



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF COLCHESTER

Annual Report
2020

Message from Board President & Executive Director

To say it has been a challenging year for many would be an understatement. We are in awe of the resilience shown by our whole BBBS community, including our volunteers, families, community partners, and most importantly, the children and youth we serve. Because of our volunteers, donors, and fundraising supporters, we were able to continue to provide services to young people without interruption when they needed it most.

We have a vision that all young people realize their full potential. Right now is a critical time to focus on children's health and wellbeing, and their futures. We must protect them from the added adversities and stresses that came with the pandemic we are faced with, including loneliness and social isolation. We believe that the number one tool in battling prolonged adversity in young people is to provide additional developmental relationships. When young people have positive, reliable, caring mentors in their lives, they are more likely to be engaged in school and at home, have better social competence and mental health, and grow up to be positive contributors to society.

Every year our Organization provides service to hundreds of children and youth through our one-one and group mentoring programs in our communities and in schools, and provides direct funding support to the families that we work with. Our steps to providing these crucial services include recruiting and screening volunteers, training volunteers to understand developmental relationships, matching volunteers with young people facing adversity, and supporting that match so that our young people realize a positive impact from the mentoring relationship. There is no cost for families to participate in any Big Brothers Big Sisters program, nor is there a cost to volunteer. We believe in providing barrier-free opportunities for Children & Youth to strive through mentorship.

Right now we have young people waiting for a mentor and we are more committed to our communities than ever. We are actively moving forward with building our inclusive, safe green space that will be used by Bigs and Littles matches for decades to come, will continue to grow our dairy bar social enterprise employing youth, and most importantly, will continue to work to ensure that local children and youth that could benefit from an additional mentoring relationship, have one. Thank you, sincerely, for believing in our vision for the young people of this region!

We are bigger together.

-Sabrina Wolthers, Board President

-Nick Sharpe, Executive Director



About Us



Vision

All young people realize their full potential

Mission

Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people

Board

President: Sabrina Field Wolthers
Vice President: Ian MacLeod
Past President: Nancy Crosby
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Co-Secretary: Hannah Pugh
Co-Secretary: Heather Johnson

Directors

Stephanie Patriquin
Vicki Colford
Shauna MacDonnell
Sandra Dill

Legal Council

Gary Richards

Staff

Executive Director:

Nick Sharpe

Finance Manager:

Donna MacCallum

Fundraising Coordinator:

Tamara Mitchell

Marketing Coordinator:

Anna Rutherford

Recruitment Coordinator:

Rebecca Wood

Mentoring Coordinators

Mary Samson

Sallie Murphy

Shawna Fraser

Ashlee Bonnell

Our Solution

Many children and youth in Colchester struggle with societal barriers and face adversities in their lives like detrimental living conditions, family violence, risk factors for mental health, school issues, and identity challenges.

These circumstances have nothing to do with the value of who they are or who they can become, but because of these situations, children and youth risk not having the opportunity to live up to their full potential.

Even worse is the possibility of continuing cycles of poverty and crime or developing mental health issues. This comes at a cost to the young person, and to society. With the guidance and support of a mentor, these risks can be reduced or even avoided, and youth are reminded they can be anything they dream of being. We provide direct service to children by matching volunteers and youth in quality mentoring relationships. Our agency staff members are experts at screening volunteers and matching them with a mentee having similar interests.

Year at a Glance

January 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020

BIGGER TOGETHER



265

Children & Youth served

WHO

Young people who face adversity
and

Are in need of an additional
consistent and supportive
Developmental Relationship

HOW

Intentionally **recruit** based on needs of the
community's young people.

Match young person and professionally **screen**
volunteer mentor

Monitor and support match through a
professional Mentoring Coordinator

Train and support the mentor, young person,
and family

Graduate match relationship towards "natural
support"



Build a Developmental Relationship
between the mentor and young person that:

EXPRESSES CARE

CHALLENGES GROWTH

PROVIDES SUPPORT

SHARES POWER

EXPANDS POSSIBILITIES

Our Programs & Services for Youth

Community-Based One on One Matches

Big Sister, Big Brother, Big Couple

School -Based One on One Matches

In School Mentoring, Peer Mentoring

Group Programs Community & School-Based

Game On, Go Girls, Building for Tomorrow

113

YOUTH SERVED

81

YOUTH SERVED

71

YOUTH SERVED

12 School/Community
partnerships

OUTCOMES

Social-Emotional Competence

- Relationship skills
- Social awareness
- Responsible decision-making
- Self management
- Self awareness



Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Positive identity
- Mental wellness
- Social inclusion & empowerment



Educational Engagement & Employment Readiness

- School connectedness
- Commitment to learning
- Enhanced constructive use of time



"I feel happy and
excited"

"I feel comfortable
and safe"

Little Thoughts

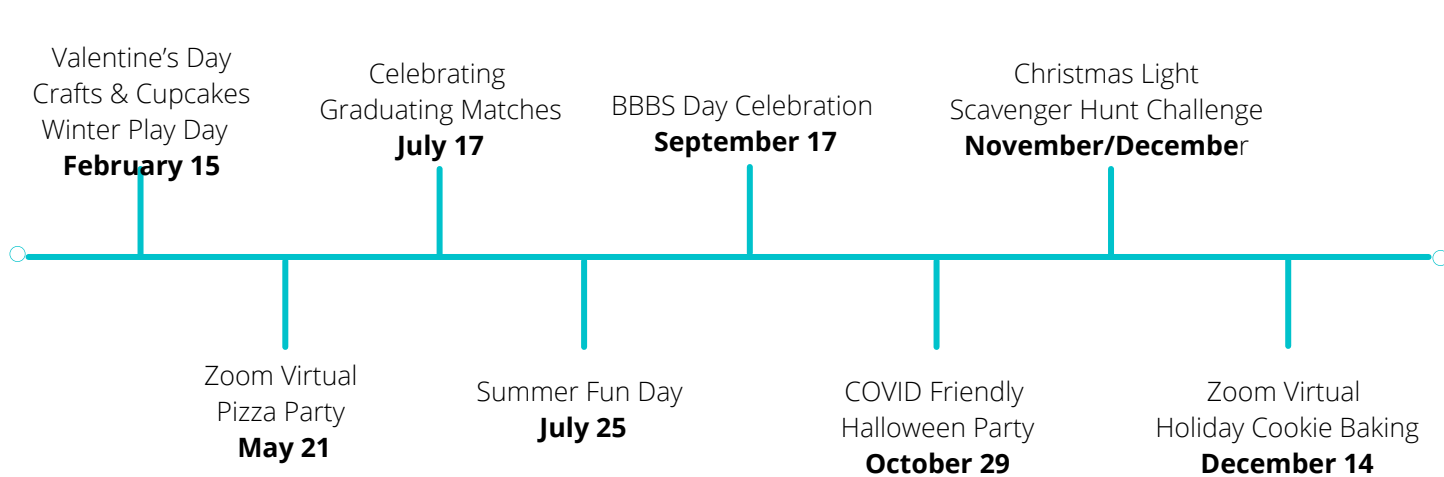
When I'm with my Big...

"I feel special"

"I feel joyful"

Group Activities Highlights

Group activities provide a safe, fun, and bully-free opportunity for our Littles to interact with their peers while developing important skills and strengths. as well as allowing Bigs to network, learn, and connect with each other.



Total Attendees
258



Building for Tomorrow Project

A Community Program: Portapique, Nova Scotia

In April of 2020, our community suffered a heartbreaking tragedy. The senseless and tragic loss of 23 lives. Already in the midst of a Global Pandemic, our community had to come together to support one another. With the Support from an initiative of a Big Brother in Halifax we donated \$5000 to the Portapique "Community Build Up" Project, but we knew the best way to support the community was to offer programming to the youth residing there. We created the "Building For Tomorrow Project". A program focused on community connection and the three themes below:

Enhancing
social skills

Interactive
games and activities

Utilizing
Creativity

Building washer toss sets
Painting Canvases

Community
Contribution

Washer toss sets and
paintings contributed to
the Community Hall



Our COVID Response

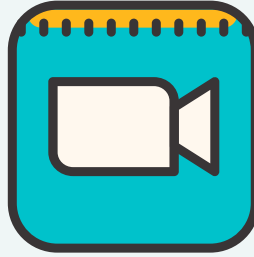
TOGETHER, EVEN WHEN WE'RE APART

Our organization committed to maintaining and supporting the vital mentoring relationships we created in order to fight the social isolation of our most vulnerable youth.

When COVID hit we adapted to ensure the safety and well-being of our Littles and volunteers, while supporting each match to make sure they had the proper skills and tools to stay connected.



