

2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**
OF SOUTHWESTERN
ILLINOIS



LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Defenders,

As we reflect on 2021, we are grateful for all the ways that you continued to support our youth. Because of your generosity, in the face of ongoing trauma, sustained stress, and anxiety, our young people persevered. Thank you. The impact of your support is outlined in this Annual Report.

The U.S. Surgeon General recently released a report noting that over the last two years, rates of psychological distress among youth have sharply increased. One strategy recommended to counter these alarming trends is to, "Implement evidence-based programs that support children and increase their resilience. Examples include, youth enrichment programs such as mentoring."

In our work, we see firsthand the feelings of isolation, fear, and uncertainty that young people face. These stressors impact their self-esteem, sense of safety and ability to thrive. Our kids need the support of a caring adult now more than ever. With your help, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois provides that support, helping kids discover the power, promise, and potential that lives within each and every one of them. Because when children thrive, our community thrives.

In addition to their families, our young people's mentor Bigs, are part of the village helping to empower, ignite and defend their potential. Our youth have the power to change the world. Together, it's our job to help clear a path to their biggest possible future.

We sincerely thank our Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, and staff who made this important mission come to life. You are essential members of our village. Finally, we thank all the youth Littles who inspire us every day with their curiosity, hope and continued growth.

There is so much to be proud of in 2021, but our work isn't done. You play a critical role in this mission and we are eager to see what we can do together in 2022. After all, we will always be Bigger together.

With Deep Gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Freed".

Heather Freed, LCSW
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim M. Rawlings".

Kim Rawlings
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

VISION MISSION & VALUES

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois, we are on a mission to ensure that every child in our community can graduate high school with a plan for their future and a mentor whose impact lasts a lifetime.

As part of the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, we make meaningful matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and youth ("Littles") ages 6 through young adulthood. As facilitators we support the development of strong relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

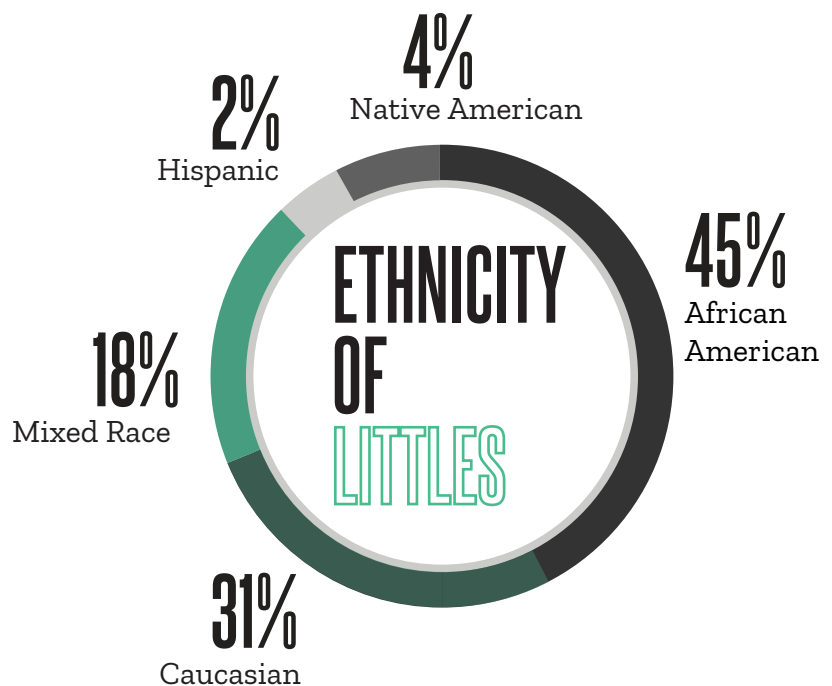
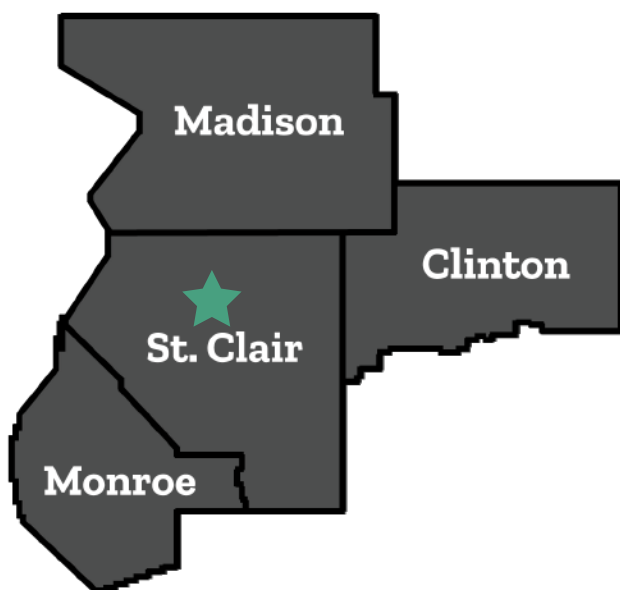
MISSION

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

VISION

All youth achieve their full potential.

