Reading Bigs

This initiative is designed to foster a love of literature and aid in the development of grade-level reading skills for elementary school children at risk of failing Florida’s standardized reading tests. Reading Bigs improves participants’ reading skills through a variety of reading activities that are specific to the child’s reading level and are monitored by Big Brothers Big Sisters and the child’s teacher to ensure progress.
A MESSAGE FROM
the CEO

Each year we celebrate a Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year. Every time we announce this important recognition, I am reminded of the impact volunteers have on the life of their Littles. This year is no exception.

The most difficult task we have is the selection of just two volunteers. Over 1,600 volunteers throughout our footprint are worthy of this honor as they connect our children with opportunities, encourage hope, offer guidance, and share love.

Years ago I met our Big Brother of the Year, Al Ernst, and I listened to his story and the enduring impact his own Big Brother, Ken Hoffman, had on his life. When Al became a Big Brother, he used this positive influence to create a life-changing impact on his own Little Brother, Darion. One of the many benefits of mentoring is that its positive imprint on the life of a child carries forward and continues for generations.

Big Sister of the Year, Susie Dunn Lentile, offers an example of what it means to a child when their Big provides nonjudgmental support and love. Her Little Brother, Tylor, like so many of our children, has experienced significant challenges. Susie is there for him, offering guidance and hope. Like all of our matches, Susie is not only helping Tylor to create a better world for himself, but they truly enjoy their time together!

I am blessed to be a part of this caring family.

—JOY MAHLER

A MESSAGE FROM
the Board Chair

Forest Witcraft wrote, “A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”

Big Brother Big Sisters of the Sun Coast has been making a difference in the lives of children for 50 years. Each year BBBS strives to create a larger impact over the previous year by bringing caring adults together with children deserving of better opportunities. BBBS’s strategic plan centers around innovation, impact and sustainability to ensure the success and continuity of its programs. Through this plan, BBBS strives to ensure that every child knows there is a future for them and that they matter in our community.

—SUSAN K. FLYNN

Our VISION is for all children to achieve success in life.

Our MISSION is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.
Sports Buddies is a great way for Bigs and Littles to enjoy sports together. Sports teach life skills, goal setting, character development and sportsmanship. The Big and Little meet twice a month to participate in or attend a sporting event, often with free or reduced price tickets. Sports Buddies is funded primarily through a grant from the Tampa Bay Rays.
BIG Impact
PROGRAMS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Decisions to Win
An adult mentor from the community works one-to-one with a high school student in this focused, intensive course consisting of an 18-lesson workbook on personal decision-making.

ninety-five percent
OF SENIORS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Sports Buddies
Is a great way for Bigs and Littles to enjoy sports together. Sports teach life skills, goal setting, character development and sportsmanship. The Big and Little meet twice a month to participate in or attend a sporting event, often with free or reduced price tickets. Sports Buddies is funded primarily through a grant from the Tampa Bay Rays.

987
TICKETS WERE DONATED TO THE PROGRAM WITH 96% MATCH PARTICIPATION

Gateway to Success
This initiative supports at-risk students as they transition from middle school to high school. A series of “success” activities focuses on academic support, self-esteem, motivation, and career awareness.

96 percent
OF YOUTH IN THE PROGRAM AVOIDED JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Beyond School Walls
High school students meet with their mentors in a business setting, giving students the opportunity to experience what it means to work for a corporation, learn business etiquette, and identify educational requirements for professional success.

92%
OF THE CHILDREN MAINTAINED OR IMPROVED READING PROFICIENCY

Next Steps to 21
Provides continued guidance to the 10th–12th grade youth it currently serves until they reach age 21, thereby placing them on a career pathway to sustainable independence. This professionally-supported mentoring bridge from high school through the early years of post-secondary education or a career provides much-needed guidance as clients navigate their new young adult responsibilities and choices.

Juvenile Justice Mentoring Initiative
The program provides prevention and early intervention specialized mentoring services to youth who are at high risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

96 percent

Reading Bigs
This initiative is designed to foster a love of literature and aid in the development of grade-level reading skills for elementary school children at risk of failing Florida’s standardized reading tests. Reading Bigs improves participants’ reading skills through a variety of reading activities that are specific to the child’s reading level and are monitored by Big Brothers Big Sisters and the child’s teacher to ensure progress.

94
PERCENT
OF THE AT-RISK STUDENTS WERE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE

NINETY-SEVEN PERCENT
OF STUDENTS GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Beyond School Walls

High school students meet with their mentors in a business setting, giving students the opportunity to experience what it means to work for a corporation, learn business etiquette, and identify educational requirements for professional success.
Received a **Perfect 4.0** audit score in both program and financial outcomes for Florida Department of Education-funded matches.

Impacted the lives of a record **1,869** children facing adversity in 2016-2017.

Received Charity Navigator’s highest four star rating for sound fiscal management.

