



 Big Brothers
Big Sisters.®

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PARTNERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES



**Big Brothers
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OF DANE COUNTY

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County, we believe every child has the ability to succeed and thrive in life. We aim to ignite that potential through one-to-one, long-term, and consistent mentoring between adult volunteers and children, ages 6 through 18. Using evidence-based practices, we develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

All youth achieve their full potential.

OUR PURPOSE

To clear the path to a child's biggest possible future.

OUR IMPACT

Little's who participate in our program:

Demonstrate increased educational success



Engage in fewer risky behaviors



Have greater social-emotional competency



PARTNER WITH US

From churches to schools, local businesses to national companies, and nonprofits to civic groups, **community partnerships are an essential part of our work.** No two look the same, each customized to fit both our needs, and yours. But what is consistent across all our partnerships is their impact.

THE IMPACT ON BBBS

Partnerships can:

- Drive volunteerism
- Enrich our program offerings
- Fund our work and reduce our costs
- Increase our capacity through resources and expertise



THE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

Partnerships can:

- Reduce our waitlist
- Diversify our volunteer base
- Increase access to new experiences for Little's
- Promote longer (and more impactful) Matches



THE IMPACT ON YOUR ORGANIZATION

Partnerships can:

- Engage employees in their community
- Demonstrate your organization's commitment to giving back
- Create team-building experiences in our outside the workplace
- Promote volunteerism and satisfy community engagement priorities



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

THE HUNT

THE HUNT is a county-wide scavenger hunt that encourages folks to explore their community while supporting BBBS. Teams of 4-6 people earn points (and prizes!) by submitting photos/videos of Missions using a scavenger hunt app. Missions include exploring local landmarks and unusual spots, visiting local businesses, completing at-home challenges, and fundraising for BBBS.



WHEN

Spring; runs for 3-4 weeks

WHO

400+ participants; primarily community members (friends, coworkers, families, Bigs/Littles)

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Become an Event Sponsor
- Donate a Prize
- Form Teams and Participate
- Host a Fundraising Day during THE HUNT
- Sponsor a Mission

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Bowl for Kids' Sake (BFKS), our signature annual fundraiser, is a multi-night bowling event primarily serving groups from companies and organizations. Leading up to the event, teams of 4-6 people work together to raise funds in support of mentoring. At the end of the fundraising period, teams come together for a fun night of bowling filled with prizes, games, and friendly competition!



WHEN

Spring; runs for 3-4 weeks

WHO

300+ participants; primarily groups from local businesses

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Become an Event Sponsor
- Donate a Prize
- Form Teams and Participate

DREAM BIG GALA

Our **Dream BIG Gala** serves as our largest fundraising event with hundreds of supporters coming together to celebrate mentoring in our community. This annual event includes a cocktail hour, silent & live auctions, raffles & games, local entertainment, and a live program featuring our Big the Year Award winner.



WHEN

Late Summer

WHO

600+ participants; audience includes Sponsors, Business and Community Leaders, Donors, and Bigs/Littles

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Become an Event Sponsor
- Donate an Item to the Auction
- Purchase Tickets and Attend
- Make a Donation

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

SIGNATURE PROGRAM EVENTS



Celebrating Matches who have been together for 5+ years



Recognizing the Matches who are graduating and aging out of the program



Prepping Littles for a new year with a school supply giveaway



Kicking off the holiday season with fun activities and donated gifts

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM EVENTS

A variety of other program events offered throughout the year may include:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Photography Lessons | Video Game Tournament | Fall Festival |
| Yoga | Cake Decorating | Kayaking |
| Night at the Opera | Rock Climbing | Concerts on the Square |

DID YOU KNOW?

Meaningful Match Engagement is about more than just a fun time. These experiences make a BIG impact:

- Increases access to enrichment opportunities for our Littles
- Reduces the burden on Bigs to plan (and spend) for their outings
- Deepens connections between BBBS staff and Bigs/Littles
- Provides a structure for Bigs and Littles to get to know each other
- Increases the likelihood of Matches staying together long-term

SUPPORT A PROGRAM EVENT

SPONSOR

Get your organization involved by making a donation to support our event costs. **Sponsorship** starts at \$250 and includes recognition at an event.

HOST

Bring a group of Matches to your organization and host an experience! Partners can plan and facilitate a Match Event or simply provide us in-kind space to **host**.

VOLUNTEER

Grab your colleagues and give your time! Your team can **volunteer** before an event, like helping us prep materials or staffing an activity station.