SERVICE AREA



IMPACT BY NUMBERS

297

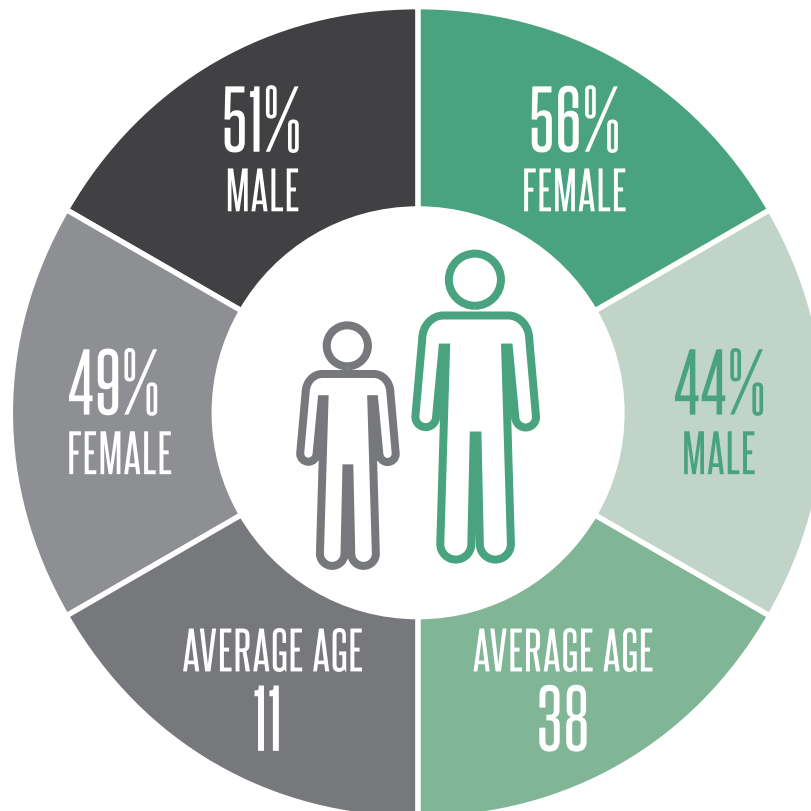
TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED

202

UNDUPLICATED CHILDREN SERVED

our
LITTLES

our
BIGS



948

Match Support
Phone Calls

154

Children who received
computers, hygiene
kits, school supplies
and Christmas gifts

30_{MO}

Average Match
Length

10,000+

Volunteer Mentoring Hours

846+

Counseling Hours

BIG THINGS START WITH A LITTLE

Research proves that children enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program are more likely to form stronger relationships with family and friends, perform better in school, and are less likely to skip school or use illegal drugs or alcohol.

67% of Littles were better able to
handle negative emotions

100% of eligible Littles graduated
high school

83% of Littles feel more connected
to their parents/guardians

100% of Littles have shown
improvement in their
educational aspiration

100% of Littles feel more connected
to their peers

100% of Littles have improved their
attitude toward risky
behaviors

ONE CHILD ONE ADULT

One Life-Changing Relationship.

The Big Brothers Big Sister's one-to-one mentoring program matches caring adult volunteers with children to provide support, encouragement, and friendship. The matches develop a unique relationship based on their interests, hobbies, and values while spending time together in the community doing activities they both enjoy. This unique mentoring model encourages matches to gain new perspectives, new experiences, and a new friend whose impact lasts a lifetime.



BIG BROTHER JERRY AND LITTLE BROTHER JOHN

John's childhood has been more difficult than the average kid his age. At age seven, John and his younger sister were placed into foster care. The instability caused John to struggle in school which ultimately led him to repeat the first grade.

Luckily John's foster mom quickly became the caring and consistent adult he desperately needed. However, she began to realize that John would also need a strong male figure in his life to truly thrive. That's where Jerry comes in.

Big Brother Jerry and Little Brother John share a great love for sports, the outdoors, Imo's pizza—or let's be honest, all food. But most importantly, they share a deep connection and admiration for each other.

