

Community-Based Program

Bigs and Littles meet for at least four hours per month. The key to community-based matches is meeting consistently. The schedule can be flexible to meet the needs of mentors and young people in different kinds of situations. Some Bigs meet their Littles on the weekend or in the evening. Others get together with their Littles after school.

Children ages 6-14 may be matched, although we will continue to support active matches until the child is 18. Volunteers' ages range from 21 - 80+.

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child's match. Throughout the life of the match, our professional staff will be in ongoing communication with the parent(s), the child, and the child's Big. Parents provide information about the child's strengths, weaknesses and special interests through a personal interview. Before any match is made, the parent is able to meet the potential volunteer and approve the selection of the Big Brother or Big Sister.

One key role of the parent(s) in the CB program is strong communication with the child's Big as well as Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.

Kids On Deck

While children are waiting to be matched they are part of a program called "Kids on Deck". Ideally there would be a volunteer ready to be matched with every child that wants or needs a Big. However, it may take some time for a child to be matched. During this time the child will receive invitations to activities and events held by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"She's the big sister I've always wanted."
-Little Sister Rachel

Staff

A Big Brothers Big Sisters' match is carefully administered and supported by rigorous standards and trained personnel. Professional agency staff strive for matches that are not only safe and well suited to each child's needs, but also harmonious and built to last. That is why so much care is taken in screening and orienting volunteers, and then in matching them with children.

However, Big Brothers Big Sisters professionals are much more than just "matchmakers". They provide ongoing support and supervision to the Big, the Little, and the Little's family. They offer training and advice to ensure that the match is satisfying and fulfilling for everyone involved.

Additionally, every Big Brothers Big Sisters agency subscribes to a uniform set of standards and procedures. They also receive ongoing training and consultation.

To volunteer, make a donation or for more information, please contact us!



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Foundation For Youth
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- Mary Kate Haza - Adult Enrollment Match Specialist
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- Marion McCorry - School-Based Match Specialist
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*Little Moments. Big Magic.*TM



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Bartholomew County



A program of FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH



Big Brothers Big Sisters has been changing lives for over 100 years. We are the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. We help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with mentors. Our vision is to match any child who needs and wants a Big Brother or Big Sister.

School-Based Program

Bigs and Littles meet once per week to talk and have fun. It's not about being a tutor...it's about being a friend.

Big Brothers Big Sisters operates in 13 sites in Columbus: Clifty Creek, CSA, Fodrea, Mt. Healthy, Parkside, Richards, Smith, Schmitt, Southside, and Taylorsville Elementary schools and Central & Northside middle schools. We also have matches that meet after school at the Boys and Girls Club at Foundation For Youth.

Volunteers' ages range from 15-80+. A child may be matched with a high school student or an adult. New matches are made for children in grades K-6, however matches may continue to meet through eighth grade.

Some of the biggest supporters of school-based mentoring are teachers. Calls come in every day from parents, teachers and pupil services. They know what a difference a mentor can make in a child's life. They see students come back from their one hour a week mentoring sessions with confident smiles, ready to learn and ready to succeed. Kids who feel better about themselves do better in school.

Match times are set up around the child's lunch and school schedule.

"Meeting Mike is one of the best days of the week. He helps me get through life."
-Little Brother Ryan

"He just brings joy to my heart."
-Little Brother Cole

"She is awesome! I am more excited on the days she comes because I have someone fun to eat and talk with."
-Little Sister Tara

Bigs

Volunteering is fun! Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable things you will ever do.

It's simple, too. You and your Little can share the kinds of activities you already like to do such as:

- shooting hoops
- playing a board game
- going on a hike
- enjoying a pizza
- learning to cook

Getting together is a great time for both Bigs and Littles. It doesn't require a special occasion or expensive activities. Providing a child with friendship and guidance can have a "Big" impact.

How a Big becomes a Big

A lot of things have to happen before we make a match. After an interest is expressed in our volunteer opportunities, all our Bigs go through a thorough background check and careful interview process. Then we match Bigs and Littles based on location, personalities and preferences. We provide full support for our volunteer programs along the way so that matches can grow into lasting friendships. The more volunteers we have, the more matches we can make. Please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering. Contact information is on the back of this brochure.

"I saw improvements in my Little's school work and his teacher said he was one of his hardest workers"
- Big Brother Dwight

"My Little taught me to play Chess."
- Big Brother Tom

"I saw my Little grow as a student and as a person."
- Big Sister Kayla

Parents

A study on Big Brothers Big Sisters found that kids matched with a Big:

- Are more confident
- Are less likely to skip school
- Are more likely to avoid drugs & alcohol
- Do better in school
- Get along better with family and friends
- Feel better about themselves

Encouraging a child to participate in the program gives them an opportunity to make a new friend. Parents are our partners and your input is important to us. We welcome your questions and feedback. Our staff and your child's Big, with your support, are committed to the healthy growth and development of your child.

The safety and well-being of the children we serve is Big Brothers Big Sisters' highest priority. We strive to achieve the highest quality possible in matching a child to a caring volunteer Big, and in providing ongoing professional support services to our children, parents and volunteers.

How a Little becomes a Little

Children are referred to program by the parents or guardians or teachers, principals, or pupil services. For any child to be involved in the program, a parent/guardian must complete and sign a parent referral form. The child is then interviewed by a staff member to get to know him or her better. There is no cost for youth to participate.

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides programming at no cost to its participants.

Funding is provided by:

- United Way of Bartholomew County
- Donations
- Grants
- Bowl for Kids' Sake (annual fundraiser)