



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Greater Twin Cities

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS
THAT MATTER**





LIFE-CHANGING FRIENDSHIPS

2,144 life-changing friendships were made this year at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities.

That means 2,144 kids from our community are on the right path. Instead of skipping school, they're making post-secondary plans. Instead of engaging in risky behaviors, they're playing basketball or hanging out at the library with their Bigs. Instead of feeling like "I can't," they have a Big Brother or Big Sister who says, "Yes, you can. And I'm here to help."

These life-changing friendships make a life-long difference.

The numbers prove it.

95% of mentored youth maintained or increased their scholastic competence, and 84% of Littles paired with a mentor by their freshman year and still matched at the beginning of their senior year graduated from high school.

And they are 100% more likely to have some fun along

the way with a Big Brother or Big Sister.

As the region's leading mentoring organization, we're focused on doing more for our community's kids. This transitional year has given us the opportunity to sharpen our focus; we're serving more kids, making more of an impact, and making that impact last even longer.

We help Littles start envisioning a pathway to their future successes. It starts small, with exposure to career options and field trips to workplaces. It gets bigger, with ACT prep courses and college tours. Along the way, Bigs and families are given tools to help their Littles turn their dreams into diplomas.

And it doesn't end there.

Once Littles graduate from high school we're still there. Big Brothers Big Sisters helps Littles persist with their post-secondary plans, or occasionally revise them. For a first-generation college student, every year they return to college puts them that much closer to their diploma and career, so we are with them on the whole journey.

But there are more kids who need a Big Brother or Big Sister. There is more we could be doing for our Littles. There are opportunities to change more lives for the better, forever.



That's why your support of Big Brothers Big Sisters is so essential. It's the nearly half a million lives we've changed over the past 100 years. It's the thousands of lives we're changing today. It's the innumerable lives that are still waiting to be changed.

We are deeply grateful for you and your support.



Michael Goar
Chief Executive Officer



Ray Eby
Board Chair President

P.S. Are you thinking about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister? Hooray! And thank you! Call 651-789-2400 or email thinkbig@bigstwcities.org and take the first step toward a life-changing friendship.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JUST THE FIRST YEAR OF 1-TO-1 MENTORING?

9/10

Littles have better attitudes toward risky behaviors

90%

of Littles improved or maintained their scholastic competence

88%

of Littles improved or maintained parental trust

52%

of Littles are less likely to skip school

46%

of Littles are less likely to begin using illegal drugs

11 YEARS

We have a pair that has been matched for over 11 years! If this is what 1 year can do, just imagine what greatness 11 years brings!



WHO DID WE SERVE IN 2016?

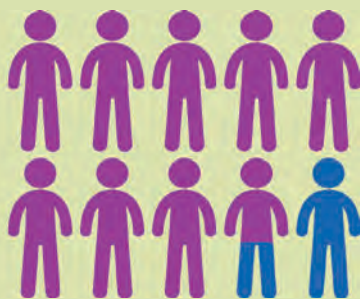
OUR LITTLES

go to **464** different schools 

Top 5 Zip Codes

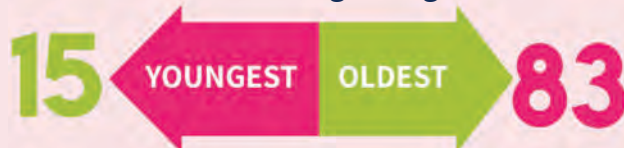
55411
North Minneapolis
55106
St. Paul - Payne-Phalen
55412
North Minneapolis
55407
South Minneapolis Powderhorn
55117
St. Paul - Como/Little Canada

86%
Youth of color



OUR BIGS

Volunteer Age Range



92,980

hours were volunteered in 2016.
That amount of time donated is
equivalent to

\$2,145,049!