Matches begin to meet on Zoom and Kids Messenger with training and support from staff



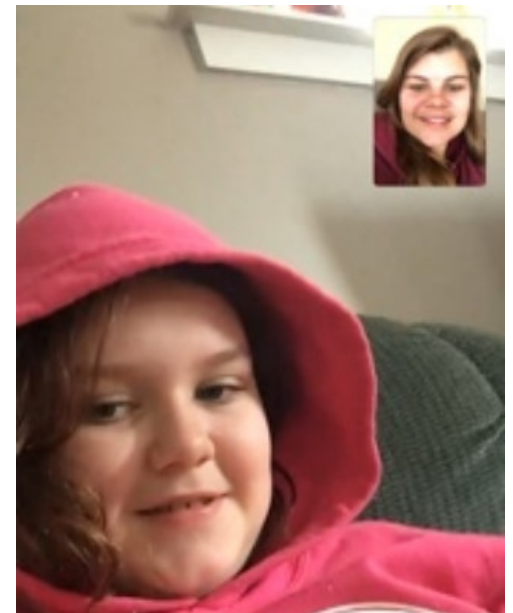
A new virtual program created in partnership with the United Way, matching seniors facing isolation with children on our waitlist.



**Tablets provided to
Littles in need**

**Our first ever match
made virtually**

**Virtual Group
Activities**



Giving Back

\$26,600

Back to our Families and Volunteers

Mentoring Matters Fund- \$4000 Back to our Families

The success of our fundraisers allow us to generously support our Littles and their families when they are in need. To highlight a few:



Grad Photos



Drivers Ed



Extra Curricular



Medical Expenses

Match Outting Support- \$1700 back to our matches to connect and share new experiences together

We provided a \$75 reimbursement per match for the holidays. Bigs used this for special Christmas gifts for their Littles, as well as holiday activities.

Bigs used the regular reimbursement for board games, craft supplies, and for taking their Littles for special meals.

Pandemic Support for Basic Needs

We were able to donate a portion of our Big Bucks 50/50 draw to provide families \$100 per child in April of 2020 for a total of **\$12,100** to our families, at the height of pandemic isolation.

These funds were used for things like groceries, household bills, purchasing activities for kids to do at home that might not typically be in the budget.

Holiday Support

We provided each child in our program with a gift card for \$50, for a total of **\$4800** given to families during the holidays.

We partnered with **Red Woof Inn Doggie Daycare** once again this year. They contributed to 25 of our families.

Vimy Court supported 4 of our families, providing toys, clothing and meals.

Bursaries

\$4000

Provided two new and two returning youth furthering their education through the Michelle Misener Building Futures Bursary

First Year Recipients

Little Sister Amelia was matched with her Big Sister Heather for 9 years. Amelia is pursuing a Bachelors's Degree.



Little Brother Louie was matched with his Big Couple Christina and Greg for 7 years. Louie is studying Computer Technology.



Oh, the places you'll go...

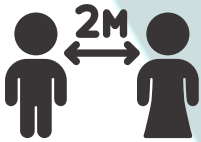
Fundy Scoops

JUNE



A drive-thru was created by restructuring the parking lot, updating the window and training staff. We opened the drive-thru and served our first customer of the season on June 12.

JULY



We opened for walk-ins on July 15, with a five person capacity.

AUGUST



Summer staff continued to develop their employability skills in a supportive, learning environment.

