



ANNUAL REPORT
2022



Big Brothers
Big Sisters®
COLUMBIA NORTHWEST

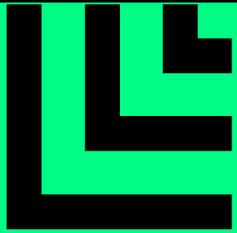
MISSION, PURPOSE & TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSE

All youth achieve their full potential



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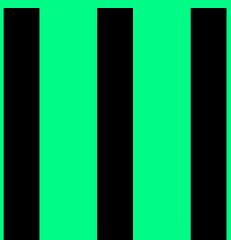
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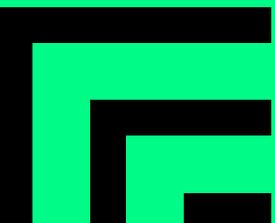
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**OUR YEAR IN REVIEW:
A LETTER FROM
OUR CEO**

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters was founded in 1904 by a New York City court clerk, Ernest Coulter, who noticed a significant number of teen boys who continued to come through the court system with repeat offenses. Ernest believed that if these boys had a positive adult mentor in their lives, their trajectory would be different. He was right.

There are now 237 Big Brothers Big Sisters sites nationwide and this mentoring movement is as real as the impact. Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia NW in Portland, Oregon was started in 2002 by a group of community members who also believed in the power of mentorship.

**NOW, 20 YEARS AND 10,000 CHILDREN
LATER WE ARE STILL GOING STRONG, AND
THE WORDS THAT COME TO MIND AS I LOOK
BACK ON 2022 ARE LONGEVITY AND IMPACT.**

Over the past 20 years our work has empowered children, assisted parents & guardians, and matched dedicated volunteer mentors to ignite the potential of local youth. As you will read in this report, the power of human connection is in the DNA of our organization. This is evident in matches like Little Sister Jeni and Big Sister Monica, our 2022 Big and Little Sister of the year, who refer to one another as Hermanas because their sisterly bond is so strong.

At BBBS CNW we believe in the importance of lived experiences, and the power of representation in our non-profit community. We are proud to have Alumni Littles, Bigs, and Parents serving alongside us on our staff, Board of Directors, Ambassador Board, and on our committees helping to guide this important work. Together, we have grown our Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) efforts and are now in year two of our Black Youth Ambassador group, and year five of our Latino Youth Program. They say, "it takes a village to raise a child," and thanks to the support of friends like you, our one-to-one mentoring relationships provide the critical social and emotional development that youth need to help build resilience and promote mental health and well-being right here in our community.

I encourage you to read on, learn more, get inspired, and engage.

In Service,



Beach Pace,

Chief Executive Officer

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest

OUR COMMITMENT TO JEDI

With 76% of our Littles representing BIPOC communities and most of them matched to white Bigs, our responsibility is to provide an inclusive environment and a culturally competent program model. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and safe environment for our diverse youth, mentors, and parents. We are intentional about our impact on the community and promote growth, change, and diverse perspectives.



WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THAT IN 2022,

87% of our program staff members, who work most closely with our youth and families, are currently represented by BIPOC and LGBTQ communities.

We intentionally focused on hiring bicultural staff, assessed our internal agency culture, and adapted hiring practices to mirror the families we serve.



Justice: We are working to help dismantle barriers to resources and opportunities in society so that all individuals and communities can live whole and dignified life.



Equity: We demonstrate equity by considering the individual needs of our Littles rather than catch-all solutions. This means identifying and eliminating any unconscious, conscious, or systemic biases, stereotypes, or barriers that limit full participation in our programs.



Diversity: We recognize and respect the individual qualities and attributes of our employees, mentors, volunteers, and the Littles and families we serve. Our community is strengthened when we value every aspect of diversity, including race, culture, age, ability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, education, skills, socioeconomic status, and other ideologies and backgrounds.



Inclusion: We strive for all our employees and other individuals who interact with us to feel respected, accepted, valued, and have a sense of belonging, and we commit to broad and equitable outreach to encourage participation across our communities.



