles’, with screened volunteer mentors, or ‘Bigs’, and monitors these one-to-one mentoring matches throughout their time in the program. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity – often of single or low-income households or families where a parent is incarcerated or serving in the military – with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that

change their lives for the better, forever. In 2014, nearly 3,100 children were paired with mentors in Hillsborough, Citrus, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Hernando and Sumter counties. Visit the new website, [www.bbbstampabay.org](http://www.bbbstampabay.org).