Top 5 Zip Codes

55455
Minneapolis - University Area
55414
Minneapolis - University Area
55408
Minneapolis - Uptown
55416
Southwest Minneapolis
55105
St. Paul - Macalester/Groveland

OUR MATCHES

**2,144
MATCHES**



That's enough Bigs and Littles to fill up
the State Theater, Guthrie Theater AND
Children's Theater!

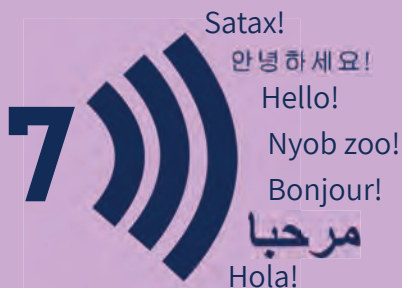
Top 4 Highest Attended Activities

690 attendees	Saints Game & Picnic
300 attendees	Winter Picnic
250 attendees	Big Day at the U
100 attendees	Snowdaze Carnival at the University of MN

180

Postcards
Exchanged
between School
Based Matches

OUR STAFF



BBBS staff proudly speak 7
different languages!

**1,079
BACKGROUND
CHECKS**

were performed to ensure the
safest possible environment
for all children, volunteers,
staff, interns, and board
members

18,474

Match Support check-ins were
completed by Match Support
Coordinators like Rob, Jayci, and Mai
(pictured below)







Alyssa & Ianna

“Ianna is much more outgoing and bubbly now,” — Big Sister Alyssa

Even the biggest friendships start small.

Just ask Little Sister Ianna and Big Sister Alyssa. During their four-and-a-half-year match, they’ve built a high-impact relationship through lots of low-key activities.

Ianna and Alyssa enjoy watching movies, baking, taking trips to the library and trying out daring new nail-art color combinations. (Which fits in nicely while cookies are in the oven or a film is getting started!)

Bonding over quiet activities has helped 12-year-old Ianna build self-confidence and courage. At first Ianna was relatively quiet and hesitant to try new things, Alyssa remembers. Today, whether it’s tasting new foods, tackling a new recipe, or even hunting for rocks on a beach, “Ianna is much more willing to try new things and express her opinion now,” Alyssa noted.

Even though Alyssa didn’t have too many expectations when she became a Big Sister, the experience has changed her, too.

“I get to try new things with Ianna,” she notes. “Being a Big Sister is a great excuse to do all kinds of things I wouldn’t otherwise do.”

“It’s been four-and-a-half years, and we’re still finding so many fun things to do together,” remarks Alyssa. “I’m in it for as long as she likes hanging out with me...and I hope that’s a really long time.”





Vivek & Xander

“When I met Xander, he barely came up to my waist. Now he’s in driver’s ed!” Big Brother Vivek

Big Brother Vivek says that 15-year-old Little Brother Xander is “so smart, he’s just an amazing kid.”

He should know. These two were matched in 2009 and have spent more than seven years together. “When I met Xander, he barely came up to my waist. Now he’s in driver’s ed!” Big Brother Vivek exclaims.

