



Big Brothers Big Sisters.®

GREATER RICHMOND | VIRGINIA PENINSULA | HAMPTON ROADS | TRI-CITIES ➡ FALL 2020



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KEEPING CONNECTED

DANIELLE COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has brought an array of challenges to each of us across the country as well as here in Virginia. We have all, in one way or another, been challenged economically, mentally and emotionally due to changes in our work and business communities, separation from family, friends and colleagues and the disruption to daily routines we may have previously taken for granted. And while everyone has been tested by the last 10 months, we have also had opportunities to step back and appreciate our relationships and interactions in a more profound way than ever before.

The pandemic has given us the chance to reflect on how lucky we are at Big Brothers Big Sisters. This year, we are incredibly grateful and thankful to our Bigs, Littles and staff for quickly pivoting to meet the demands of the current situation. Our Bigs and Littles found new and unique ways to continue to support each other even when they could not meet face-to-face. Our staff, in conjunction with our Bigs,

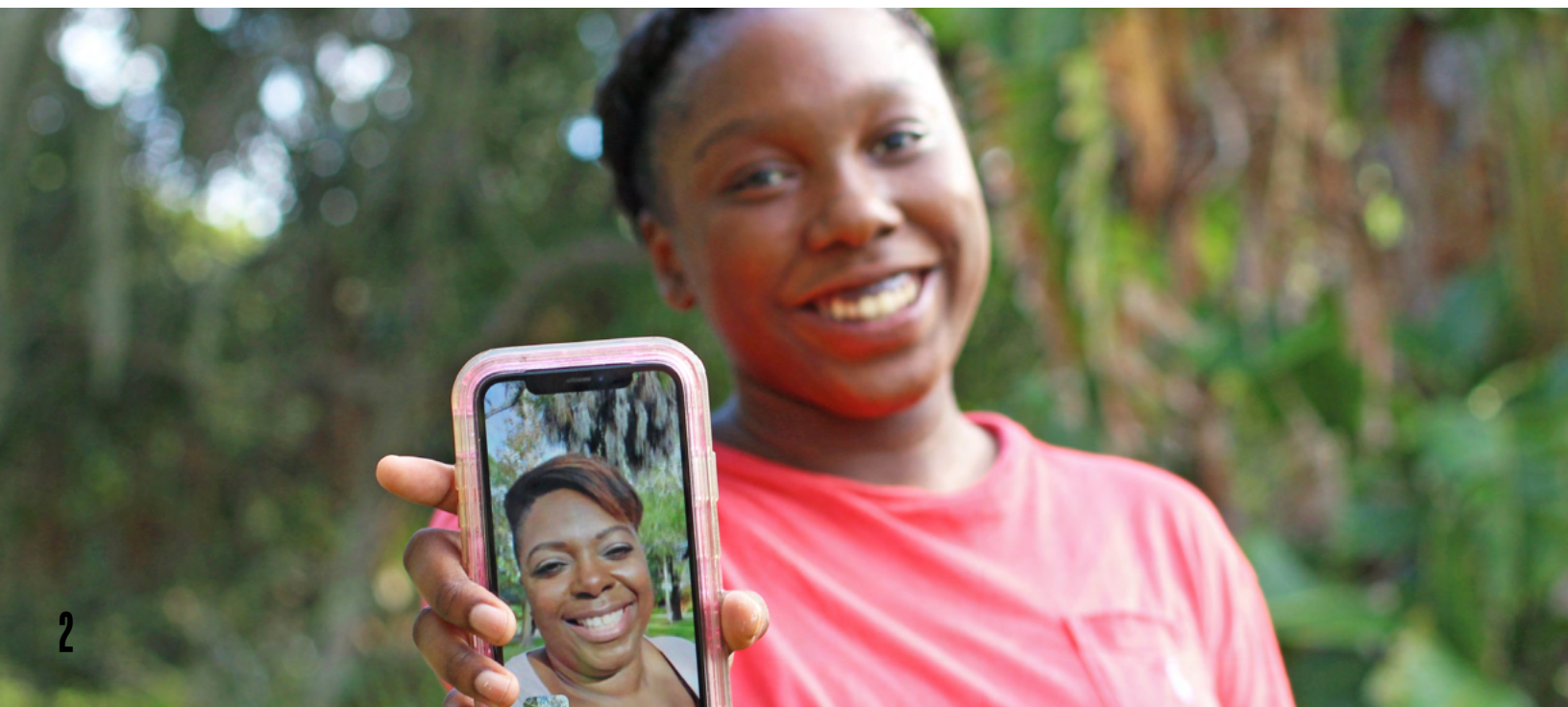
quickly transitioned to make sure that every single Little knew they had a caring person to turn to as times grew increasingly difficult.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, the work we do to provide professionally supported, one-to-one mentoring would not be possible without you. In a time when many shifted their philanthropic support to meet the basic needs of our community, we remain eternally grateful to all our donors who recognized how important it is for our youth to have a caring, consistent adult mentor. We know that there are many organizations also in need and we are thankful to those who remain committed to our mission and our Littles.

