


## Best Big Brother

**Orange County businessman awarded by national mentoring organization.**

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81-year-old Mike Trueblood, director of the Family Business Council in the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics at Cal State Fullerton, was just named the 2011 National Big Brother of the Year by the [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) (BBBS) organization [bbbs.org](#). He was given the award at the BBBS national conference held at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas on June 14.



Almost four years ago, the BBBS's Children of Promise program paired Trueblood with 9-year-old Joseph, who lives with his great-grandmother as well as five of his seven siblings after the death of their father and incarceration of their mother.

"Joseph was interested, maybe not all that outgoing at the beginning ... but it was pretty easy to break the ice," Trueblood says in an interview with Robert Dellinger (source: [the-tidings.com](#)).

Mike and Joseph spend time together every other Saturday, during which time Mike taught Joseph how to play tennis. They enjoy eating at McDonald's and going to the library, as well as many other fun and instructive places. On one occasion, Mike brought his "little brother" to an open house at Cal State Fullerton, renewing Joseph's interest in attending college.

"He takes care of me ... he'll feed me when I'm hungry," says Joseph, explaining why he looks to Mike as a father figure. "He'll take me places that I haven't been before. He's understanding and he's caring.

"I really look forward to our Saturdays," he continues, in the-tidings.com interview. "It's like they're summer days."

As the country's largest volunteer-based mentoring program, BBBS aids around 250,000 at-risk children. For more information on the organization, visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters website [bbbs.org](#).