Carengie Deaf Mentoring Program

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Students use sign language in Carnegie Deaf Mentoring Program

The William H. Hannon Foundation has provided a grant to help the newest and most pioneering program of Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters (CBBBS)—the Carnegie Deaf Mentoring Program (CDMP) at Andrew Carnegie Middle School in Carson, CA. CBBS has a long history of dedicated service to special-needs populations, dating back to their founding in Los Angeles in 1925.

"This innovative demonstration project addresses the unique needs of underserved and at-risk deaf or hard-of-hearing youth. We appreciate the William H. Hannon Foundation's leadership in helping to make this program a reality," said Kenneth E. Martinet, President/CEO of CBBBS.

The CDMP is currently serving 40 deaf and hard-of-hearing youth attending the Middle School who face complex and multiple barriers to creating connected relationships with peers and family members, accessing critical resources and achieving academic results. The majority of deaf and hard-of-hearing students lag 3 to 4 years behind their hearing peers. This innovative demonstration program will for the first time match American Sign Language high school student mentors with middle school students. The William H. Hannon Foundation's $35,000 grant will help to launch the two-year pilot program.

"I am very pleased that our Board chose to help start this mentoring program. Education needs to be accessible to all children and those with special needs require our extra help and attention," said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation.