



## Our Mission

*Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.*

## Our Vision

*Our vision is for all youth to achieve their full potential.*



## MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

What a year! Just as we begin to emerge from the pandemic, we immediately shifted gears with a new focus. We kicked things off with a nationwide search for a new Chief Executive Officer. The board created a CEO search committee and the process began. Over a hundred of qualified individuals applied. The committee then spent the next few months reviewing and narrowing down their top selections. After a long search process, the committee finally agreed on the top 10 and interviews were scheduled. After hearing from the staff and their needs we were excited with the selection of our new CEO.

In addition to bringing on a new CEO, we were finally able to start planning in person events again. In October we were allowed to go back into the schools again, so our matches began the process of slowly converting back to a sense of normalcy. I'll have to say that even though we were allowed back in the schools, it did take some time for parents, teachers and our mentors to regain their comfort level with meeting in person. In December, we held the second Walk for Kids' Sake, an outside event, which proved to come just at the right time as we were opening back up as a community. By March it was time for us to honor our Bigs and Littles of the Year! To wrap up our events we held our second largest fundraiser, The Big Bash – Havana Nights and man was it a night! A cool breeze on a hot Havana night along with close to 250 of our closest friends made for a great end to a year of change.

As chair, I look back and want to thank all our individual donors and mentors who helped make Covid, a little like normal for children in our community.

**Brian Walgamott**  
BBBS Board Chair  
2020-2022

## MESSAGE FROM CEO



In our 2021-22 fiscal year, we were still emerging from the pandemic. During the pandemic, the organization had to make a huge shift and go virtual. This was not easy for our matches, some closed. However, many remained open and bonded over this strange new world of getting back to the way things used to be.

As the new CEO coming in during the month of October, it was quite a task to learn all things BBBS. From learning the Service Delivery Model, the National BBBSA Standards, six different grants, the ins and outs of the day to day operations to meeting with the team and connecting with our partners, I was ready to get in and get my hands dirty.

By learning the staff and key roles of the organization, we made a shift in our internal structure. Previously, the structure of our Program Director was divided into two roles. Our Program Director now oversees the whole program. A Grant Manager now helps by looking at the data, identify trends and completes all our monthly, quarterly and yearly reports. This data is used to give guidance on how the rest of the program team functions and tells us what we need to focus on. In addition to separating the grant manager position, we hired a Recruitment and Engagement Manager. We are now again visible in the community. The efforts of this role are guided by who's on our waitlist and who we have ready to be matched.

One major focus has been enhancing our customer service both internally and externally. From looking at ways to incorporate a virtual volunteer orientation, to ensuring that we are engaging our Bigs and parents, and providing them support and resources to help strengthen their match.

With the team on target and fully trained we are ready to crush this next year, matching more children with mentors that will defend their potential and help them keep reaching for the stars.

**Molly Lord**

CEO

*Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend*



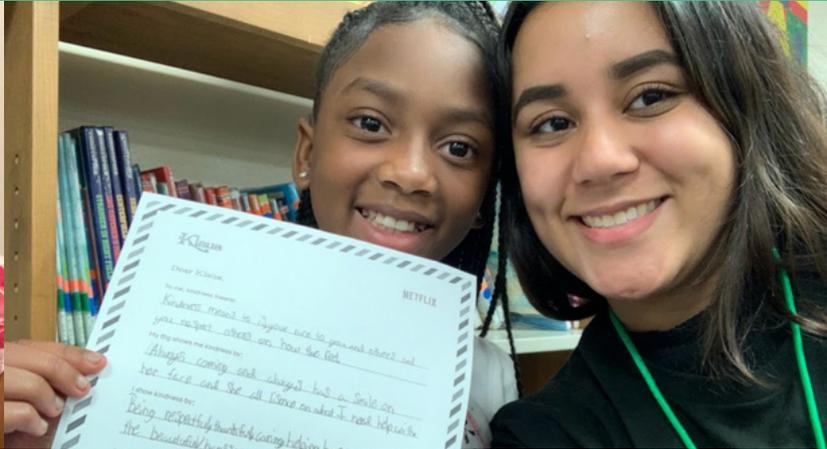
## COMMUNITY BASED

**278 children served**

In our Community Based program, Bigs coordinate outings with Littles to do free to low-cost activities together in the Big Bend community.