As we turn the page on this unique year, we must take a moment to think about what we have learned and what all of this means for our future and the future of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Reimagining how we deliver our services will become a part of our

narrative moving forward. The use of technology, while no substitute for match outings, will become a greater part of helping to strengthen and enhance our matches. Leveraging technology in new and unique ways will also change how we raise funds to support our mission. As we learned this year, moving our fall fundraiser to a virtual platform opened us up to a wider audience and helped deliver our message beyond our service area. Finally, the most important thing we have learned is the importance of relationships at every level. In a year that found us physically separated, we found that a simple gesture of kindness – a phone call, a quick note of congratulations or thanks, a call to introduce new matches– is what kept us going and will help us endure.

On behalf of every person that supports the power of mentoring, thank you for walking this road with us. We look forward to 2021 and our continued partnership to ignite the potential in our youth.



TOGETHER WHILE APART

Our program might look a little different due to Covid, but nothing is keeping our Bigs & Littles from staying in touch. Here are some of the fun and inspiring ways matches are keeping connected.

FOLLOW ALONG



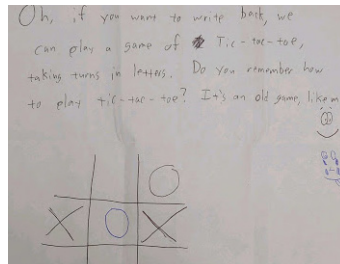
@BeABigVA

FUN PEN PALS & MORE

Bigs have responded to the changes by creating fun, unique experiences to keep connected with their Littles. For some Littles, it's their first time receiving mail! Technology has also helped Bigs and Littles stay in touch. Reading aloud over video calls, sharing art projects, or giving advice with the shift to virtual schooling.



Little Jazmin went on an in-home scavenger hunt, thanks to her Big Ashley.



Little JoJo and Big Stephen played games of TicTacToe via snail mail.



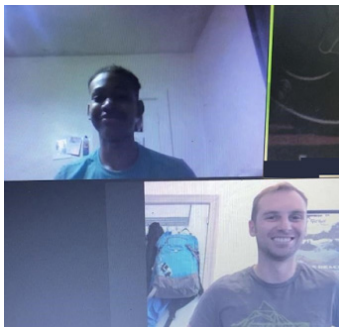
Little Perris loved the letter and all the stickers her Big Katherine sent to her.



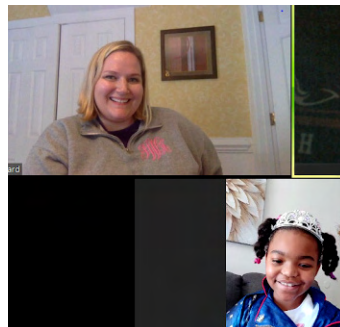
Little Josie and her Big Daisy worked on 30 Days of Art and shared their artwork during video calls.

VIRTUAL MATCH MEETINGS

During quarantine, BBBS shifted to virtual match meetings to ensure the health and safety of our Littles and Bigs. After restrictions were eased, some Bigs and Littles chose to meet in-person. We are so happy to see the connections our matches have made and remind everyone to stay safe and keep wearing their masks!



