

Bowl for Kids' Sake 3

Bicycle Building,
Team Building 4

Annual Report 6

big

SPRING 2015



Big Brothers Big Sisters



As mentors we need to encourage our youth that through positive thinking they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

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Try and Fail, But Do Not Fail to Try

Adventures on the Mountain



Big Sister of the Year Shelia Fitzgerald and Little Sister Alyssa joined with other Bigs and Littles displaying their created Affirmation Journals.



Big Brother of the Year, Maurice Gallimore with Little Quran having an adventurous day together on the slopes at Wintergreen.

Big Sister of the Year, Shelia Fitzgerald and Little Sister Alyssa organized a Destiny Journal Workshop to share their experience using affirmations with other Bigs and Littles. Affirmations promote the idea that with a positive attitude, you can achieve success. For example, “Believing in yourself is the first secret to success” may inspire a Little to overcome fear of an upcoming math test. Mentoring matches heard from Big Shelia about the impact of positive affirmations on individuals, while Little Alyssa shared with her peers how affirmations positively influenced her life.

The matches discussed thirty affirmations and recorded them in their new Affirmation Journals. Each match selected a few meaningful affirmations to share with the group. Big Shelia noted, “As mentors we need to encourage our youth that through positive thinking they can achieve anything they set their mind to. I feel that this workshop helped Bigs and Littles start the path of positive thinking and self-empowerment.”

Thanks to Shelia and Alyssa for sharing their talents to help Littles have fun while improving skills and creating healthy lifestyles. If you have a talent you’d like to share, contact Channa Mik at cmik@bigbrobigsis.com.

January celebrated the 4th Annual Ski Trip led by volunteers Lee Yowell and Grant Hayes, who both grew up experiencing the mountains and skiing and wanted to share that with our Littles.

15 matches along with volunteers from HOPE Church traveled to Wintergreen for ski lessons, hosted skiing, great food, and an opportunity to enjoy “a majestic environment away from our normal ‘city lives,’” according to Hayes.

“The trip has a profound impact not only on the matches, but also the volunteers. Both return because the trip is fun, forges friendships, and expands horizons,” said Yowell. The Littles clearly felt the care and joy expressed by the volunteers.

“Our volunteers enjoy it more than some of the participants! To know we are impacting kids’ lives, but also having a profound effect on the volunteers, whose numbers grow each year as they share the trip’s impact, is a gift,” said Hayes.

Yowell’s favorite memory was the 2015 bus ride home, listening to a Big and Little discuss how much fun they had on the trip and the Little’s first experience seeing mountains. The volunteers are already looking forward to January 2016!

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE 2015



Thanks to over 200 participants and generous sponsors, Bowl for Kids' Sake exceeded goal, raising over \$51,000! A great time was had by all at Sunset Lanes, as participants received Big Brothers Big Sisters t-shirts, while teams and individual fundraisers competed for prizes including a TV, cruises and gift cards. Congratulations to the top individual fundraisers – Big Sister of the Year Shelia Fitzgerald, Julie Helms and Michael Samick and the top fundraising teams Favor-A-Bowl, Debt-O-Nators, and Johnson Jaguars. A BIG thank you to Altria for sponsoring 10 teams! A special congratulations to Little Sister Jaqua who with the help of her Big, Tarra Balcom, raised over \$1,000. Jaqua and Tarra did a great job fundraising together and made a video to assist their effort in asking friends, family members and co-workers to support their team, The Awesome Ducks. Tarra reflected, “Bowl for Kids’ Sake was an awesome opportunity for Jaqua and I to work together to raise money for BBBS. It helped her recognize the importance of fundraising in our community and we had so much fun celebrating at the bowling alley!”



Team-Building Event Benefits Littles



Smiling faces were all around during heating and air conditioning manufacturer Trane's annual employee retreat...and it wasn't just employees!

Associate teams worked together to build bicycles – testing teamwork and communication skills. The end result was twenty bikes to support Little Brothers and Sisters. The bikes were tailored to each Little's height and weight, and were even personalized with their names.

Each Little attended the retreat with their Big and was presented with their bike and helmet. For many Littles this was their first bike! Biking promotes a healthy lifestyle and learning to follow rules of the road. Big Brothers and Big Sisters are already coaching their Littles to build on the generosity of Trane employees. Channa Mik, BBBS Enrollment Coordinator said, "The Littles were overjoyed and appreciative. Hearing discussions between Bigs and Littles about how to responsibly manage the freedom a bike provides was rewarding."