### Counties Served

Franklin  
Gadsden  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Liberty  
Madison  
Taylor  
Wakulla



## SITE BASED

**102 children served**

Bigs and Littles meet on-site at the child's school once a week. Bigs and Littles work together on schoolwork or homework, read, play games, sports or simply talk.

### Schools Served

Astoria Park Elementary  
Bond Elementary  
Riley Elementary  
Hartsfield Elementary  
Oak Ridge Elementary  
Pineview Elementary  
Nims Middle School  
Springwood Elementary

## Supporting Our Matches



**EXPRESS**



Tallahassee  
Museum  
TREE TO TREE ADVENTURES



## WHO WE SERVE

### RACE/ETHNICITY

African American **79%**

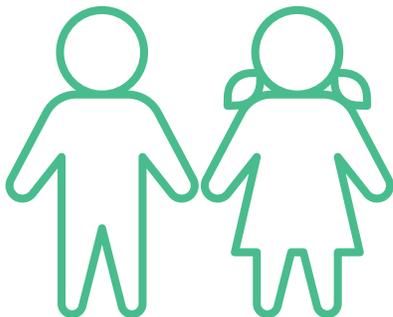
Caucasian **10%**

Mixed **3.4%**

Hispanic **1.8%**

**156**

Little  
Brothers



**224**

Little  
Sisters

**79%** Of Little Brothers are African American Boys



**380** MATCHES  
MADE IN  
2021-22

**20.83 months**

Average length  
of match



**29**

Military Families

**300**

Received free  
school lunch



**222**

Lived in single  
family homes

**151** Had an  
Incarcerated  
Family Member



## SURVEYED BIGS SAY...

**4.7 / 5** I have a good understanding of my role as a Big.

**4.7 / 5** I feel comfortable contacting the agency for support and education.

**4.4 / 5** I felt the time it took to go through the enrollment process was reasonable.

## TOTAL GOALS CREATED / BISS

# 452

- 91% Achieved Academic Success
- 80% Improved School Attendance
- 82% Behaviors Improved
- 86% Promoted to the next grade

*\*Due to loss of contact, if a match closes we are required to mark "not achieved"*



## Grants





Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®  
OF THE BIG BEND

# Program Outcomes



## BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR

*Sam Kerce*

### AND LITTLE BROTHER RIVER

Sam and River have been matched together for the past eight years! Throughout the years, Sam has been there for River in good times or bad, struggling or thriving. Whenever River has a breakdown, Sam talks him through it and lets him know he can reach out anytime. Recently, Sam got married and River was one of his groomsmen! He was included in all the wedding activities including stealing a dance with the bride! River's guardian, Jennifer, says, "Sam demonstrates the strength of character it takes year after year to mentor young men. He has never once backed away from a challenge for River in anyway. He always steps forward." River says that Sam should be Big of the year "because he represents everything that a Big Brother should be. He should be the face of Big Brothers Big Sisters. We have been together for 8 plus years now."

## BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR

*Katie Burtoft*

### AND LITTLE SISTER DASHIA

Katie and Dashia were matched in 2019 and have been together for over two years now! Katie is very understanding with Dashia which has allowed her to open up and become very comfortable. Katie truly cares about Dashia and her whole family and goes above and beyond with everything she does. Dashia believes Katie should be Big Sister of the Year "because she's a very sweet person and she deserves to be nominated." When Dashia was asked to think of a special moment with Katie, she said "It's hard to pick just one! But I like to go out to eat and have somebody to talk too. My favorite place to go with her is Lofty Pursuits. Katie is very understanding and a very good listener. She's just like having a real Big Sister."