**MOM OF FOUR
ALUMNI LITTLES
GIVES BACK TO BBBS**

MOM OF FOUR ALUMNI LITTLES GIVES BACK TO BBBS:

Raising four young boys as a single mother in 2005 was no easy feat for Abieyuwa Odighizuwa. She knew that each of her boys needed a positive male role model in their lives to help guide them through middle school and high school, so she turned to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest to sign them up for a mentor.

Now, as adults, Owamagbe, Ighodaro, Ihoghama, and Osawaru have become champions in their communities, with their families, and in their chosen professions. **Two of her sons have even made it to the NFL! Osawaru currently plays for the Dallas Cowboys, and her oldest son, Owamagbe, played for the New York Giants.**



Abieyuwa has always had a passion for service and recently founded the Odighizuwa Foundation to give back to her community, and other single mothers like her. Abie was thrilled for the opportunity to meet and gift a group of single mothers from the BIPOC community with a special holiday surprise, a gift card to Kroger, and holiday gifts for their families.

SHARED ABIE

“IT WAS AMAZING TO CONNECT WITH THE OTHER MOMS, THEY WERE SO EXCITED TO MEET SOMEONE WHO HAS WALKED IN THEIR SHOES,”

MOM OF FOUR ALUMNI LITTLES GIVES BACK TO BBBS:

The biggest gift of all was the opportunity to be in community with one another. Abie shared her experiences of having four boys in the program. She also gave wonderful advice to the other moms about how to set healthy boundaries, practice honesty, and how to clearly communicate as a family. One of the moms who attended said, "I was so inspired to hear from Abie, whose boys have had such success in life. It really showed us the potential and impact of match relationships over time."

It was encouraging for the moms to see another mom starting a foundation to help others in the community. For Abie, it was a beautiful moment for her to mentor other single mothers, paying it forward.

At the end of the event, Abie walked around, shook everyone's hand, greeted each mom with a warm hug, and offered kind words of encouragement.





PROGRAM SNAPSHOT
COMMUNITY-BASED
MENTORING

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING



Community-Based Mentoring is traditionally what comes to mind first when you think of Big Brothers Big Sisters. BBBS Enrollment and Matching Specialists thoughtfully match children on our waiting list with caring adult volunteer mentors, based on shared interests, life experience, participant preferences and geographic proximity.