Big Paul and Little Jaylen



Big Jenna and Little Marilyn



Big Akim and Little Isaiah



Big Meg and Little Salome

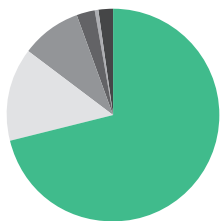
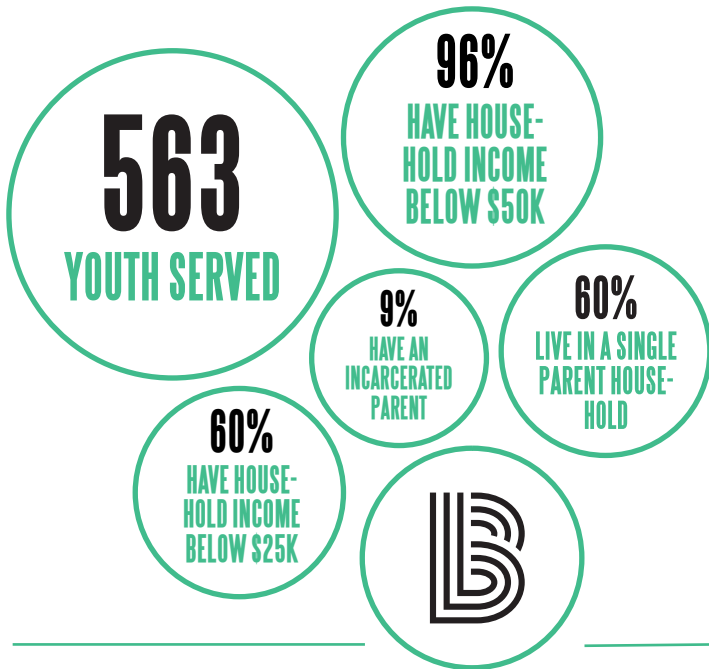


OUR LITTLES NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Will you make a donation to ensure BBBS continues serving Bigs and Littles in Virginia? While these are challenging times, it is even more difficult for our Littles. Please consider making donations so Littles have the support they need to reach their full potential.

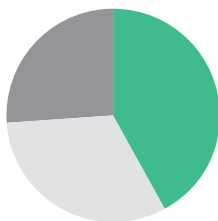
OUR LITTLES

Youth enrolled in BBBS live in communities where barriers to change are high and opportunities to thrive are low, yet their parents/guardians want to create a path to their child's biggest possible future. Providing a caring, consistent, and compassionate adult mentor is critical to help address the needs of youth. When you support BBBS, you are supporting our Littles:



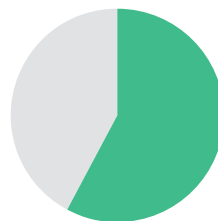
RACE OF POPULATION SERVED

- 71% BLACK
- 14% WHITE
- 9% TWO OR MORE RACES
- 3% HISPANIC
- 0.5% ASIAN
- 2% OTHER



AGE OF POPULATION SERVED

- 32% AGE 6-10
- 42% AGE 11-13
- 26% AGE 14-18

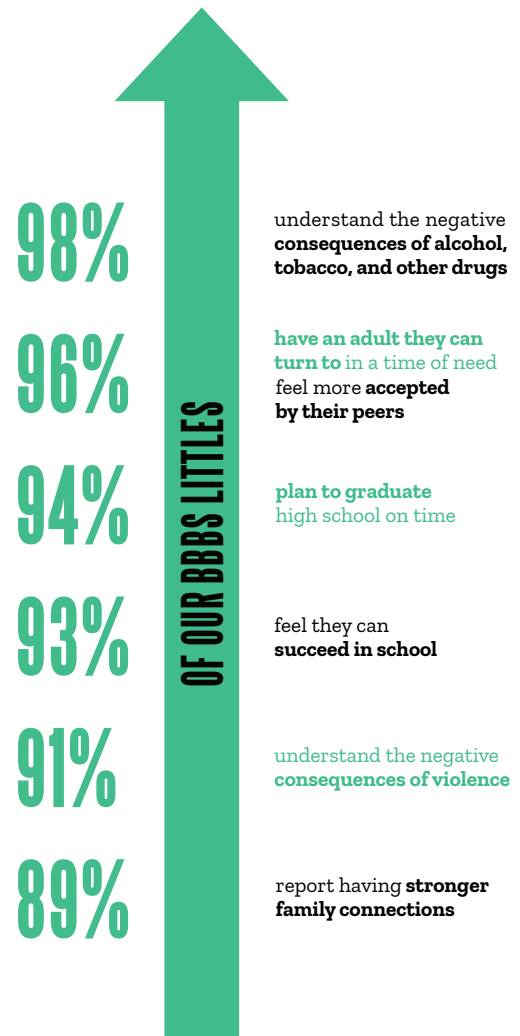


GENDER OF POPULATION SERVED

- 58% IDENTIFY AS FEMALE
- 42% IDENTIFY AS MALE

OUTCOMES-BASED

Bigs are someone to turn to when a Little needs support to overcome challenges. BBBS has always been a goal setting, outcomes focused mentoring program, something that helps during a time of uncertainty. At the start of each match, Littles set goals with their mentor, parent/guardian, and Big Brothers Big Sisters staff. They address the child's individual needs to build social skills, increase academic achievement, and build healthy lifestyles. BBBS provides monthly coaching and annual assessment to keep everyone on track. Bigs and Littles use consistent, meaningful interactions with a shared sense of purpose to meet these goals. As a result:



VOLUNTEER TODAY. IMPACT THEIR TOMORROW.

You can make a BIG impact on a child by mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our one-to-one mentoring relationships ignite the power and promise of youth.

OUR PROGRAMS:

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING

2-3 hrs/week | One Year Commitment

Spend a few hours together each week. Go on community-based outings like exploring a park, visiting a museum, or swimming at the YMCA.



SITE-BASED MENTORING

1 hr/week | Three Semester Commitment

Spend an hour a week during their lunch time. Play board games, create art projects, or spend time outside in the school-yard.



COMMUNITY-BASED MATCH

SAM & LITTLE BROTHER ISAAC

Little Isaac found his voice and love for science thanks to Big Sam. As a cardiovascular physiologist at VCU Medical Center, Sam welcomed Isaac into his lab to learn about science and teaching. Together, they worked through various lab experiments and built complicated Lego sets. Through these activities, Sam helped Isaac learn to overcome setbacks and encouraged him to express his feelings when frustrated. An influence that has made a BIG impact. Since being matched two years ago, Isaac's mom says she sees a joy in him that she had not seen in a long time.

SITE-BASED MATCH

TAMMY & LITTLE SISTER JAYLA

Little Jayla found her confidence and love of sewing thanks to Big Tammy. Each week, Tammy brings in her sewing machine and hands control over to Jayla who designs and manages every aspect of the project. This trust gave Jayla the confidence to pursue other creative outlets. Now, Jayla is editor and director of her school's digital broadcast team and produces daily news segments. Thanks to funding from John Randolph Foundation and United Way of Hopewell-Prince George, kids at Hopewell City Public Elementary Schools have access to a mentor from Big Brothers Big Sisters.

BE A BIG

Become a Big Brother or Big Sister and make a BIG impact in our community. A few hours a month is not much out of your schedule, but will ignite potential in a child for a lifetime.

Ready to defend potential? Call us at (804)261-4940 or go online to bigbrobigsis.com

STAN DAVIS

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY MENTOR 2020



Jayden and Stan Davis

Since 2005, Stan Davis has been a Big to five Little Brothers. His consistency and compassion made him stand out to the staff at Dumbarton Elementary, the BBBS team, and his Little Brothers – including his current Little, Jayden.