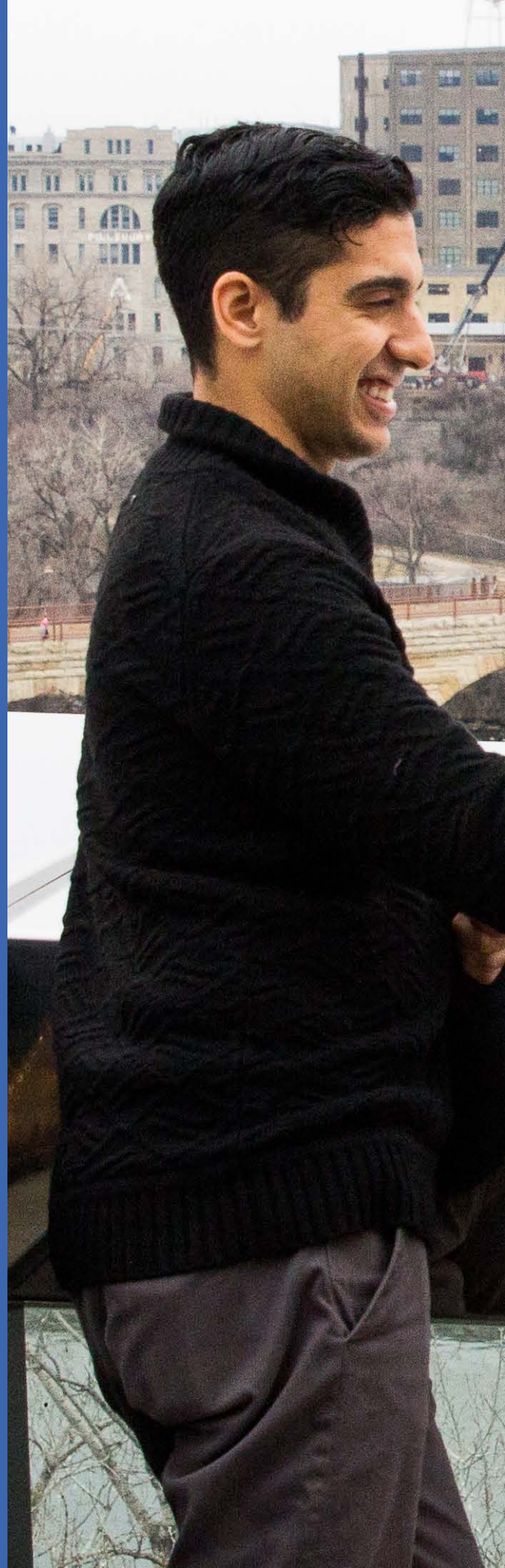
At first, it was all fun and games. “When Xander was younger, we played golf, went to the batting cages or watched the Vikings. It was all sports, all the time,” Vivek fondly remembers.

Now that Xander is in high school, their match has followed the course of Xander’s evolving interests, like science and space exploration. They still talk sports, but Vivek is just as likely to share an article on SpaceX or introduce Xander to other role models with successful science careers.

Vivek is intentional about helping guide Xander on a path that will help him reach his future goals. Whether it’s initiating a conversation about AP classes, getting good grades or thinking about post-secondary options, Vivek wants Xander to “set his expectations higher, and have even more tools to do even better.”

Xander’s mom Sandi appreciates the special role that Vivek fills in Xander’s life. “I knew Xander would need someone to help him grow into a good man,” she remarks. “And I trust Vivek to be that person in Xander’s life.”

“My hope is that I’ve helped Xander be a terrific adult someday,” reflects Vivek. “Because I know he has had a profound impact on me.”





2016 HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

Winter 2016

Big Sister Polly and Little Sister Branndy posed for a selfie at the BBBS Winter Picnic. More than 300 Bigs and Littles bundled up for an afternoon of frozen fun at Minneapolis' Holidazzle. A scavenger hunt, wacky photo booth and gigantic bags of freshly popped kettle corn (a huge hit!) filled this cool event with warm memories.



Winter 2016



Single-digit temps were no match for our hardy matches who tested out the Holidazzle ice rink, including Big Sister Elizabeth and Little Sister Sophia. For a post-skate warm-up, Bigs and Littles visited the BBBS hospitality tent which was bursting with merriment in the form of hot cocoa, holiday music, twinkling lights and crafts.



Winter 2016

From the cozy interior of an ice house on Medicine Lake, Little Brother Marlin and Big Brother John angled for a big catch. They were among several other matches who got hooked on ice fishing, that quintessential Minnesota winter activity, as part of an annual tournament that honors members of the military.



Winter 2016

Check out Little Sister Nashali and Big Sister Kelsey hanging out together... upside down! They were getting fit and having fun at an Aviary Aerial class, a high-flying new addition to hundreds of activities available to matches each year.