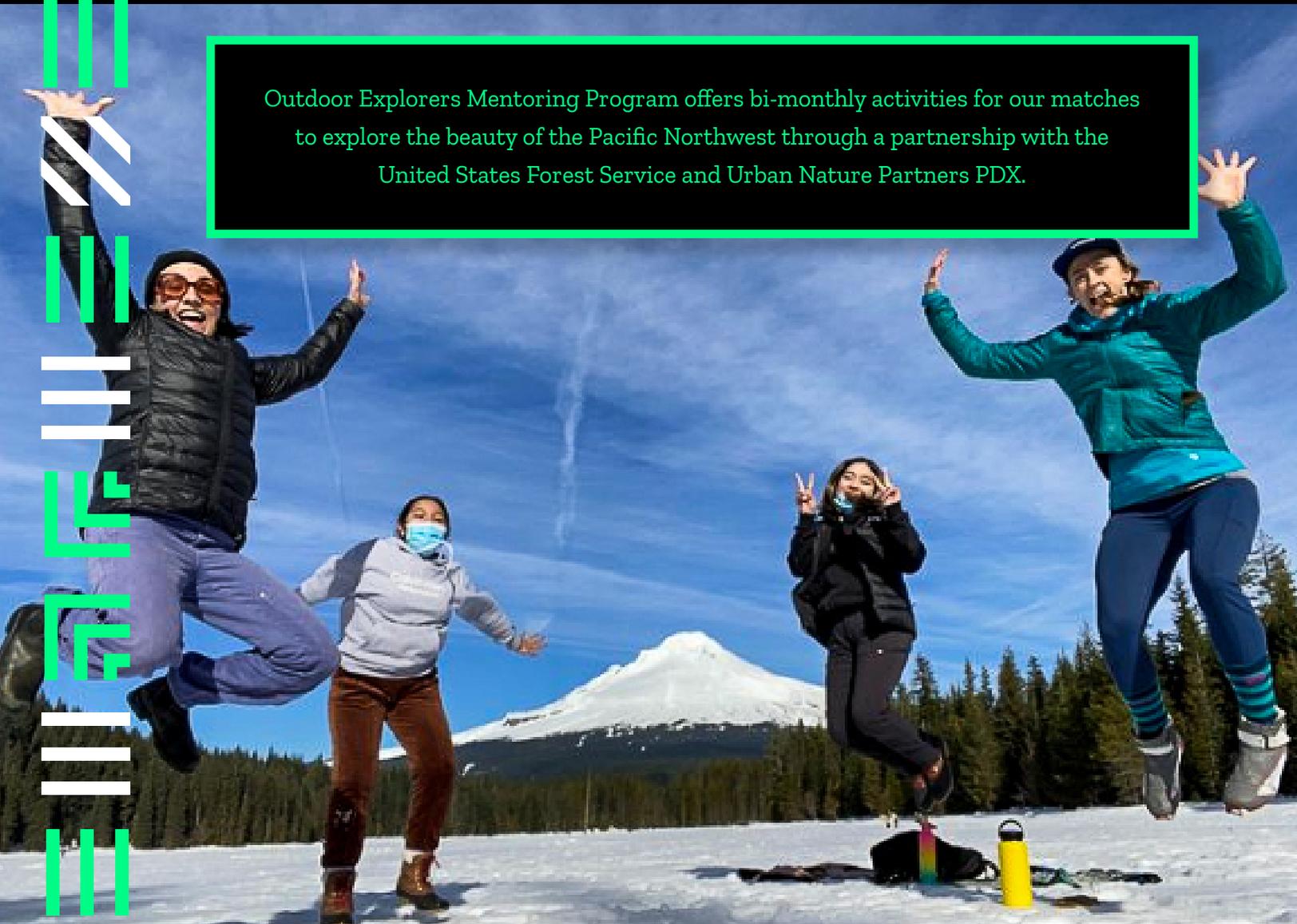
Once the match is made, Bigs, Littles, and families are provided professional support from the Big Brothers Big Sisters Match Support team throughout the length of their match.

Community-based matches are encouraged to spend time together about once a week doing low-cost or free activities, like going on a hike, seeing a movie, visiting the library, or creating art together. This consistency promotes a healthy relationship which supports young people to build self-confidence, think about their future, and have lots of fun.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING

Outdoor Explorers Mentoring Program offers bi-monthly activities for our matches to explore the beauty of the Pacific Northwest through a partnership with the United States Forest Service and Urban Nature Partners PDX.



These group outings allow Bigs and Littles to build community while exploring outdoor recreation and conservation. In 2022, matches enjoyed activities like canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, harvesting a holiday tree, urban gardening, and bicycling.

BBBS hosted a day of outdoor team building at Tree-to-Tree Adventure Park for matches to brave the aerial obstacle courses and race each other on the 1,200 ft. zipline.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING



THE BLACK YOUTH AMBASSADOR GROUP

is a group of high school-aged Littles who are actively creating and celebrating a space for Black youth empowerment and advocacy within BBBS Columbia NW. Together they participate in community engagement and active discussions and workshops surrounding the Black experience. Students are given the space and encouragement to discuss ways they can contribute to strengthening the community not only amongst themselves but within the Portland metro area and any space they may find themselves in.



THE LATINO YOUTH PROGRAM

matched Latino high school students in the Hillsboro School District with adult mentors to provide friendship, support, and encouragement. Bigs have been helping their Littles fill out their FAFSA and college applications. Thirteen seniors from this program graduated in June of 2022. Ten of those seniors continued on to attend a university or college. BBBS provided workshops for these high school Littles throughout the year, focusing on future planning, college, and career readiness.