**100%** of program Staff are certified according to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

### Current Littles

- **94%** maintained or improved relationships with peers, family and other adults.
- **90%** maintained or improved their academic performance.
- **90%** maintained or improved their attitude toward school.
- **92%** maintained or improved a sense of their future.

### Our Alumni

- **86%** agreed their Big helped them reach a higher level of education than they thought possible.
- **91%** of the seniors continued their education, entered the military or obtained employment upon their high school graduation.
- **77%** reported doing better in school because of their Big.
Decisions to Win

An adult mentor from the community works one-to-one with a high school student in this focused, intensive course consisting of an 18-lesson workbook on personal decision-making.
Creating the Perfect Match

$1,400 FUNDS A MATCH FOR 1 YEAR

**Youth/Family Assessment:**
Youth/family assessment and support services

**Volunteer Assessment and Screening:**
Volunteer assessment and background screening

**Volunteer Forums and Training:**
Provides workshops and training to give volunteers valuable insight and guidance in their mentoring experience

**Success Initiatives:**
Help specific populations of youth obtain success in academics, e.g., youth at risk of dropping out of school or who need to achieve grade-level reading

**Program Activities:**
Fun and educational activities for the matches to attend

**Professional Match Support:**
Ongoing professional coaching support for mentors and families to help strengthen the match relationship and ensure child safety

**Family & Community Impact**
- Improved relationships with peers, family, and other adults
- Functional families
- Positive influence passed on for generations
- Productive citizens
- Higher level of volunteerism
- Stronger communities

**Educational Impact**
- Improved academic performance
- Higher levels of educational achievement
- Enhanced awareness of higher education and post-secondary opportunities
- Financial stability

**Impact on Personal Behavior**
- Avoid risky behavior
- Better decision-making throughout life
- Improved self-confidence
- Positive sense of future
- Personal fulfillment
As of June 2017, 1,869 youth were matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister and 252 are ready for a Big. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast serves 10 counties in Florida.

Funds well spent:
- Programs 90%
- Administration 5%
- Fundraising 5%

Funds provided by:
- Government/County 16%
- State/DOE 14%
- Special Events 18%
- United Way 7%
- Foundations & Trusts 16%
- Endowment 1%
- Annual Gifts 12%
- Bequests 16%
- Government/County 16%
- State/DOE 14%
- Special Events 18%
- United Way 7%
- Foundations & Trusts 16%
- Endowment 1%
- Annual Gifts 12%
- Bequests 16%

For a statement of activities, please visit www.bbbssun.org

Children matched with a Big:
- 52% Male
- 48% Female

Adults matched with a Little:
- 42% Male
- 58% Female

Our littles come from many backgrounds:
- 46% White
- 30% Black
- 20% Hispanic/Latino
- 4% Other

Ours come from many backgrounds.
“It is both an honor and a challenge to be a Big. The positive impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters has been on display for over 40 years, as I continue my relationship with my Big Brother. But the minute I met my Little Brother, Darion, I understood that every Big/Little match is unique. I have grown as much as a person, as Darion has grown from a boy into a great young man over our years together. We have become a team that I am sure will last a lifetime.”

“What does it mean to be a Big? To climb into the skin of our Little and see the world from their perspective. Then to lift them higher and help them see the hope of their future.”

Big Brother
OF THE YEAR
..........................
Al Ernst

Big Sister
OF THE YEAR
..........................
Susie Dunn Lentile

Big Brother AND Big Sister
Finalists &
Selected Honorees

Charlotte County
Big Sister – Lyn Muckerheide
Big Brother – Frank (Eric) Weinhardt

Collier County
Big Sister – Marilyn Gerenstein
Big Brother – Bob Chappel

Englewood
Big Sister – Diane Stephens
Big Brother – Al Busonic

Highlands/Hardee
Big Sister – Martha Judah
Big Brother – Harry Ameen

Lee/Hendry
Big Sister – Julia Neal
Big Brother – Michael Pera

Manatee County
Big Sister – Erika Johnson
Big Brother – Thomas Rovnak

North Port
Big Sister – Karen Boffa
Big Brother – Mike Tennant

Sarasota
Big Sister – Virginia Dalton
Big Brother – Al Ernst

Venice
Big Sister – Susie Dunn Lentile
Big Brother – Tom St. Pierre
What will your legacy be? A planned gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast ensures the continuation of our landmark mentoring programs and creates your own legacy of support.

Planned giving helps you enhance your philanthropic goals while enabling you to address other financial and estate planning needs.

A bequest or beneficiary designation can impact a child’s life for generations to come.