Spring 2016

Little Brother R.J. and Big Brother Curtis were all smiles at BBBS' annual Match Celebration, a special event recognizing graduating Littles, as well as the Bigs and families who have supported them along the way. Their match story will continue with a new chapter as R.J. begins his freshman year at Minneapolis Community and Technical College this fall.



Little Sister Christine and Big Sister Melissa root, root, root for the home team at BBBS' 21st annual St. Paul Saints Game & Picnic. This all-star event included yard games, face painting and even photo ops with St. Paul Saints mascot, Mudonna. Over the years, thousands of Littles have attended this fun outing. Now THAT's what we call a home run.



Spring 2016

Spring 2016

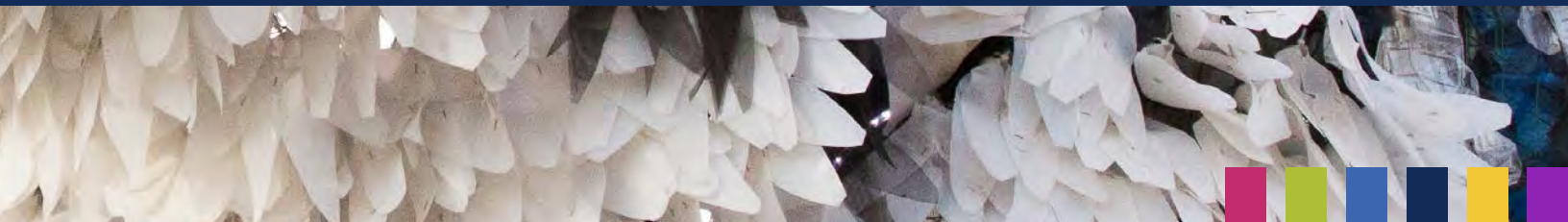


Little Sister Haley backpacked across Europe after graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College. Upon return, she began work in asset management for Goldman Sachs in New York City. We're so proud of Haley and all of the other Littles who earned degrees last year... and a special shout-out to the Bigs who helped them achieve their college dreams!



Spring 2016

Happy Match-iversary! Each month, BBBS invites Bigs and Littles to a pizza party celebration of their match milestones. This year we recognized hundreds of match-iversaries for matches lasting between one and 11 years. Congratulations to all, especially Little Brother Da'Vion and Big Brother Russell, who are pictured here celebrating their first year as a match.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

Summer 2016

Matches reeled in some fun — and some big fish! — on Lake Mille Lacs. Big Sister Amanda and Little Sister Lizeth were among 10 matches who boarded a large open-air launch boat for a sunny outing on the water. There's no doubt that this day was a real "keeper."



Summer 2016

Little Brother KaJon and Big Brother Chris put on their inline skates for a spin around the lakes. From picnics and concerts in the park to paddling a canoe, playing a round of mini golf or exploring Minnehaha Falls, many Bigs and Littles make plans to enjoy summer in the cities together.



Summer 2016



Nearly 800 Bigs and Littles, including Big Sister Linda and Little Sister Janyia, planned for a day of swimming, archery and the Walk for Mentoring at our annual summer picnic. Instead, guests scrambled for cover as severe thunderstorms rolled in just as the festivities were getting started. But never fear, we'll be back (weather-permitting!) next year.



Summer 2016

Congratulations to Big Brother Jeremy, site-based Big Brother of the year! For the past three years, Little Brother Lor has climbed aboard a bright yellow school bus for twice-monthly trips to visit Jeremy at Comcast, his workplace. During summer months, Jeremy and Lor stay connected through the BBBS pen pal program.

Fall 2016

At the 3rd Annual Kickin' It With Harrison event, dozens of Bigs and Littles challenged Vikings defensive star Harrison Smith, as well as teammate Terence Newman, to a friendly game of kickball at Winter Park. There weren't any sacks or tackles that day, but Littles did enjoy autographs, a behind-the-scenes tour, and a Q&A session.