One day, Jayden asked BBBS team member Lindsey Choroszucha if he and Stan had to read every time they got together. Lindsey, Stan, and Jayden reviewed their goals and were reminded that mom, teacher, and Stan all wanted to help Jayden achieve grade level reading. Little Jayden and Big Stan agreed to read for part of each meeting and then play a board game or go outside during lunch. Stan created trust by listening to Jayden's desire to play yet remaining focused on his goals.



(left to right): Lindsey Choroszucha, Ann Rohde Payes, Stan Davis, Ellie Martinez, Jeff Maurer, Vanessa Reyes, Sarah Wilkinson

Big Stan shared stories about his son and some track athletes he coaches. Jayden learned that reading was not a punishment, rather a step toward his future. They read every week and it paid off! By the end of the year, Jayden's Standards of Learning (SOL) scores were on grade level. Jayden and Stan enjoyed reading together more and more, and they got to spend time outside.

When a teacher at Dumbarton learns that a child in their class is matched with Stan, they are truly delighted. Stan is a welcome face at Dumbarton Elementary and an asset to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Thanks to Stan for his long-standing commitment.



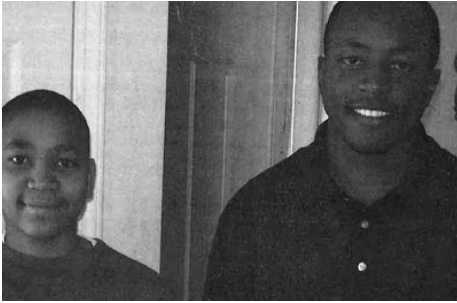
Thank you to MENTOR Virginia for supporting mentoring organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters. In 2020, MENTOR Virginia has continued to support BBBS offering training opportunities like "Virtual Mentoring – Building Mentoring Relationships in a Virtual World" to both Bigs and BBBS Staff. We are grateful for our BIG supporters at MENTOR Virginia.

JOIN MATCH MAKERS

*to invest in a child's future.
Your monthly donations provide
consistent resources to recruit
new Bigs, match Littles on our
waitlist, and coach Bigs so they can
best support their Littles.*

Join Match Makers today at bigbrobigsis.com/match-makers or contact Diane Brown at dbrown@bigbrobigsis.com to learn more.





MATCH UPDATE: NINE-YEARS-LATER EDITION

BIG BROTHER MICHAEL AND LITTLE BROTHER MICHAEL



Big Brother Michael Hobson and Little Brother Michael were introduced at the perfect time. Little Michael was a great student, smart and well behaved, but made a mistake and found himself in trouble shortly before they were matched.

Little Michael's father had been in prison for most of his life and he was the youngest in his family. His mom felt his adult siblings were not as invested in Michael as she had hoped they would be and wanted him to have a Big Brother.

Michael and Michael hit it off immediately and stayed active in our program for four years. During that time, Big Michael helped Little Michael by visiting colleges together and helping him navigate the financial aid process. Their hard work paid off when Little Michael earned a full ride to University of Richmond.

This year, Big Michael reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Nine years

after starting their friendship, the two Michaels remain connected and shared some great news. They wrote to us with great news. After graduating from University of Richmond in 2019, Little Michael was accepted into graduate school at the University of Chicago! Big Michael said, "I would like to tell you what he majors in but it is something complicated so I can't completely remember! It has something to do with Leadership, Politics, Economics, etc. All of that in one degree. And to top it off, UVA was willing to give him a scholarship for grad school, but he said their program wasn't difficult enough!" Little Michael is on track to graduate in 2021.

Bigs are Defenders of Potential. The caring, consistent mentoring relationships formed in Big Brothers Big Sisters are built for longevity. Thank you for your donations which empower kids, like Michael, to make positive choices and harness their own potential.



Match Updates | We love hearing updates from our matches! Share your story with Ellie Martinez at hmartinez@bigbrobigsis.com.



LEAVE A LIFE CHANGING LEGACY:

IS IT YOUR WILL OR SOMEONE ELSE'S?

All your life you've made the decisions about how to provide for your family, and the charitable organizations you believe in. But will you be able to retain that control over your legacy – over the things you will leave behind? You can, if you have an up-to-date, well-planned last will and testament.