QUARTERLY JEDI BOOK CLUBS

Our Quarterly JEDI Book Clubs were started by BBBS Program Staff to provide books for matches to choose from for both the Big and Little to explore stories celebrating Black History Month, American Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Pride Month & LGBTQ Community, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

PROGRAM STATS



364 LITTLES SERVED



92% GRADUATION RATE

2022 POSITIVE IMPACT

96%



of Littles maintained or improved their avoidance of risky behaviors.

85%



of Littles maintained or improved their academic performance.

95%



of Littles maintained or improved their emotional regulation skills.

LITTLES & BIGS: AGE, GENDER & GEOGRAPHY

15

LITTLES AVERAGE AGE

56%

Male

43%

Female

1%

Non-binary

40

BIGS AVERAGE AGE

51%

Male

47%

Female

2%

Non-binary

LITTLES BY COUNTY

41% **MULTNOMAH**

38% **WASHINGTON**

14% **CLARK**

6% **CLACKAMAS**

1% **OTHER**

PROGRAM STATS

LITTLES & BIGS: ETHNICITY

LITTLES	BIGS
43% HISPANIC OR LATINO	66% WHITE OR CAUCASIAN
25% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	15% HISPANIC OR LATINO
24% WHITE OR CAUCASIAN	9% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
5.5% NATIVE AMERICAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	8% ASIAN
4% ASIAN	<1% NATIVE AMERICAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
<1% NATIVE HAWAIIAN	<1% NATIVE HAWAIIAN
<1% MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN	<1% MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN
<1% OTHER	2% OTHER

LITTLES HOUSEHOLDS:



SINGLE-MOTHER
HOUSEHOLDS



INCARCERATED
PARENT OR FAMILY MEMBER



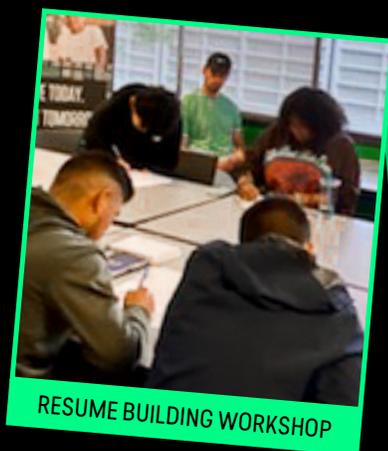
OF THE KIDS WE SERVE RECEIVE
FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH



**BIG
FUTURES**

BIG FUTURES

BIG Futures is a movement. Rather than just one BBBS program, BIG Futures embodies a network of programs that enables agencies to empower every kid on the path to graduate with a plan for their future and a mentor whose impact will last a lifetime.



RESUME BUILDING WORKSHOP



Ninfa working with Little Brother Martin and Big Brother Sean on college applications and FAFSA



CAREER PANEL

BIG Futures is a college and career readiness initiative designed to equip young people for post-secondary success through career mentoring, education, and access to key opportunities.

In 2022, 50 students were assigned to Ninfa Rodriguez, Program Coordinator for College & Career Success. Ninfa worked with the students individually to assess their needs and create an individual educational or vocational goal plan that each student could work on with support from Ninfa and their mentor.

Throughout the year, these students were invited to participate in post-secondary workshops held quarterly. Each session revolved around exploring career pathways, community resources, FAFSA info sessions, financial literacy, resume building, and a panel of local community partners and mentors who shared their professional experiences with the students.



2022

**GRADUATION
CELEBRATION**

2022 GRADUATION CELEBRATION



On May 19th, the BBBS community came together to welcome 35 graduates at OMSI to celebrate the graduation of matches from the class of 2022.

The hosts of the evening, Jaasyel Monroy, Match Support Specialist, and Ninfa Rodriguez, Program Coordinator for College and Career Success, led the bilingual ceremony for families and supporters.

Each graduate walked the stage with their Big, parent, or guardian. Of the 35 graduates, 13 students applied and won scholarships of \$500 to begin their new journeys. With a 92% graduation rate this year, compared to the state rate of 80%, everyone in the room beamed with pride in celebration of all the Littles commemorating this special day.