DONATE TICKETS OR EXPERIENCES

Our Matches love attending sporting events, concerts, plays, etc. If you have tickets to an event that will go unused, donate them to BBBS. We'll make them available to our Matches and put your experiences to good use! (Ticket donations are tax-deductible.)

DONATE RESOURCES OR HOST A DRIVE

If your organization hosts fundraisers or drives, nominate BBBS as the beneficiary. Whether it's a Jeans Day at work, a drive for school supplies, or something bigger like a 5K, this type of community-led fundraising makes a meaningful difference to our agency.



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

BE A BIG

Being a Big is one of the most fulfilling ways to give back to your local community. You have the opportunity to help shape a child's future for the better by empowering them to achieve their full potential. *The best part is, it's actually a lot of fun.*

Bigs and Littles simply spend one-on-one time in the local community doing everyday activities. **Not only will you make a life-changing impact, but your life will be changed too.**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Our long waitlist shows a persistent need for more Bigs to serve as mentors. Community organizations and businesses can play a role in helping us move more Littles off our waitlist and into mentoring relationships. Help us out by providing the space to share our message and find prospective Bigs:

- **Host a Lunch-and-Learn**
- **Invite us to speak at your staff meeting or civic group**
- **Share our flyers and materials internally with colleagues**
- **Leverage your network to make introductions**



OUR PROGRAMS

Our work is powered by hundreds of individuals in our community who volunteer as Bigs. They give their time through one of our three programs:

Community-Based Mentoring

Matches get together 2-4 times a month for a few hours. Activities vary based on the interests of the Bigs and Littles, so each Match can define what "quality time" looks like for them (total time commitment: 5-8 hours/month).

Site-Based Mentoring

Matches meet a set time and place, typically at school during the day. Mentoring sessions are 30-60 minutes and our staff are present to help provide activities and conversation starters (total time commitment: 2-4 hours/month during the school year).

MentorU

This high school mentoring program offers a structured focus on college readiness, workforce development, and career exploration. Matches primarily message back and forth online and meet in-person once a month (total time commitment: 2-3 hours/month).



HOW TO GET STARTED AS A BIG

1 **INQUIRE**



Complete the application or contact our team to inquire about becoming a Big.

2 **SCREEN**



We interview all prospective Bigs and Littles to get to know them.

3 **TRAIN**



All volunteers complete an in-person Pre-Match Training session.

4 **MATCH**



Professional staff make Matches with a goal of creating a long-term friendship.

5 **SUPPORT**



We support Matches as they face challenges and monitor for safety and longevity.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Your time, talents, and resources help us provide mentoring experiences that build stronger thinkers, learners, and leaders. **Whether you're looking to get involved with your colleagues or on your own, here are some ways you can help:**

Join a Committee

BBBS relies on volunteer support to lead our Finance, Program, and Fundraising Event Committees (Gala and THE HUNT). Committee members participate in regular meetings, provide input, and help with planning and goal setting.

Share Your Expertise

Individuals and organizations can offer support and consultation that enhances our work. Past partners have helped us improve internal processes, synthesize complicated data sets, broaden our marketing efforts, and more.

One-Time Volunteer Projects

If you have a group looking for a one-time volunteer opportunity, consider partnering with BBBS. We can discuss the needs of our agency and see if they line up with the interests of your group.

Donate

- Match Maker (monthly donor)
- One-Time Donation
- Secure a Matching Gift from your employer



TESTIMONIALS



HERE'S WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...

"We choose to partner with BBBS because of their one-on-one relationships that **build strong youth and create enduring connections**. We know mentoring is key to creating more equitable communities, and we entrust BBBS to deliver on that work." - Noah Salata, Community and Social Impact Advisor at American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation



"During back to school season, First Business Bank was excited to partner with BBBS as we learned that graphing calculators were a huge need for kids as they were starting the school year. Our employees came together as we launched a calculator drive to raise funds and provide new or gently used calculators. We were truly humbled to be able to **make an impact and help kids in the BBBS program** start the school year with the supplies they needed to be successful." - Lauren Hankins, Senior Talent Operations Specialist at First Business Bank



"BBBS has a great reputation and presence in our community and we are proud to come alongside the amazing work they are doing to **help elevate lives**. We partner with BBBS as they elevate lives each day through mentorship. You don't have to be someone special and you don't have to be someone with a big name. We want to continue to use our platform to **lead by example and celebrate the great work being done in our community**."

- Jackie Davenport, Community Relations at Wisconsin Athletics





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