We know: you don't want to think that far into the future. And planning can be a chore. But you'll gain peace of mind when the job is done, and your family will breathe easier, knowing you've worked out a financial plan for their future. And, yes, we'll be grateful too. Every future bequest that we can count on builds our long-term financial strength and helps us plan with more confidence. It's easy to do – here's our suggested language for a bequest that will benefit us:

"I give \$_____ [or: _____ percent of the residue of my estate] to Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc., a non-profit corporation located in Richmond, VA for its general purposes."

To begin a conversation about your legacy, contact Danielle Cohen at dcohen@bigbrobigsis.com or 804.261.4940.

A YEAR OF EVENTS GONE **VIRTUAL**



B **OWL** For Kids' Sake

Across four events, two in-person and two virtual, Bowl for Kids' Sake raised \$128,400 to support mentoring! That will ensure 100 Littles receive the undivided attention of a Big who is there just for them.

TOP INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS:

Shelia Fitzgerald, Anthony Ramondo, Jim Mellendick

TOP TEAM FUNDRAISERS:

Shelia's Strikers, Team to Beat, Thalhimier

Check out photos and more at [@BeABigVA](#)  

Thank you to all our sponsors, including our Perfect Game Sponsors:



DANCING WITH THE WILLIAMSBURG STARS

Over 11 years, Dancing with the Williamsburg Stars has raised more than \$1,000,000 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters and Literacy for Life. Thank you to the 12 local stars who trained with professional dancers and competed in front of a live audience. Each dancer raised at least \$3,000 and practiced for 12 weeks. Thanks to the all-volunteer committee who put on the premier fundraiser in Williamsburg. Together, they raised over \$46,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2020. Enough to support more than 35 mentoring relationships. Thank You!

2021 Dancing With the Williamsburg Stars has gone virtual. Check out [williamsburgstars.com](#) to learn more!



This year certainly looked different than expected, but thanks to YOU we still had a great time at all our events. Your donations ensure we can continue to create one-to-one relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Take a look to see all the fun ways you helped support mentoring.



Little Efton Reid, Steward School Graduate & #18 Basketball Recruit in Country with Big Kevin McQueen, Co-CEO of Captech Ventures holding their first photo together.



\$105,601 RAISED | 200+ GUESTS ATTENDED

This year our fall fundraiser went virtual!

Big Night In was held on Friday, October 16 and while we missed seeing everyone in person, we certainly felt the excitement and energy of everyone who attended. Thank you for investing in our mission to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships. Your support ensured that area youth have a caring and committed mentor in their life.

Little Brother Efton and Big Brother Kevin McQueen, Co-CEO of CapTech Ventures, Inc., have been in each other's lives for over 10 years now. They were matched when Efton was in elementary school through our Site-based mentoring program. They quickly fell into an easy rhythm of throwing a football on the playground and eating lunch together at school. The two connected over their passion for sports and enjoyed talking about their favorite teams.

Unfortunately, less than one year into the match, it had to be closed. Efton had to testify in court due to the death of his younger brother and Efton's family lawyer recommended he not have contact with anyone else. Having already formed a bond, Kevin assured Efton that everything would be alright and, although they could no longer meet, would send him notes to show his support, one of which included a Pittsburgh Steelers Terrible Towel. Reflecting the moment, Efton said, "It just made me forget about everything. Just that one towel from my Big Brother, it kept me going."

As soon as it was allowed, Efton requested to be matched with Kevin again, and the pair haven't looked back since. In May 2020, Efton graduated from the Steward School in Richmond and was ranked as the #18 basketball prospect in the country. He is currently enrolled at IMG Academy in Florida, a preparatory school for the world's most dedicated student-athletes.

The relationship between Kevin and Efton goes well beyond mentoring. They have profoundly changed each other's lives and consider each other, and each other's family, their own. We celebrated them not only at Big Night In, but all year round as true Defenders of Potential. Thanks to Kevin and Efton for joining us at Big Night in as the 2020 featured match.

To hear more of their story head to BigBroBigSis.com/bignightin

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DONATE TODAY. IMPACT THEIR TOMORROW.

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