Thanks to Trane for helping our Littles achieve a healthy lifestyle through your teambuilding event! If your company would like to support Big Brothers Big Sisters, contact Julie Ehlers at jehlers@bigbrobigsis.com.



Courage to Expand



Children in military families face the same challenges as other kids, but also additional stressors such as deployment and frequent moves. Operation Bigs was created in Hampton Roads to provide mentorship for children in military families who deserve our thanks, encouragement and support.

“It’s indescribable.”

During the first year of service, Big Brothers Big Sisters served 33 middle school youth in Norfolk Public Schools. Significant results are already occurring. Little Brother Chris said, “It’s real. It’s indescribable. Not like you just sign up for a program and get assigned someone. He says he’s going to come and he shows up.”

Winter Celebration

Thanks to the Downtown Y for hosting the annual Winter Celebration to help our matches kick off the winter season. The celebration allows mentoring matches to create presents for friends and family, enjoy a healthy lunch and reflect on what made the last year great.

Trinity Episcopal School students, led by Senior Kelsey McQueen, helped Bigs and Littles create ceramic ornaments. The Trinity students and their ceramics instructor, Amy Chaplin, fired the ornaments in time for Bigs and Littles to pick them up before the holidays. "It was so fun and exciting to make a festive ceramics craft with all of the Bigs and Littles, and I hope everyone enjoyed their pieces!" notes Kelsey.

Between decorating hats and gloves, making cards and getting to know other matches, Bigs and Littles had the opportunity to celebrate. A photo booth allowed matches to share their personalities. One highlight of the event was the first anniversary of Big Brother Chris Cooke and Little Brother Andre. Little Andre's eyes lit up every time he had the opportunity to tell someone it was their anniversary – Big Chris is clearly making a positive impact on Andre!



Is it your will or someone else's?

For years you've made decisions about providing for your family, and the charitable organizations you believe in. But have you made decisions about your legacy – what you leave behind?

With an up-to-date, well-planned last will and testament you will gain peace of mind and reassurance knowing that you've worked out a financial plan for your family's future and created a legacy at impact making nonprofits. 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 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, please contact Ann Payes at 804.261.4940.

Start Something

Tuesday, May 26, 2015
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker:

Mike London,
University of Virginia
Head Football Coach

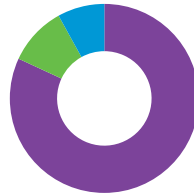
rsvp to:

Julie Ehlers at 804.261.4940 or
jehlers@bigbrobigsis.com



Annual Report

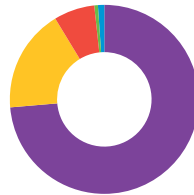
Expenses



Program:	\$645,203 (82%)
Fundraising:	\$79,775 (10%)
Management & General:	\$66,710 (8%)

Total: \$791,688*

Revenue



Contributions:	\$545,441 (73%)
United Way:	\$117,668 (16%)
Special Events (Net):	\$78,709 (10%)
Investment Income:	\$2,903 (0%)
Miscellaneous:	\$6,231 (1%)

Total: \$754,640

*expenses include uncollected pledges due to the recession

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. as of December 31, 2014, and the changes in the net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. –*Pilc & Moseley, LLC*

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An Evening for Kids' Sake Sponsors 2014

