ANNUAL REPORT
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

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
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

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<tr>
<th>Direct Aid to Families:</th>
<th>Backpacks Distributed:</th>
<th>Chromebooks Delivered:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$110K</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>141</td>
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"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
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*
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.

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