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CAMP MAX STRAUS

Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Los Angeles

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUST LOVE BURGERS

Los Angeles - Matthew Nelson and his Little Brother Angelo just celebrated their one-year anniversary in the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters program this summer by spending a fun day at the Santa Monica Pier. They spent the day going on rides, playing in the arcade, walking around the boardwalk and fulfilling their self-proclaimed meeting requirement, scarfing down some burgers.

They discovered early in their match their mutual love for burgers. Whatever they do on their match outings, they always make it a priority to enjoy some burgers. Matthew and Angelo are also both surfers. Angelo took surfing lessons this summer, and Matthew has enjoyed going to the beach with him to teach him with a few tricks of his own.

Within a year, these two burger-loving kings have established a trusting relationship and instilled confidence in each other. Like so many matches in the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Matthew has learned the great impact of just spending time together. "The most surprising thing to me is how simple your presence in their life is, and that is the most impactful thing."

Angelo, now 10 years old, is not only a Little Brother, but also attended Hanukkah Camp last winter and enjoyed it so much that he signed up for a summer session at Camp Max Straus.. Matthew, a long-time JBBBS supporter, encouraged him to go to camp to enjoy a traditional camp experience in an enriching environment.

"Having a Big Brother means you have somebody that's there to look out for you," says Angelo.

Matthew's father, Arnold, is a JBBBS Board member and longtime supporter and encouraged his son to get involved. Matthew has been chairing the Arnie Nelson Scholarship program for the past seven years. The Arnie Nelson Scholarship program awards college scholarships to former Camp Max Straus campers who completed the JBBBS High Sierra backpacking trip, called the Witherbee Wilderness program. This program seeks to instill leadership, cooperation and self-reliance in its participants. JBBBS has provided scholarships to over forty children through its various programs this year, a total of more than \$120,000 in financial assistance. Matthew decided to become a

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Big Brother so that he could be more personally involved in a one-on-one mentoring relationship with a child.

Looking back at his first year, Matthew says, “This has been one of the greatest things I’ve ever done in my life.”

Matthew and Angelo look forward to another busy year together. They plan to continue surfing, going to the movies, visiting the dog park, playing mini golf, and a number of other fun activities – of course having a burger each time. All the while, they are creating a close bond of friendship, trust and support.

For more information about becoming a Jewish Big Brother or Big Sister, call (323) 761-5675, x220 or go to www.jbbbsla.org.

Founded in 1915, JBBBS specializes in mentoring children through its core matching program and school-based mentoring program. It is also home to Camp Max Straus, a residential camp in Glendale where almost 1,000 underserved, inner-city children annually attend summer camp. JBBBS also hosts several other programs at camp, including the weekend Sports Buddies and Arts Buddies mentoring programs. JBBBS specializes in mentoring children through its wide network of volunteers and staff. Approximately 2,000 children benefit from JBBBS’ programs and services annually. For more information or volunteering opportunities, visit www.jbbbsla.org.