**BIGS AND LITTLES
OUT IN THE
COMMUNITY**

BIGS AND LITTLES OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Big Ashlie & Little Sister VeeVee:
MATCHED 2.5 YEARS



Little Brother Jay & Big Brother Colin:
MATCHED 1.5 YEARS



Little Sister Mickaylah & Big Sister Liz:
MATCHED 4 YEARS



Little Brother John & Big Brother Ty:
MATCHED 6 YEARS



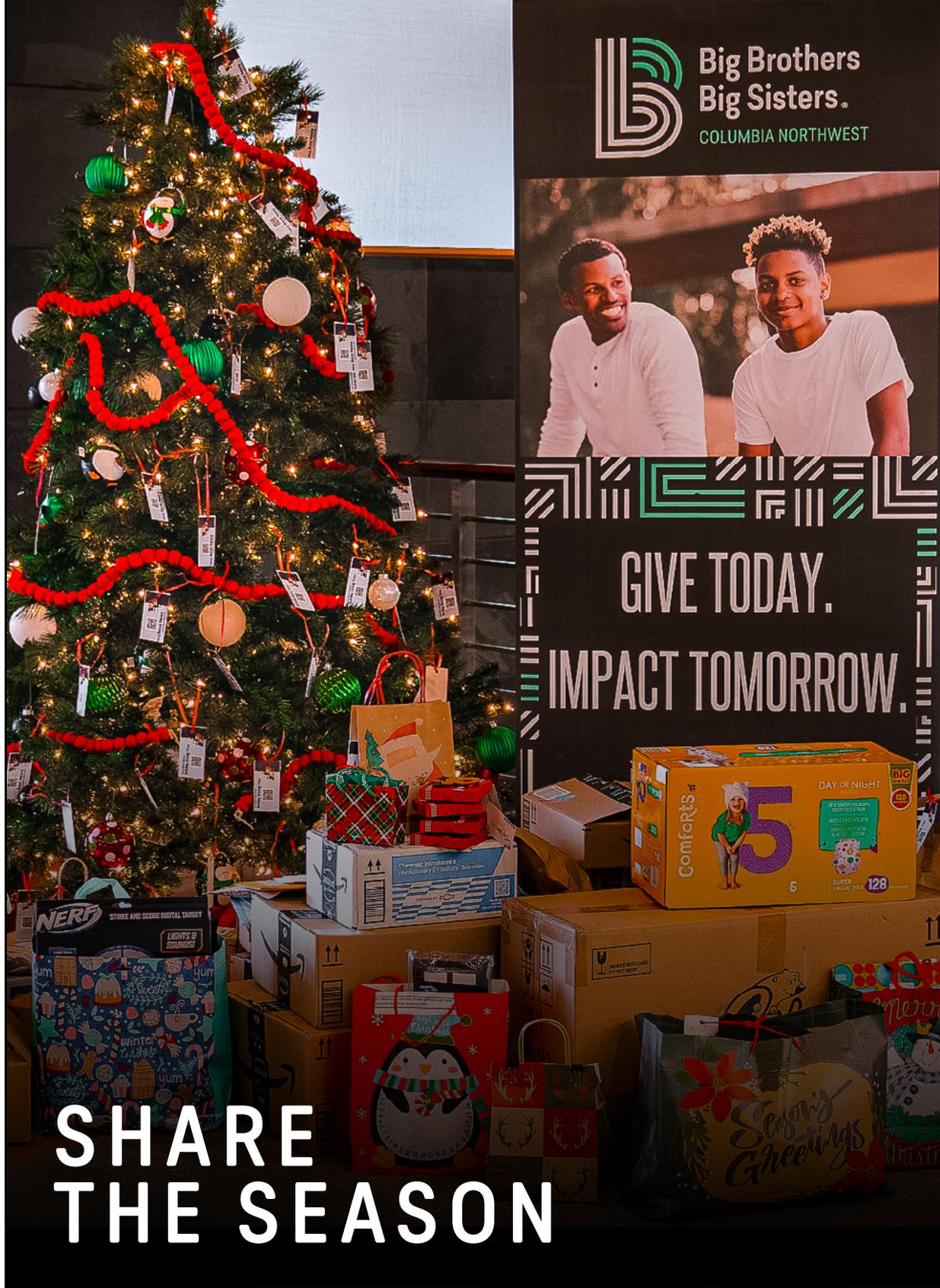
Big Brother Randy & Little Brother Henry:
MATCHED 7 YEARS