When the two first met, John was very shy and reserved, but it didn't take long for Jerry to see his hidden potential. When getting to know each other, Jerry discovered that John had never played catch before. In true Jerry fashion, he was determined to change that. Now any given weekend, you can find these two at a park enjoying an ice cream, followed by playing catch, shooting hoops, or hitting the batting cages.

Since being matched with Jerry three years ago, John has raised his grades, become more talkative, and has more trusting relationships with the adults in his life. While he still struggles from time to time, he knows he can always turn to Jerry to listen and understand.

John had decided very early on in the relationship that Jerry was the perfect match for him, and today that still rings true. Together the two have gained new perspectives while forming an unbreakable bond that will last a lifetime.

BIG & LITTLE OF THE YEAR

Abigail has not experienced an easy life. At the age of six, she had already been exposed to years of significant trauma. She lacked confidence and self worth. She was struggling in school and on the edge of being held back. This ultimately led Abigail's mother to reach out to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Little did she know that a new relationship with Big Sister Kimberly would lead Abigail to overcome the odds and pursue her childhood dreams of becoming a veterinarian.



In 2021, Big Sister Kimberly and Little Sister Abigail were awarded Big and Little of the Year - an award given to one match that exemplifies what the mentoring program is all about.

Last year, our team sat down with Kimberly and Abigail to talk about their decade long friendship.

How has Abigail inspired you as a Big?

Kimberly: "Abby has taught me alot about myself. She is a great example for others her age. She hasn't had an easy life...yet she's never given up. She strives to be better than what she came from."

How has mentorship supported your dream to become a veterinarian?

Abigail: "Kimberly has always supported the goal. When I was looking for colleges, she found John Logan for me. It's going to get me a head start. In two years I can have my vet tech degree. She's just been very helpful with everything. It's nice having someone who knows what they're doing."

What would you say to a potential mentor who is hesitant to volunteer?

Abigail: "For me, it's added more love into my life, which can never be a bad thing. It has definitely made me less shy and courageous. You never know what you can impact in a person's life. You might as well just give it a try!"

Kimberly: "There are so many young people out there who really need you. They need your guidance and support. I would say to any adult, just do it! I just can't say enough, it's really important."



OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS



While we are an affiliate of a national organization, we are 100% locally funded and support local children. We deeply appreciate the generous support of all those who defend the potential of children.

COMMUNITY SHAPERS | \$75,000+

United Way of Greater St. Louis

BIG DEFENDERS | \$74,999 - \$50,000

St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board

CONFIDENCE BUILDERS | \$49,999 - \$25,000

Poettker Construction

MATCH MAKERS | \$24,999-\$10,000

Dana Brown Charitable Trust
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
The Saigh Foundation
Ameren Illinois



PATH CLEARERS | \$9,999-\$5,000

Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt & Kim Rawlings
Allsup Family Charitable Foundation
Norman J. Stupp Foundation
Ms. Susan Morse
Insperity Services
Auffenberg Dealer Group
Ms. Brenda Hebrank
Clinton County 708 Mental Health Board
Nourishing- A Schnucks Foundation

GAME CHANGERS | \$4,999-\$2,500

Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Kim Marchal
Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Susan Lucco
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle and Miranda Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory and Judith Schoen
Holland Construction
Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association
Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Tanya Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Blake and Sara Salger
Mr. and Mrs. Milton and Patricia Wharton
Animal Hospital of O'Fallon
J.F. Electric
Raymond James
Ms. Rena Murphy
The Smiles Family Foundation

OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS

CONNECTION CREATORS | \$2,499 - \$1,250

Mr. and Mrs. James and Mary Kelley
Ms. Susan Johnson
Aetna Better Health of Illinois
Christ Church
icon Mechanical Contractor, LLC
Scheffel Boyle
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney and Bethany Cissell
Mr. Garrett Reuter
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Kathy Kernan
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and Sarah Sturycz
Ms. Katie Lundy
Arsenal Credit Union
Ms. Beth Gori
Mr. and Mrs. Otis and Shelly Steward
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale
Anders CPAs + Advisors
Old Newsboys
St. Louis Regional Business Council
Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Ruth Wilke
Walmart Belleville
Zimmer Fund
Morrison Plumbing
Mr. Bruce Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse and Regina Carlton
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Brenda Altadonna
Ms. Doreen Nersesian
KCH Financial
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery

Ms. Ericka Logan
Mr. James Frybarger
Kilter, Inc
MG+M The Law Firm
Mr. Roosevelt Scott
Mr. Thomas Hemmer
Triken Polygraph, Consulting & PI
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Lacie Loose
Ms. Mackenzie Hasamear
Mr. Andrew Goebel
Bank of Belleville
Mr. and Mrs. Brett and Julie Ziegler
Mr. David Ybarra
Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Heather Klein
Mr. Jeffrey Jerashen
Ms. Kerry Wrigley
Ms. Linda Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Donna Smoker
Mrs. Shanna Sullivan
Mr. Copper Bend Pharmacy
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Anne Olish
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Heather Freed
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Antoinette Smith
Ms. Kristi Vetri
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Chase and Carole Beverly
Mr. David Riehl
Ms. Kathy Simmons
Mr. Patrick Sharkey
Mr. William Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Nick and Mary Lombardi
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent and Patricia Mannino
Mr. Nelson Arrowsmith
Mr. and Mrs. Jay and Diane Tebbe
Ms. Roz Brooks-Willis
Mr. Bradley Grimes
Mr. David Young
Mr. Gregory Wittman
Ms. Janine Williams
Midland States Bank
Ms. Patricia Burns
Ms. Susan L. Harris
Ms. Susan Stephan
Mr. Eric Ruetters
Mr. and Mrs. Faisal and Karen Cash
Mr. Kevin Richter

Mr. Andrew Lopinot
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Meta Cathcart
Mr. and Mrs. Chris and Ashley Pondoff
Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Carol Sauerwein
Ms. Jeni Sandheinrich
Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Betty Routin
Ameren Missouri
Mr. Benjamin Callahan
BJC Healthcare
BOS Metro East Banking Center
Ms. Cathryn Kennedy
Ms. Celeste Korando
Ms. Donna Miller
Mr. Edwin Roldan
Innovative Chiropractic Clinic
Ms. Janet Bone
Mr. Jerome Basinski
Mr. Jim Lugge
Mr. John Crutcher
Mr. John Fritsche
Mr. John Standefer
Mr. John Tobin
Mr. Jonathan Becker
Junior Service Club of St. Clair County
Mr. Kevin Vongsavath
Luhr Bros., Inc.
Ms. Marla Moore
Mrs. Mary Sharpe
McCullough's Flooring Enterprise, Inc
Ms. Michael Stiern
Olin Corporation
Ms. Patricia Kilner
Mrs. Roxanna Johnson
Sam's Club O'Fallon
Ms. Sandra Spirtas
Ms. Sharon Lawrence
Southern Illinois Builders Association
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Prudence Wolf
STL-KC Carpenters Regional Council
Walmart O'Fallon

POTENTIAL IGNITERS | \$1,249 - \$500

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Sigman Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc
The Gori Law Firm, P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Cheryl Rajski
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Margaret Lang
Mr. Scott Weber
Mr. and Mrs. James and Lynne Bedwell
Egyptian Workspace Partners
Mr. Todd Littlejohn
Mr. and Mrs. Grady and Pamela Manning
Mr. and Mrs. Bart and Glenda Bridges
Mr. and Mrs. Brent and Laura Lecher

2021 FINANCIALS | THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois has maintained strong and sustained financial stability. The financial support from our many investors and supporters provides programs and services, which ignites the potential of Metro East youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois is an independent 501(c)(3).

INCOME STATEMENT

2021 REVENUE & EXPENSES

Revenue	\$878,256
Expenses	\$738,789
Net Income	\$139,467

REVENUE SOURCES

Contributions	\$113,351
Grants	\$154,097
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$147,212
Special Events	\$169,729
Sponsorships	\$6,667
Raffles	\$275,200
Rent	\$12,000
Total Support and Revenue	\$878,256

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$234,383
Non-Current Assets	\$397,801
Total Assets	\$632,184

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$0
Non-Current Liabilities	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$0
Total Net Assets	\$632,184

EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Program	\$392,169
General and Administration	\$77,846
Fundraising	\$268,774
Total Expenses	\$738,789

**The complete 2021 audit and form 990 is available at bbbsil.org.*

MAXIMIZING SOCIAL IMPACT

18:1 ROI

For every \$1 invested in Big Brothers Big Sisters \$18 is returned back to the community.

Former Littles earn \$315,000 more over their lifetime as compared to peers with similar backgrounds not in the program.

That means:

\$32,154

additional
tax revenue

\$49,819

increased
disposable income

AGENCY FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS



Winter kicks off the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois \$50,000 Cash Raffle. Only 1,900 certificates are sold at \$100 each for a chance to win four cash prizes with the grand prize of up to \$50,000 in cash.



