



Big Sister League's Mentoring Program - Our Story

CHELLY BOLGER WATHEN & CRYSTAL KEAN
(Big Sister) (Little Sister)



CHELLY'S STORY: As the youngest child with two older brothers and no kids of my own, I always wanted a little sister to do fun things with. When I heard about the Big Sister League program, it sounded like something fun to do for a year or two, but sometimes you meet someone in your life and you are never the same again. Crystal ("Kristie") and I were matched as Big Sister-Little Sister when Kristie was only 8 years old. She is now 28 years old and we have continued a wonderful friendship and sister relationship over the past 20 years. It has been so wonderful to watch her grow from the young girl I met to the beautiful, mature young woman she is today. We still refer to each other as "Big Sister" and "Little Sister."

I have learned a lot from this relationship. The Big Sister League was a great support for our relationship with trainings and organized fun group activities like a trip to Sea World and the annual Christmas parties. Together, Kristie and I have enjoyed a lot of fun times at those organized events and at our own one-on-one activities like spending the night over when she was younger (I'll never forget playing Barbies with her), going to the fair, taking walks together, teaching her to drive a car, doing various local activities and overnight trips to Disneyland. She was in my weddings, was always a part of my family activities, and even attended a special church retreat. We may not spend a lot of time together these days now that she is in school and has a young child and I am busy with work and other activities, but we are constantly in contact with each other. When we think of "family" we always consider each other as part of that family support. Having Kristie as my Little Sister, and now friend, was truly a special blessing in my life and I'm so glad I got involved with Big Sister League long ago.

CRYSTAL'S STORY: Being the oldest of three children from a single parent home, I pretty much had to grow up faster than most children because I was responsible for my brother and sister while my mom was working. Meeting Chelly was a blessing. I was able to escape and be a kid with her. There isn't any part of her life where I was not welcomed. I got to know her family and they treated me as such. We participated in a lot of activities, not just hosted by the program, but within the community as well. I used to LOVE spending the night at her house because I ALWAYS had my own room with a queen size bed and a door that I could shut for privacy. I even had my own bathroom. How cool was that at 8 years old? Although we don't spend as much time together as we did when I was younger, we do keep in touch frequently. Chelly has helped guide me through life and has always been one of my biggest supporters.

[Click here to learn more about the Big Sister League's Mentoring Program!](#)