Strawberries or M&Ms? Big Sister Paige and Little Sister Madison chose which ingredients to stir into their very own Blizzard concoctions during Career Day at Dairy Queen. More than 20 matches visited DQ's HQ to learn about logos, marketing and even that trademark swirl on the top of every DQ cone. Littles and Bigs met food scientists and food stylists, and even did a little taste-testing. Yum!

Fall 2016



Twenty-three Littles plus their Bigs and families learned about career and job opportunities from nearly 20 businesses at the BBBS Career Fair. Big Brother Jason and Little Brother Evan are shown here checking out the Eureka Recycling booth. Littles also put their personal presentation skills to the test in mock interviews.



Fall 2016



Fall 2016

Little Sister Karina and Little Sister Jeylan showed off their personalized pizza boxes at a Leadership & Teamwork career exploration match event. They were among dozens of Bigs and Littles who went behind-the-scenes at Davanni's to see how employees (including teens) are hired and trained. Bonus: they made their own pizzas!

2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2016	2015
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$426,153	\$418,764
CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT	\$2,375,016	\$2,139,201
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$404,308	\$568,711
UNITED WAY GRANT	\$475,000	\$537,249
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$246,950	\$236,940
OTHER INCOME	\$55,134	\$43,582
DONATED CLOTHING (Net)	\$132,728	\$-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$4,115,289	\$3,944,447

Campaign Contributions	2016	2015
	\$642,224	\$2,575,687

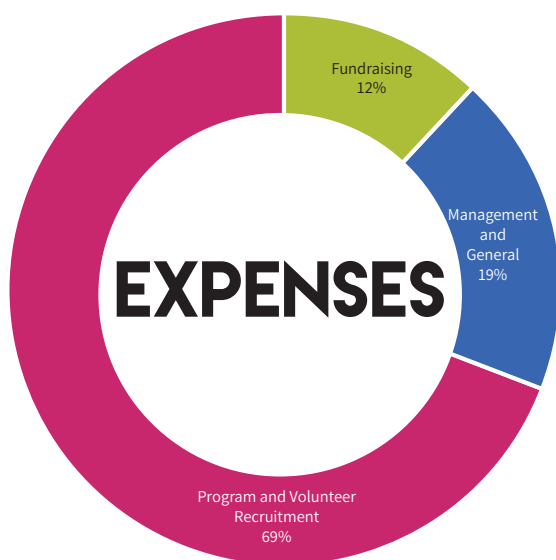
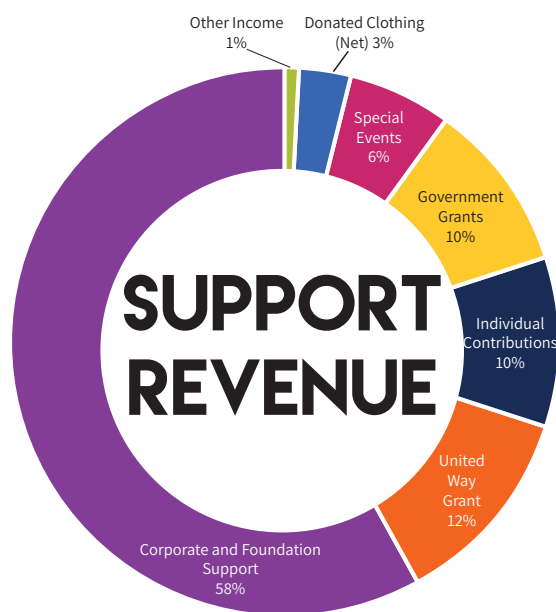
EXPENSES

	2016	2015
PROGRAM AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT	\$3,157,677	\$2,752,751
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$869,668	\$751,221
FUNDRAISING	\$531,344	\$648,871
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,558,689	\$4,152,843