Trivia For Kids' Sake is a one of a kind annual fundraising event held at GCS Credit Union Ballpark under the stadium lights. This Spring event encourages companies and individuals to form a team, enjoy a night of trivia with food, drinks and a chance to win prizes. Bonus - participants get the awesome feeling of supporting children in our community through one-to-one mentoring.



Summer kicks off of the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois House Raffle. Only 5,500 certificates are sold at \$100 each for a chance to win 46 cash prizes with the grand prize of a \$300,000 home or cash.



The fall annual gala event is guaranteed to make a Big Impact. This event features dinner, an inspiring program and auction. Expect powerful stories, guest speakers, and more that will leave guests feeling inspired.

ARE YOU IN THE BUSINESS OF DOING BIG THINGS?

Help us amplify the power and promise of Metro East youth.

YOUR TIME, REIMAGINED

Walk the dog, work in the yard, play a game, start a home project, cook dinner, relax with a movie. Now imagine doing all these things with a new friend to accompany you. Someone to talk with, to help you, to give you new purpose while also introducing them to new things. This is what it looks like being a volunteer mentor, or what we call a “Big”.



Big Austin & Little Peyton
Matched since 2019 - Madison County

As a Big you connect with your Little doing normal everyday activities. They need regular, caring adults like you to ignite their power and promise. People who see the best in them, who support their dreams, who are there to listen and care. Through our unique and rewarding volunteer opportunity, you'll gain new perspectives, new experiences, and a new friend!

BIG LEGACY SOCIETY

Did you know you have the power to leave a lasting impact that will be felt for generations to come, while still allowing you to provide for your family? Any size charitable bequest can be made to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois through a will or living trust by including a distribution of cash or specific property, a dollar amount, or a percentage of the estate. If you would like to make a significant future gift without affecting your current lifestyle a charitable bequest may be right for you.

IT'S NOT JUST A DONATION. IT'S AN INVESTMENT IN A CHILD'S FUTURE.

Your financial support helps provide programs and services in your local community—together, we develop more college grads, community leaders, and entrepreneurs.



BIG GIVERS CLUB

If you are receiving this in the mail, it's because you are part of the Big Givers Club. Congratulations! You're a Big deal. Thank you for choosing to be a part of this exclusive group of donors who make a Big impact on the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission.

The Big Givers Club is an exclusive group of donors who make a Big impact on the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission by making accumulating gifts of \$500 or more in a calendar year.

Perks to The Big Givers Club include special recognition in our annual report, exclusive event invitations, quarterly communications from the CEO and a special year end token of our appreciation.

As you plan your giving, we hope you will continue to stand with us to ensure every child has the opportunity of one-to-one mentorship.



OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

You invest. A child profits. It's that simple.

IRA Charitable Rollover Individuals age 70½ can donate up to \$100,000 directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without treating the distribution as taxable income.

Stocks & Securities Many donors make gifts in the form of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. As a donor, you are entitled to take a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of appreciated securities held longer than one year, and you usually avoid paying the capital gains tax that would be due if you sold the securities.

Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) DAF's continue to be the fastest-growing giving method and tax-efficient method to manage your charitable contributions. This method allows you to support our mission and receive an immediate tax reduction as you give your support over time.

What to learn more? Contact Heather Freed at heatherf@bbbsil.org.

MEET THE TEAM

OUR STAFF



Heather Freed, LCSW
President and CEO

Mary Ellen Sweet
Director of Administration

Christina Cathcart
Assistant Director of Community Engagement

Misti Johnson
Program Manager

Melissa Rotramel- Richter, LCPC
Counselor

Brianna Anderson
Content Marketing & Special Events Manager

Meghan McCarthy, MSW
Enrollment Coordinator

Rachael Ribera
Match Support Specialist

Tajon Telfair-Harris
Match Support Specialist

OUR BOARD



Kim M. Rawlings
Chairperson

Miranda M. Stevens
Vice Chairperson

Mark Altadonna
Treasurer & Secretary

Brett Baltz
Regina Carlton
Wendy Erhart
Tanya Harris

Jason Klein
Brian Loose
Pam Manning
Mike Marchal

Susan L. Morse, CBPA
Doreen Nersesian
James Oliver
Kevin Poettker

Greg Schoen
Nathan Sturycz
Patricia Wharton, Esq.
Cynthia Williams

A BIG THANK YOU





**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**

OF SOUTHWESTERN
ILLINOIS