Big Sister Alexis and Little Sister Avery:
MATCHED 8 MONTHS



**GIVE TODAY.
IMPACT TOMORROW.**



**SHARE
THE SEASON**

SHARE THE SEASON

In December of 2022, our incredible community rallied around the families we serve to fulfill wish lists for 250 kids, teens, and their families, making their holidays that much brighter. Wish lists contained: clothing, games, blankets, gift cards, toys, and household supplies. Thanks to the generosity of our BBBS community, we were able to fulfill the wish lists of 100% of the families who registered.

BIG THANKS TO M FINANCIAL FOR SPONSORING 100 KIDS EACH YEAR FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS .





BIGS **OF** **THE** **YEAR**

BIG & LITTLE BROTHER
OF THE YEAR

BIG BROTHER GUS & LITTLE BROTHER JASON



Big Brother Gus, Little Brother Jason, and Match Success Specialist Jaasyel

Congratulations to Little Brother Jason and Big Brother Gus, who were awarded Big and Little Brother of the Year in 2022! Moving to Portland from El Salvador with his mom at the age of 12, Little Brother Jason faced a multitude of changes, adjusting to a new country and culture, city, climate, and language. Knowing that her child needed the guidance and friendship of a mentor who was familiar with Portland, Jason's Mom, Gloria, reached out to the team at Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest for help.

The BBBS Enrollment Team talked Gloria through the process of enrolling her son in the program. With English not being Gloria's first language, our agency connected her with a bilingual and bicultural Enrollment Specialist who was able to provide services to their family in their native language. Being culturally responsive to Gloria's needs immediately put her at ease, and she shared the dynamics of her family and the urgent need for a male role model for her son. It became clear that the family needed a Spanish-speaking Big Brother and Match Support Specialist who could communicate with Gloria and create the best possible match for Jason.

When Jason was interviewed for our program, he asked for a mentor with a similar background, someone who could help him adjust as a pre-teen moving to the U.S. and not knowing the language. Gus stood out because his mother was also from El Salvador, he spoke Spanish, and could identify with Jason through shared lived experiences. It was a perfect match!

BIG BROTHER GUS & LITTLE BROTHER JASON

Jason was very quiet during their first few outings, but after spending time together, he began to feel more comfortable and shared more about himself and his interests. Over time, Jason opened up and shared more about his difficulty understanding his school assignments. Gus recognized that this was a great way he could support Jason and they made a goal to work together to practice Jason's English-speaking skills. Gus urged Jason to ask for extra help at school and the two often worked together on his homework assignments. Knowing that his Big Brother was by his side to be supportive and provide him with guidance, Jason no longer felt alone. Without fail, Gus was always there for Jason. Over time, Jason's grades and confidence began to climb!

This fall, Jason started high school strong and has made amazing strides in building his confidence and overcoming his shy tendencies. He is working towards his goal of being the first person in his family to graduate high school and looks forward to giving his diploma to his mom and grandmother, who didn't have the same educational opportunities. Gus and Jason were recognized at our annual gala as the Big and Little Brother of the year, celebrating the incredible bond they have developed over their last two years matched. Little Brother Jason even spoke in front of 250 attendees thanking his Big Brother for his incredible friendship and guidance.





BIGS OF THE YEAR

BIG & LITTLE SISTER
OF THE YEAR

BIG SISTER MONICA & LITTLE SISTER JENI



We are proud to announce Big Sister Monica and Little Sister Jeni as the Big and Little Sister of the Year. In 2019, when Jeni was 14 years old, her mom Flor signed her up for the program. As the oldest of four, often helping with her siblings, Flor wanted Jeni to have a mentor that she could have her own one-on-one time with.