The last quarter of this past fiscal year, we had a strong focus on re-engaging with our community partners while providing additional support and engagement opportunities for our parents and Bigs. We held 3 parent trainings/engagement events. A monthly newsletter was re-launched, that shared BBBS events, community events and provided Bigs with fun new ideas for outings and challenges to keep them all engaged, including community BBBS Meet-Ups for our matches. We also launched our Big Hang Out with the first event in June. Here, connections were made! Bigs connected to other Bigs with Little's their same age. We heard and learned from you and will continue to use the feedback to improve our services.



## Biggs with Badges Community Partners



## 2012 National Big Brother of the Year

*Brent Hartsfield*

Pictured with Little Brother

*Delaitre Hollinger*



Over the past 30 years, I have helped many kids through volunteer work for my church, Guardian ad Litem, the Leon County School Board, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend. I have been a Sunday school teacher, tutor, mentor and Big Brother. I believe that one of the purposes of life is service to others. My passion and gift in service is to truly make a difference in the life of a child by helping them reach their highest potential.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) matched me with my current Little Brother in 2005. I remember meeting Delaitre and his mother for the first time at the BBBS office when the case worker introduced us. Delaitre was a 12-year-old boy with a big, warm smile. After talking to him for a few minutes, I could tell that we were a good match. Soon after our initial meeting, I began visiting Delaitre once-a-week at his middle school. He told me that he didn't want me to leave him after one year. I said, "I will be your Big Brother for as long as you want me to. I want to see you graduate from high school". A one-year commitment turned into a 16-year friendship. Delaitre graduated from high school, 6 months early!

When I first became Delaitre's Big Brother, he was a struggling middle school student. I remember working with him to improve his grades. We would use the computer in the school's library to monitor his progress in each of his classes. I would try to help him focus on the classes that needed the most improvement. We would meet with his teachers to find out what assignments were past due, what tests were upcoming, and what the deadlines were for any special projects. We all worked together in an effort to do better. After a period of time and a lot of hard work, Delaitre was able to make some dramatic improvements as a student. He improved his attendance, reduced disciplinary problems, and improved his academics! He even sang a duet, "Lean on Me", at his middle school graduation ceremony. Yes, I was there. I felt like a proud father. Delaitre and I have shared many fun and meaningful activities and experiences. We laughed a lot when having lunch at our favorite Chinese restaurant. We took some "field trips" to the Florida capitol, the Mary Brogan art museum, and the Florida Museum of Natural History. I went to his middle school art fair to see his painting of the Florida capitol. I remember when Delaitre asked me to attend a school board meeting when he was recognized for a book he had written. His principal asked me to represent him at the meeting since he couldn't make it. I proudly stood with Delaitre while he made a brief speech about his book. I was there when he was recognized by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners with a resolution "for his outstanding leadership and dedication to community service".

Delaitre has had many rewarding activities and accomplishments over the last 16 years: citizen editorial columnist for the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper; author of three publications; and, curator for the Taylor House Museum operated by the Tallahassee Urban League. I attended a banquet with Delaitre and his mother. Delaitre was recognized as one of the top 10 African- American male senior high school students in Tallahassee by the Tallahassee Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Students were selected based on academics, leadership, sports, the arts, community service and/or church involvement. Delaitre and I have a friendship that will last forever. He was a candidate for the Tallahassee City Commission in the November 2012 election. He asked me to be his Environmental Advisor since I am a Tallahassee native and a Professional Environmental Engineer. He has been featured in the Tallahassee Democrat as the youngest candidate ever. He worked many years for the Urban League. Delaitre has a bright future thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Delaitre is a college student with the goal of getting a doctorate degree. He has aspirations of being a journalist, or maybe an African – American historian. I bet he also wants to be a Big Brother!

Being a Big Brother has been a great experience for me. I have had a lot of fun and gained a new friend. I was able to make a difference in the life of my Little by helping him turn his life around. I have become a better person. I will always be a Big Brother. I believe in Big Brothers Big Sisters so much that I plan to spread the word throughout the community.

**-Brent Hartsfield**

## WALK FOR KIDS' SAKE



## Thanks to our Supporters

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## BIGS & LITTLES OF THE YEAR



## THE BIG BASH HAVANA NIGHTS



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