



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 20, 2018

## Wheels for Bigs & Littles receives \$20,000 from Synergy & Concentra

Lloydminster, Sask. – Every school day, the unmistakable white GMC van makes its way to five Lloydminster schools, picking up children who take part in Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) after-school programming.

For the children who don't have access to a ride home, it will also drop them off. Annually, the van provides nearly 3,000 rides for children who otherwise wouldn't have access to the life-changing mentorship provided by BBBS. During the summer, the van provides another 1,053 rides for children who take part in its summer programming.

By the time you calculate in the use for the popular Safe Ride fundraising program, the van is responsible for more than 5,000 rides each year.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lloydminster has been an integral part of the community for almost 40 years, providing volunteer-based mentoring programs to children and youth who desire a positive, ongoing relationship with a caring mentor. The access to reliable transportation is in many ways at the heart of providing that service.

Synergy Credit Union is thrilled that BBBS is the recipient of \$10,000 through the [Concentra Empowering Your Community](#) initiative, helping kickstart the fundraising efforts to enhance BBBS programming and fundraising with the purchase of a new van. Synergy will match Concentra's donation by contributing \$10,000 themselves bringing the total to \$20,000.

"Those kids wouldn't receive the mentoring they receive if it wasn't for the transportation we provide," said BBBS Executive Director Brenda Robinson. "Our current van is a 2003, it's had some miles put on it. There are some weeks that van is used every day between transporting children and fundraising purposes.

"This funding is very timely. A new van is going to be more reliable. We're hoping to still have 15 seats, but downsize a little bit, so it's better on gas."

The impact of [BBBS is clear in this community](#). Currently, there are 42 matches for Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Couples and 14 youth in the in-school mentor program. Another 32 youth are on the wait list.

Synergy Credit Union Manager of Deposit Support Joanne Freeman was excited to learn BBBS would be a recipient of one of the \$10,000 awards. She said the program's impact on helping mentor youth made it a natural fit for the Empowering award.

"The youth who are mentored become contributing members in our community," said Freeman, who has seen the impact firsthand as a BBBS Board member. "Our staff at Synergy have really embraced BBBS. We have staff members who were big brothers and big sisters and others who are active in fundraising."

"Partners like Concentra help our communities be better places to live," said Synergy CEO Glenn Stang. "We're proud of the work BBBS has done in this region and to be able to be a part of assisting them is something we're honoured to do."

**Photo Caption: Synergy Credit Union's Lloydminster Branch Manager Gord Thiel presents Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lloydminster Executive Director Brenda Robinson with a cheque for \$10,000 to help BBBS with its purchase of a new van.**