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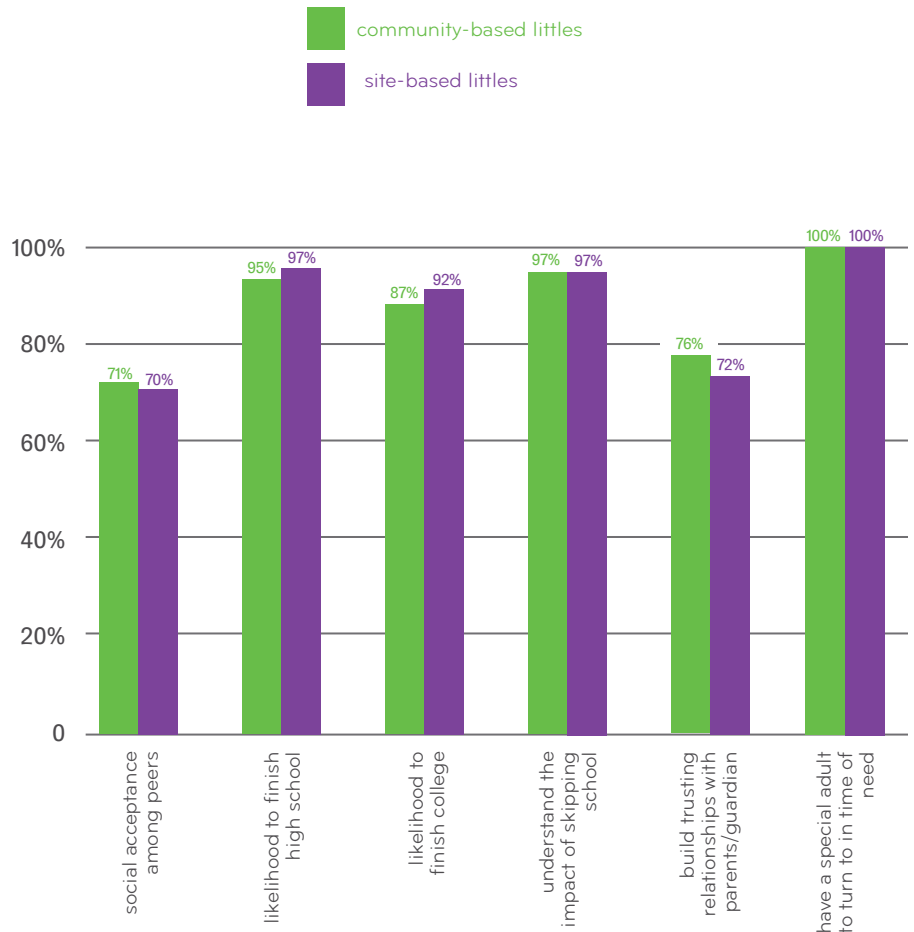
Altria Client Services
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 Community-Based Mentoring
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 Regional Mentoring
 United Way of Hopewell-Prince George
 Regional Mentoring
 Virginia State University
 Tri-Cities Mentoring
 Virginia Supportive Housing Coalition
 Community-Based Mentoring

Outcomes

Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to helping kids achieve educational success, create healthy lifestyles and build social skills. We measure the changes in each child through the Youth Outcomes Survey. The resulting positive vision for the future and affirmative impacts are linked to long-term results important to our families and our communities.

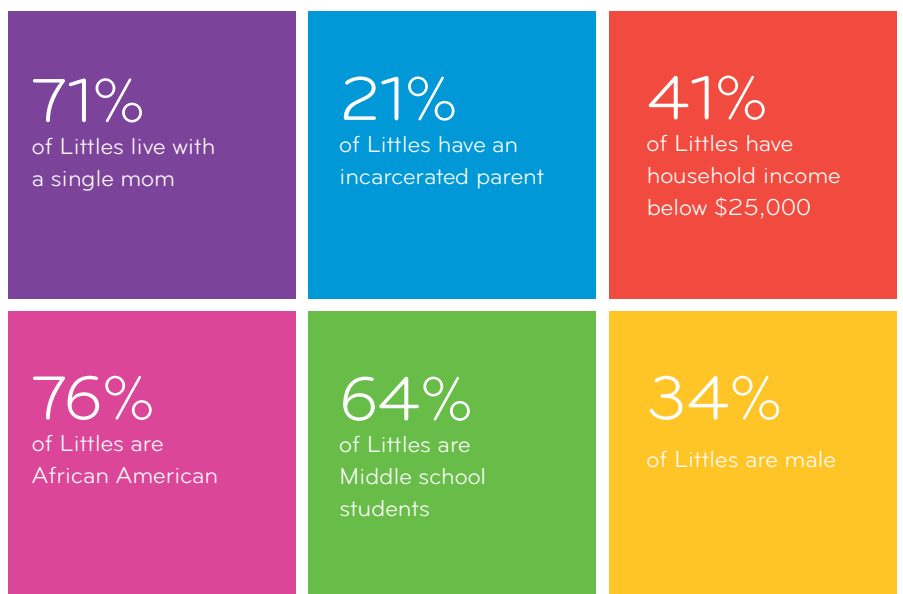
Just a few hours each month can make a world of difference. Children who maintained or improved skills are more likely to succeed in school and life. Big Brothers Big Sisters' local results demonstrate significant impact, ultimately saving the community money by reducing the costs of violence/crime and improved educational outcomes.*

*Assessment tools and community savings verified by Public/Private Ventures



Our Littles

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported on-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Your generous donations are helping serve these children.





Big Brothers Big Sisters

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**BIG
BROTHERS**
an evening
for kids' sake
**BIG
SISTERS**

SAVE THE DATE

FRI, OCTOBER
16TH
7PM TO 11PM

at THE HOTEL JOHN MARSHALL
featuring the band **HOT SAUCE**

EARLY BIRD TICKETS
WILL GO ON SALE
JUNE 1ST