



photo courtesy of JBBBS

Brian Chorn (left) and Dennis Mogerman celebrate Chorn's marriage, something made possible through the support system at JBBBS.

## Big Brothers Bring Support to the Local Jewish Community

Dennis Mogerman, a recently retired special education teacher, has had much to celebrate. Not only did he recently celebrate his 20th anniversary as a Big Brother, he just walked alongside his little brother and mom down the aisle at his little brother Brian's wedding.

Brian Chorn, now 29-years-old, grew up in a single parent home. His mother brought him to Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters (JBBBS) to help him find a male role model. JBBBS finalized Chorn and Mogerman's match right before Halloween 1987. Their first outing was to find and carve pumpkins.

In addition to the support of a Big Brother, Chorn also spent many summers going to JBBBS' Camp Max Straus. Years later, his soon-to-be wife, Kimberly went on to work there as a counselor. Chorn has since become a successful salesman and he remains in the same area he grew up in, close to his family and to Mogerman. Chorn attributes much of his personal growth to Mogerman's

"unwavering support."

"Without Brian as a Big Brother, I would not be the man I am today," Chorn said.

Not only did Mogerman escort Chorn down the aisle, he also took part in the bachelor party. That is a task only a close, trusted friend, like a Big Brother, could partake.

"It's a very unique relationship, unlike any I've ever had or even if I'd had my own kids," Mogerman said. "It was just about our time together, being him and me. Didn't matter what we did. It's really about unconditional love, telling him, 'I'm here for you.'"

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 where almost 1,000 underserved, inner-city children annually attend summer camp. For more information about finding or becoming a Jewish Big Brother or Big Sister, call (323)761-5675 ext. 22, or visit the website at [www.jbbbsla.org](http://www.jbbbsla.org).