Big Sister Monica, who had just moved from Miami to Portland, was seeking community in her new city and had always felt a calling toward mentorship, so she signed up to become a Big. When they met, the two hit it off right away, bonding over both coming from Latinx households. Activities like rock climbing, yoga, and running brought them even closer together and Monica taught Jeni how to care for her mind and body through exercise.



BIG SISTER MONICA & LITTLE SISTER JENI

As a match, they have been through a lot in the last three years. They have stayed close throughout the pandemic and Little Sister Jeni even kept Monica company over Zoom calls, talking and playing games, as she recovered from a kidney transplant. Monica has been honored to help Jeni navigate high school and applications to colleges.

Monica affectionately refers to Jeni as her *hermana* and says that Jeni is like a real little sister to her.





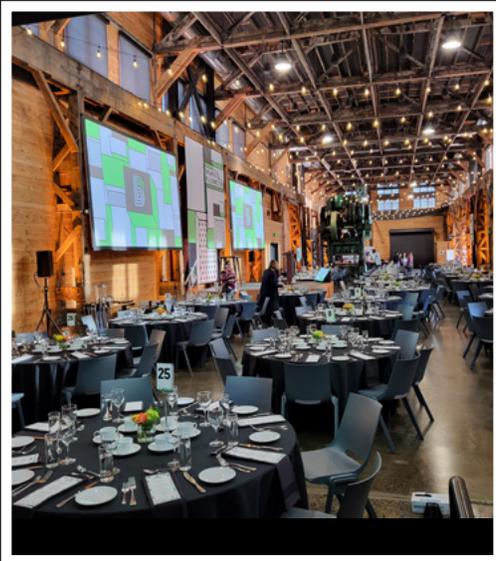
**IMPACT OF A
CONNECTION GALA**

IMPACT OF A CONNECTION GALA

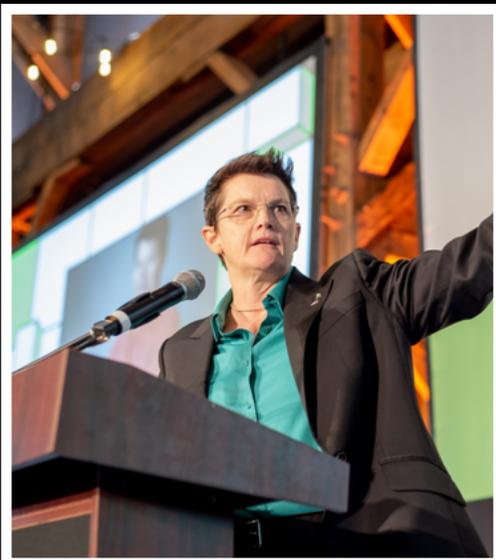


On September 23rd, the BBBS Columbia Northwest community rallied together at The Redd on Salmon after a two-year hiatus.

The sun shined bright as guests arrived to enjoy the cocktail hour, packed with entertainment featuring saxophonist Eldon T. Jones, Finn the Magician, a 360 photo booth, and delicious cocktails from Tito's Handmade Cocktails Vodka.



Special guest speaker Artis Stevens, President & CEO of BBBS of America, gave a moving speech about the importance of mentorship in the lives of youth. Alumni Little Lindsey Murphy celebrated her 30th year of friendship with her Big Sister, Melissa, a science teacher who inspired her to start her wildly popular YouTube show, the FabLab.



The night concluded with a celebration of the 2022 Bigs and Littles of the year highlighting the matches of Big Brother Gus and Little Brother Jason and Big Sister Monica and Little Sister Jeni who took the stage to accept their awards. As a community, we raised a record-breaking \$475,000 to support our one-to-one mentoring programs here in the Portland Metro and SW Washington areas.



**TOPGOLF FOR
KIDS' SAKE**

TOPGOLF FOR KIDS' SAKE



On April 26, 2022, the BBBS community came together to celebrate the first annual Topgolf for Kids' Sake event at Topgolf Hillsboro! We had 15 amazing teams, and 125 attendees, rally together to raise over \$27,000 in support of mentorship.



