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Making Memories E-News

Spring 2012

Big Animals for Little Kids mission is to bring joy into the lives of children facing health, emotional or socio-economic challenges. We regularly visit children in hospitals, homeless shelters and foster care facilities.

A majority of our events support kids at Rady Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Kaiser Hospital as well as organizations such as: The Make a Wish Foundation, the San Diego Center for Children, Christie's Place and ChildHelp.

Spring 2012

Find us on Facebook 

In This Issue

Thank you, Jody!
The Power of Connection...
Big Animals Help Family!

Sign Up!

Do you know someone who would like to join this mailing list? If so, please encourage them to [Join Our Mailing List](#).

Donate Today

[To make a gift today](#) in support of giving magical moments to children in San Diego with serious, chronic, and life threatening illnesses, consider making a gift today.



Big Animal News

Jody Decker Completes Unprecedented 5 Year Term!

After bringing Big Animals to many new community organizations and charities, Jody has completed her 5 year term as President. Under her leadership, the number of charities that partner with Big Animals doubled and the number of children served nearly tripled! She has been a force of nature, and the children of San Diego are the better for it. Jody will continue to contribute as Vice President, supporting new President Aric Roberts.



You can [make a gift](#) online today!

The Power of Connection

by Aric Roberts, President of Big Animals

Editor's Note: Aric Roberts comes to Big Animals from the Make-A-Wish Foundation and brings his own unique energy, and heart warming

Upcoming Events (Partial List)

Saturday 4/21
2:00pm-4:00pm
Noah Homes
Spring Festival

Saturday 4/28
9:00am-11:00am
Walk for Wishes
SeaWorld

Sunday 4/29
9:00am-11:00am
Friendship Walk
Mission Bay

Friday 5/4
Cinco de Mayo
Non-Alcoholic Event

Saturday 5/19
11:00am-2:00pm
SD Youth & Community
Services Festival
Spring Valley

Saturday 6/2
9:00am-2:00pm
Celebration of Champions
The Embarcadero

Saturday 6/2
3:00pm-8:00pm
Relay for Life
Santee

To support Big Animals work at events make a [tax-deductible gift.](#)

To volunteer with Big Animals [email us today!](#)

generosity to the presidency. Aric's first project is to increase Big Animals impact on the community through the use of social media.

Connections make life function. Joyful connections between human beings make life delightful!

Big Animals For Little Kids is all about joyful connections.

Volunteers connect with children and families by portraying characters that make them truly happy

inside. The most common reaction is giving an Animal a big hug! Big Animals connect through face-to-face interactions as well, face painting and applying glitter tattoos. The participant gets to choose their art and it is then painted onto the skin with safety glue. They turn out BEAUTIFULLY!

An important way that we connect is through the permanence of memory. Is a child really going to remember the day they met their favorite character at an event?YES!!! What if there was a better way to preserve that special day? Well there is... and it's totally free to event participants. The custom photo-button. We make a photo-button on the spot with a photo of the child and their favorite animal together! Every time they look at that button it will take them back to that magical moment.

I have all of my buttons, so I know it works! :) I also hear stories from others about how they keep their buttons and display them so that they are an important part of their lives. I know our buttons end up at show and tell at elementary schools, too.

What we do is important. We need to realize how important! We help organizations flourish and continue their good works. We partner with organizations such as Rady Children's Hospital, The Aware Program, Make-A-Wish of San Diego, Ronald McDonald House, Kaiser Hospital, Down Syndrome Action (DS Action), The San Diego Center for Children and many, many others.

That means that 50+ times a year Big Animals contribute by bringing a touch of happiness to sick children, adoptive children, transitional children, teenagers, at-risk teenagers, the homeless, cancer survivors and anyone else who could use a hug from a Big Animal.

I'm proud to be a Big Animal and thrilled to be your new president.

Aric Roberts



This Warms My Heart



Big Animals Step Up to the Plate!

When 14 year old Richard Carrillo was killed recently, the Big Animals got a call from his teacher. Would the Big Animals donate a hundred "picture buttons" to help the family raise money for funeral expenses? Oh, and we need them tomorrow!

Phyllis Ashman and Aric Roberts swung into action, printing the photos and making the buttons overnight.

This spirit of generosity and willingness to help is the keystone of the Big Animals, and I am so proud to be associated with such fine people. *Frank Femicola*

Mrs. Helen Griffith, Richard's Principal wrote: "Thanks to a generous donation from Big Animals for Little Kids, with the gift of 120 free "Rest in Peace" buttons honoring the memory of Richard Carrillo, we were able to help with the school's community-wide fund raising efforts and covered more than \$2,800.00 in funeral expenses. Richy was fatally wounded by an act of senseless violence on Saturday, March 24, just 20 days after his 14th birthday. I want to let you know how thankful I am, along with Richys' family and MTM staff members for your generous donation.."





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