Campaign Expenses	2016	2015
	\$205,789	\$294,998

TOTAL ASSETS

	2016	2015
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,013,265	\$5,968,679
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 303,372	\$368,583
NET ASSETS	\$ 5,709,893	\$5,600,096
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$6,013,265	\$5,968,679
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	\$ (6,965)	\$2,367,291
NONOPERATING CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$116,762	\$(36,283)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 109,797	\$2,331,008
NET ASSETS-BEGINNING	\$ 5,600,096	\$3,269,088
NET ASSETS-ENDING	\$5,709,893	\$5,600,096



SUMMING IT UP

A solid financial footing is more than just a responsibility to our accountants and auditors. It's also a sign that we're doing all the right things to ensure lasting funding for our work. It's how we show you, our supporters and donors, that we are responsible stewards of your trust and investment.

For more than a decade, Federated Insurance in Owatonna has been a leading funder of BBBS in Minnesota. Their belief in the transformative power of mentoring has put tens of thousands of Minnesota kids on the right path. Each summer their Federated Challenge for the Kids of Minnesota gala and golf tournament raises awareness and funds for mentoring across the state. Their leadership and support is remarkable and commendable both in its consistency and generosity.

We are now midway through our "Better Futures" campaign, a multi-year capacity building initiative dedicated to building on our 1-to-1 mentoring success with innovative program growth. Thanks to the community's support we'll be able to enrich and expand

mentoring experiences, and make critical investments in agency infrastructure to ensure successful outcomes for even more children. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the public phase of the campaign.

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Savers thrift stores, who pays Big Brothers Big Sisters by the pound for all donations of clothing or household items. Whether it's garage sale leftovers or home decluttering results, all donations that are dropped off at one of our designated Unique Thrift and Valu Thrift stores (see list below) support Big Brothers Big Sisters. We've seen a significant first year impact on our finances and we're optimistic about the future of this revenue stream to support high-quality mentoring.

For more than a century, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities has been helping change the lives of children facing adversity for the better, forever. And we're confident that in the years ahead, with your support, we will grow, expand, innovate, lead, and most importantly match even more kids with a Big Brother or Big Sister.

SUPPORT MENTORING BY THE POUND

This year we launched a partnership with select Unique Thrift and Value Thrift stores. Your unused, outgrown, and unloved clothing can support high-quality mentoring for kids facing adversity. Drop-off locations are located throughout our community:

Retail Stores

Burnsville Unique Thrift
Columbia Heights Unique Thrift
New Hope Unique Thrift
Sun Ray Valu Thrift

Additional Dropoff Locations

Central Valu Center
Richfield Hub
Terrace Center
Elk Park Center
White Bear Hills Shopping Center
Midway Marketplace
Riverdale Village Marketplace @42



WHAT DOES SUPPORTING BBBS MEAN TO YOU?

We asked Michael Ballard, who supports BBBS through monthly payroll deductions and has been a Big Brother since 2009, why he supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Twin Cities. Here's what he told us.

My name is Michael Ballard and I am a Big Brother, matched with Rummon. I have loved my experience with my match since day one, and I volunteered to be a Big knowing that mentoring is one of the best ways of giving back to the community in which I live.

BBBS does not ask for much, yet the organization has so much to give. I fully support the organization's goals and decided I could make a financial contribution in addition to giving my time to mentor. Starting with safety for the kids waiting to be matched, BBBS asked to have a background check, which involved a minimal cost to the program. I did not have to think twice about covering this cost out of my own pocket, and soon realized that it would take more than my time to ensure this great organization had the resources to enrich the lives of so many kids needing mentors.

I decided to make ongoing contributions through payroll deduction, and designate my gift 100% to BBBS. It does not take a lot, but I firmly believe that EVERY mentor should give something beyond their time to their Little. In reality, BBBS has been as enriching for me as it has been for my Little Brother Rummon. Each year, I increased my giving to show my support because I believe in the value of the program. I always tried to "give until it hurts a little, then give a little bit more." I have never missed one dollar that I have given, just as I have never regretted any hour I put into the match.