This peer-to-peer fundraising event brought together our Bigs, Littles, Board of Directors, Ambassador Board, and community partners for an afternoon of friendly competition, food, fun, and networking.



Our guest speaker at the event, Big Brother Hector, shared his experiences as a Big Brother to Little Brother Kevin. The two were matched in February 2020 and quickly bonded over their love of video games. In September 2020, seven months into their friendship, Kevin lost his mother to a battle with cancer. Throughout that loss, Hector was by Kevin's side to support him. He also inspired Kevin to get better grades at school and to think about potential career paths. As a high school senior, Kevin is thinking about his future and wants to learn more about the field of criminal justice. Kevin's father has had such a great experience with our program that it encouraged him to enroll Kevin's younger sister as well.



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Carolina Adrianzén
Chief Program Officer

Cynthia Thompson
Chief Development Officer

Jessica Hunt
Chief Finance Officer

Alex Adame
Recruitment Manager

Amelia Spatz
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Kari Scott
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Lucia Davila
Community Resource Specialist

Lysania Thomas
Match Success Specialist

Monty Zach
Database Administrator

Ninfa Rodriguez
Program Coordinator – College
& Career Success

Zi Barnes
Enrollment and
Matching Specialist

GET INVOLVED

BECOME A BIG

We serve youth in the Portland Metro and SW

Washington communities. Bigs volunteer two to four times a month as mentors to Littles who need a caring adult to ignite their potential.

DONATE

Every dollar donated is an investment in our matches, providing academic support, conducting culturally responsive training, and igniting the accomplishments of youth in our community.

BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

We have numerous events and opportunities that showcase our supporters, engage employees, and connect people with the power of mentoring.

BECOME A BIG FUTURES PARTNER

Employee mentors help mentees explore career options, build skills and develop plans for their future. Companies invest in youth and contribute to a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce.

JOIN US

Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Gala

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Cocktail Hour from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Dinner & Program 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Portland Art Museum

TopGolf for Kids' Sake

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023

Location: TopGolf Hillsboro

Make a difference, one swing at a time with BBBS at TopGolf.

CONTACT US

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Suite 200

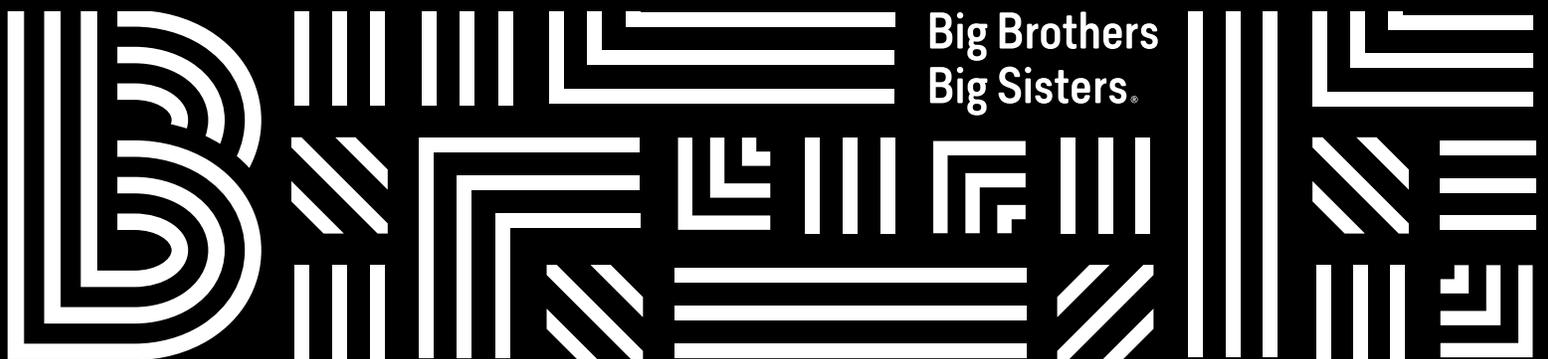
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