

ANNUAL REPORT



Big Brothers
Big Sisters.
OF METROPOLITAN
CHICAGO

2021



THE BIG PICTURE

2,000

Life-Changing Relationships

21,000

Hours of Match Support Through the Pandemic

\$6M

Generous Philanthropic Support

109,136

Hours Invested by Bigs in Match Meetings

[VIEW FULL REVENUE REPORT](#)

IMPACT:



99%
of Littles Graduated High School



95%
Go on to College/ University, Military or Job Training



87%
Improved Relationships with Peers



99%
Avoided Incarceration or Arrest

JEDI FOCUS



“ I find my experience as a Big of Color has less to do with an understanding of my culture or heritage, but more to show that we are all human, as part of a larger collective, to continue to serve the community with purpose - for a better future for our Littles. ”

Big Brother Hugo

Racial and social justice are at the core of Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring model. BBBSChi uses a framework called JEDI -- which stands for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to help guide our commitment to the empowerment of our youth. Through a JEDI lens, with cultural humility and with support from partners like you, we are dismantling systems and structures that create inequality by prioritizing:

- » **Wraparound Services and Enrichment Activities through our Equity Resource Connector Model**
- » **Intentional Volunteer Recruitment**
- » **Developing Educational Resources and Curriculum for Agency/Board Leaders and Bigs**
- » **Family Engagement, specifically by establishing a Family Advisory Council** working in partnership with BBBSChi leadership and staff in developing policies, practices and outreach strategies
- » **Youth Voice**, through in-depth feedback and personalized adjustments to better serve each match
- » **Representation Events**, creating a safe space for Bigs of color to share their unique experiences, network and help recruit a more diverse group of mentors

EQUITABLE ACCESS | Created a Family Response Fund to help alleviate additional challenges Littles' families faced throughout the pandemic

Direct Aid to Families:

\$110K

Backpacks Distributed:

650

Chromebooks Delivered:

141

Helping to reengage remote learners and keep matches connected

"My Big Sister Jackie has been a tremendous help in shaping my future and seeking out not only the right path, but also what is beneficial to me. Before I joined the program, I contemplated many times on giving up. Thanks to BBBS and my Big Sister, my voice was able to be heard and my dreams were brought to life. I was able to stay on track and finish high school. Now I am off to college and will be majoring in nursing at the University of Chicago. " - Ronye, BBBSChi Class of 2021



MEANINGFUL CHANGE

80%

Workplace and
Neighborhood
Mentoring Programs
Operating In-Person



While the pandemic forced the team to rethink nearly every aspect of our programming, there were several innovations in our Site Based Program that will forever change the way BBBSChi carries out our mission.

CHANGES BUILT TO LAST

Continued "Bigs Supporting Bigs" Discussion Series providing a unique opportunity for volunteers to discuss various topics such as Resuming In-Person Outings, How to Be an Ally, The 1619 Project & Black History

Launched High School Bigs Mentoring Program, empowering high school students to take on the role of a Big

Created Programs in the Park, rotating outdoor match picnic events in partnership with Chicago Park District

Adopted a Site Based Plus Model, enabling matches to build their mentoring relationship outside of the structured meetings

Hosted College and Career Expo featuring corporate and university partners, as well as a financial aid seminar



“

My Big has uplifted and encouraged me in a way I have never experienced before.

Without him, I feel like I would still be lost and have lots of questions about my future. When I was discouraged about college, he inspired me to keep trying. I really look up to him and the positivity that he brings. ”

- Tyrese, BBBSChi Class of 2021
Currently attending North Carolina A&T State University,
the nation's largest HBCU

THE VILLAGE

Thanks to you, we have created a village of support, surrounding kids with resources, opportunities and positive relationships that empower them to stay on the path to a successful future.

VIEW OUR:

DONORS

MATCHMAKERS

TRIBUTE DONORS

DEDICATED PARTNERS

BOARD MEMBERS



Looking for new ways to join the village?

Spread the Word

Follow @BBBSChi on social and share good news.

Become a Match Maker™

Match Makers empower the potential of children across Chicagoland through monthly giving. By making a recurring gift, you will help introduce a waiting Little to their Big every month. Join at bbbschgo.org/matchmakers.

A Big Legacy

Have you considered naming Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago in your will or estate plan? Your generous commitment to the future of the BBBS mission will have a lasting impact in our community. Please let us know about your intentions, or learn more by contacting David Gee at gee@bbbschgo.org or 312.207.5601.

“ With a lot of the things that have happened over the past two years, it’s been really challenging. Our kids need reassurance. They need to know there are good people out in the world – that there are people who care about them: their safety, interests, growth and learning.

It takes a village to raise a family.

I know you hear that all the time, but this program really proves it. It has benefited my kids psychologically, emotionally, and over the last few years, they’ve changed. They’ve become more confident and have been given peace of mind that things will get better. Having that extra support, as a parent, it’s as if a weight has been lifted off my shoulders and I can breathe. ”

Samantha Bowling, mom of 3 Littles



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VOLUNTEER.
DONATE.
ENROLL A CHILD.