It does not take much to get started, so start something Big.

Thank you, Michael. We're deeply touched by your story and sincerely appreciate your many contributions to BBBS.



“Big Brothers Big Sisters has been as enriching for me as it has been for my Little Brother Rummon.”
Michael Ballard



sters has been as enriching for
or my Little Brother Rummon,”
lard, BBBS donor and Big Brother to Rummon



Rummon & Michael

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

It's thanks to you that children across the Twin Cities are moving from statistics to success stories. Your financial support makes it possible for kids facing adversity to navigate life's challenges with a Big Brother or Big Sister by their side.

Corporations and Foundations

Federated Challenge for Kids of Minnesota Presented by Federated Insurance, and sponsors:

AHJ

Alvin E. Benike, Inc.

American International

Automobile Dealers

Anthony Vineyards

BLR

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Bristol Development Group

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SARA Investment Real Estate

Sit Investment Associates

Stifel

Stinson Leonard Street

Stonybrook Capital

The QBE Foundation

Traut Companies

US Bank

WCCO

Wells Fargo

Ziegler CAT

\$100,000+

Carlson Family Foundation

Federated Insurance Foundation

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

Greater Twin Cities United Way

Northside Achievement Zone

\$20,000-\$99,999

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Cargill, Inc.

Cigna Foundation

Comcast Company & Foundation

Ecolab, Inc. & Foundation

General Mills Foundation

Otto Bremer Trust

\$10,000-\$19,999

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

Caribou Coffee Company, Inc.

Caroline's Kids Foundation

Mae and Sylvester Weiss Foundation

Foundation

POPP Communications

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The Donaldson Foundation

The Sheltering Arms Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Margaret Rivers Fund

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Securian Financial Group, Inc. & Foundation

Target

Terhuly Foundation

The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation

UnitedHealth Group & Foundation

Walmart Stores

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\$2,500-\$4,999

Ameriprise Financial Gift Matching Program

CarVal Investors

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The Mike and Linda Fiterman Family Foundation

Thomson Reuters & My Community Program

United Way of Greater Atlanta

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Minnesota Vikings Children's Fund

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Russell T. Lund Charitable Trust

Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation

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Western Bank

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\$100-\$999

Allina Health Systems

AmazonSmile Foundation

Ascendancy Companies, Inc.

Bell State Bank & Trust

Community Shares of Minnesota

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Fireside Bar & Restaurant

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

GE Foundation

Greater Midwest Financial Group, LLC.

Greenheck Fan Corporation

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Hope Community Church

IWJ Charitable Foundation

Mason's Restaurant Barre

Microsoft Giving Campaign

Midwest Family Mutual Insurance Company

Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Motorola Solutions Foundation

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Nuveen Investments, Inc. - Minneapolis

Nuveen Investments, LLC

Okeleye Insurance Agency

Opinions 4 Good

Paypal Giving Fund

People's Center Health Services

Prime Therapeutics Giving Campaign

Ramsey County



“I choose to give monthly to BBBS because I strongly believe that every child should have an advocate and I think BBBS provides that.”

Toyin Akisanya

Rejuv Medical
River Dog Realty
Riverbridge Partners
Saint Paul Area Chamber of
Commerce
Sam's Club #18-6309
Scheels - Eden Prairie
The Saint Paul Foundation
The Weekley Group of Companies
The Hershey Company
Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub
Triton Commerce
Twin Cities in Motion
US Bancorp Foundation
Verizon Foundation
Voya Financial
Xcel Energy Foundation Matching
Program

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\$5,000+

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“As a former Big, it was rewarding and fun to watch my Little improve academically, experience new activities (like carving pumpkins!), and share our cultural traditions with one another. Now as a donor, I feel good knowing that my financial contributions are helping other Bigs and Littles enrich each other’s lives.”

Kristina Mauersberger

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