SEPTEMBER



We closed for the season on Sept 20

40110

Ice cream cones and other
dessert products sold



12
YOUTH EMPLOYED

5
LITTLES EMPLOYED

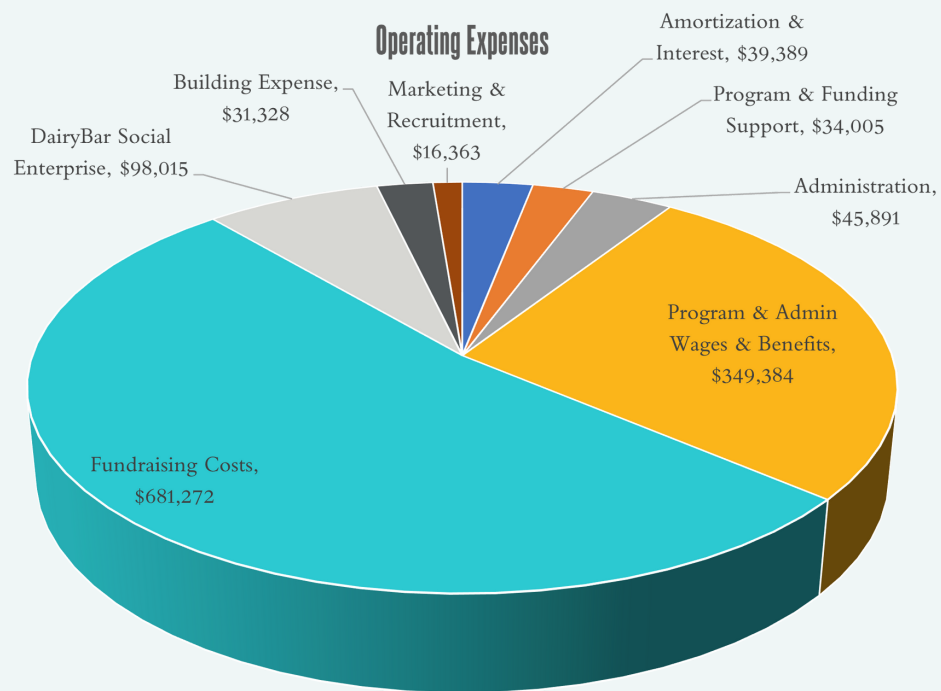


OUTCOMES

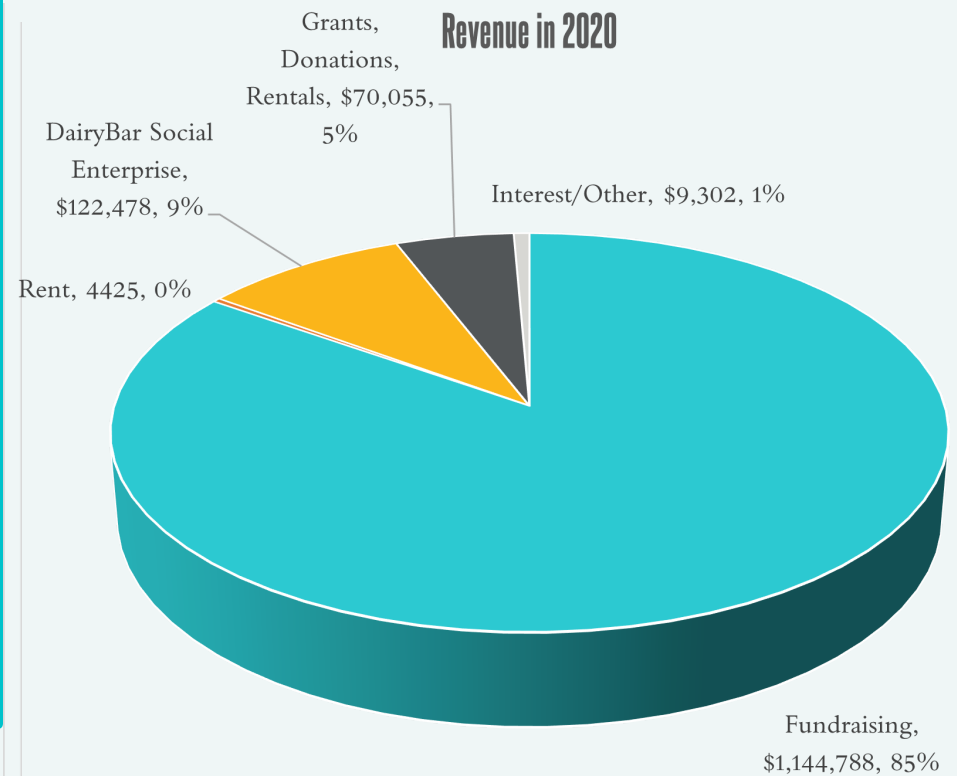
● Youth gain transferrable skills and employment readiness ●

Financial Picture

EXPENSES



REVENUE



Thank you to our Supporters

WILSONS GAS
WALKER ST.

KEITH'S GAS BAR
MILLBROOK

VALLEY
VARIETY

EAST END
MINI MART

FULTON'S
TATAMAGOUCHE

RECC

FOODLAND
STEWIACKE

DOUBLE 'C'
MASSTOWN

BIBLE HILL
BOWLACADE

BIBLE HILL
ESSO

KENNEDY'S
BIBLE HILL

MACQUARRIES
ESPLANADE

MACQUARRIES
BIBLE HILL

MACQUARRIES
BROOKFIELD

TRURO MALL
LOTTO LAND

Wilsons
Heating

PURE
COUNTRY ★ 99.5

PETRO CAN
ROBIE ST.

100.9
BIG
DOG


Red Woof Inn
Doggie Daycare
Loving Care When You're Not There




Boston
Pizza

 **Scotiabank®**



 **ROGERS™**




NOVA SCOTIA
Health and Wellness

 **Colchester**
be centred here.

SALTWIRE
NETWORK

FLAGSHIP
CONSTRUCTION