- Provides options, you may change your mind at anytime
- You may give any amount or percentage; there is no minimum
- Many gifts do not require an appointment with a lawyer
- You may remain anonymous

Legacy society members created future funds through a will, trust, life insurance, retirement plan or life income gift. We thank the following members for their generosity:

Doris Berkey
Bryan and Laurie Blackwell
Bruce Body
Lee Byron
Robert Jay and Anne Doyle
Fred and Josephine Falkner
Susan Flynn
Katya Gutierrez and Jerome Sooklal
Gloria Hammer
Geo and Genie Hindall
George Kalbfleisch

John Kerns
Carolyn Pendarvis Lipes
Joy Mahler
Suzanna A. Norbeck (Suzi)
Frank and Elaine Pagliaro
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Sara Peterson

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George and Winifred Quartermann
Richard and Carole Dee Ringfelt
Ray Rodgers
Doris and Irving Ross
Lois Schuhmacher
Shelby Tudor
Ralph and Lena Vandenberg
Daniel E. Vigne
Albert L. and Charlotte R. Walonick
Robert and Ruth Werner
Richard J. Windgassen
Barry and Donna Wolfson

“We have been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters for 30 years. It is the most economically efficient mentoring program that matches responsible adults with children in need of a role model. We treasure the relationships we have with our little brothers Shawn and Jeremy and are committed to the vital work of this organization.”

—FRED AND JOSEPHINE FALKNER
Community Partners

Community Partners are companies, organizations or associations that commit members or employees to become “Bigs.”

COLLIER
Arthrex
Morgan Stanley
School District of Collier County
Naples Young Professionals
Grey Oaks Country Club
Collier County Sheriff’s Office

ENGLEWOOD
Church of Christ, Englewood East
Englewood Chamber of Commerce
Englewood United Methodist Church
Knights of Columbus Council 7672
Rotary Club of Englewood
Rotary Club of Placida
Rotonda West Association
St. Francis of Assisi Church
YMCA of Englewood

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Englewood Chamber of Commerce
Englewood United Methodist Church
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YMCA of Englewood

HARDEE/HIGHLANDS
Allstate - John Snyder
Highlands County Sheriff’s Office
Highlands Regional Medical Center
School District of Highlands County
South Florida State College

LEE/HENDRY
Chicos, FAS
Comcast NBC Universal
Enterprise Holdings
FineMark National Bank & Trust
Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida SouthWestern State College
Gartner School District of Hendry County
Lee County Sheriff’s Office
Lee County School District
Lee Health
Publix Super Markets

MANATEE
Blake Medical Center
Cox Auto Group
Kiwanis Club of Bradenton
SAFRAN Labinal Power Systems
Pierce Manufacturing
Pittsburgh Pirates
School District of Manatee County
CareerSource Suncoast
Bradenton Police Department

NORTH PORT
Enterprise
Heron Creek Golf & Country Club
Holiday Park, Park and Recreation District
Kiwanis Club of North Port
La Casa Manufactured Home Community
Mellor, Grissinger & Backo, LLP

PORT CHARLOTTE
Blue Heron Pines Golf Course
Bowland
Cam Realty
Charlotte County Adult Education
Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office
Charlotte County United Way
Charlotte Stone Crabs
Deep Creek Elks Club
Deep Creek Golf
School District of Charlotte County
Vivante
Visani Comedy Club

SARASOTA
Brown & Brown Insurance
CAE Healthcare
City of Sarasota
Michael Saunders & Company
PNC Wealth Management
Ringling College of Art and Design
Sarasota County Government
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Sarasota Young Professionals
School District of Sarasota County
Suncoast Community Church
Women in Tourism

VENICE
Calusa Lakes Golf Club
Christ United Methodist Church
Grace United Methodist Church
Plantation Golf & Country Club
Sharky’s on the Pier
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
Unity Church of Venice
Venetian Falls Homeowners Association
Venice Golf & Country Club
Venice Regional Bayfront Health
Venice United Church of Christ

Thank you to the following for their generous advocacy on our behalf:

Cape Coral Community Foundation
Charlotte Community Foundation
Community Foundation of Collier County
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Manatee Community Foundation
Southwest Florida Community Foundation

Be a Big License Plate

Big Brothers Big Sisters branded license plates are available for sale at county tax collector offices across Florida. Big Brothers Big Sisters receives $25 per plate per year.
A BIG Thank You  
TO OUR DONORS

$100,000+
Florida Department of Education
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
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$10,000+
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United Way of Charlotte County
United Way of Manatee County
United Way of South Sarasota County

Volunteer Florida
Wilson-Wood Foundation

$5,000+
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Nerium International
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Sarasota Kennel Club
Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation
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$1,000+
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Aladdin Equipment Company
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Craig and Rose Waters
James White, Sr.
Women’s Sertoma Club of Venice
Donor list as of June, 2017. We apologize if anyone was inadvertently left off of our donor list.
“It is a privilege to support Jakobie and celebrate his magnificent achievements. He is a special young man who has touched my life and so many others. I am honored to be on this journey with him.”

—BIG BROTHER SID WITH HIS LITTLE BROTHER, JAKOBIE

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