



# 2024 Annual Report



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
OF COLCHESTER

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Colchester 2024 annual report. We've highlighted our ongoing work and biggest successes over the past year. We support children across the Colchester and East Hants community in many different ways from traditional community-based Big/Little matches to our site-based in school matches and our peer mentorship program. We have also had the opportunity to expand our impact through our social enterprise, Fundy Scoops. Every year our organization provides service to hundreds of children and youth through our mentoring programs in our communities and in our 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 and youth to benefit from mentorship. If you think back to when you were growing up, you can probably think of someone who made a positive difference in your life, inspired you to do something, or make a career choice. When young people have mentors and positive relationships growing up, they have better chances of reaching their full potential. They have more success in school, they develop socially, emotionally, and mentally, they are more likely to continue their education, get good jobs, volunteer in their community, and give back to their local economy. Simply put, the children and youth we serve will live better lives because of your support. Even though our team has supported 136 matches over the past year, at times this year, our wait list has reached 140. That's 140 children and youth in our local communities of Colchester and East Hants waiting for a mentor to make a difference in their lives.

We are always so appreciative of anyone taking the time commitment to volunteer as a big and want to send our thanks to everyone who has contributed to matches that have reduced our waitlist for this year.

But in the background, supporting the new matches and the changes in a young person's life, are a whole range of volunteer and supporter opportunities, from full volunteer board members, to those from the community helping out at events, community businesses sponsoring events and providing volunteers, including RBC, and sharing amazing venues, and we want to hear from anyone who can help us in those ways. Over the last year we, like many other organizations, have been feeling the pressure of the recent economic changes, and a key priority for the year, and going into the future, has been diversifying our fundraising strategy. This year, that has meant, as well as seeing our more established fundraisers Big Bucks and Travelotto, newer events have included lawn bowls, baseball tournaments, dinners at warmth by design, local trivia nights, community focused scavenger hunts, dance evenings, and peeler cards in collaboration with local businesses. Look out next year for even more new events, a corporate sponsorship package, and even bringing back some previous fundraisers! We appreciate each and every donation or contribution that you have made this year, or any treats you've bought at Fundy Scoops, every little bit helps us to continue with our mission and enable positive changes in young people's lives. Thanks for taking the time to read about our adventures in 2024.

Genea, Hannah and the Team at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colchester and East Hants.

# ABOUT US

## OUR SOLUTION:

Many children and youth in Colchester and East Hants 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.

## VISION:

All young people realize  
their full potential

## MISSION:

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

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

President  
**Hannah Pugh**

Past president  
**Sabrina Wolthers**

Treasurer  
**Nancy Brightman Crosby**

Secretary  
**Heather Johnson**

Director  
**Sauna MacDonnell**

Director  
**Sandra Dill**

Director  
**Andrea Thompson**

Director  
**Mary McIsaac**

Director  
**Ella Sobey**

Director  
**Faith Payson**

## STAFF

Executive Director  
**Genea Teskey**

Program Manager  
**Sallie Murphy**

Community Mentoring Coordinator  
**Amy Rogers**

Site-based Mentoring Coordinator  
**Kara McRae**

Site-based Mentoring Coordinator  
**Shaylyn Isenor**

Community Partnerships Coordinator  
**Tina Fisher**

Program Support & Finance  
Coordinator  
**Emersyn Chaulk**

## CONTACT

309 Hwy 311  
North River, NS B6L 6G9

902-895-4562

[www.bbbbscolchester.ca](http://www.bbbbscolchester.ca)

Charitable Business Number #  
11880 8179 RR0001



# OUR IMPACT

## WHO:

*Young people who face adversity and are in need of an additional, consistent and supportive developmental relationship*

## HOW:

- ▶ Intentionally recruit volunteer mentor based on needs of the community's young people
- ▶ Match young person and professionally screened volunteer mentor
- ▶ Monitor and support match through a professional mentoring coordinator
- ▶ Train and support the mentor, young person and family
- ▶ Graduate match relationship toward "natural support"
- ▶ Build a developmental relationship between the mentor and young person that:
  - » expresses care
  - » challenges growth
  - » provides support
  - » shares power
  - » expands possibilities

## OUTCOMES:

- ▶ Social-emotional competence
- ▶ Relationship skills
- ▶ Social awareness
- ▶ Responsible decision-making
- ▶ Self-management
- ▶ Self-awareness
- ▶ Positive mental health and well-being
- ▶ Positive identity
- ▶ Social inclusion and empowerment
- ▶ Educational engagement and employment readiness
- ▶ School connectedness
- ▶ Commitment to learning
- ▶ Enhanced constructive use of time

288  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
SERVED IN 2024



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

### In-school mentoring – one-on-one matches

- ▶ Mentees and mentors meet weekly at the child's school for the duration of the school year
- ▶ Matches are made based on common interest, location and personality traits
- ▶ Matches meet during the child's class-time and do fun activities together they both enjoy

17 YOUTH MATCHED

16 YOUTH WAITING

### Peer mentoring – one-on-one matches

- ▶ Designed specifically for high school students
- ▶ Students in grade 11 or 12 (*mentors*) are matched with students in lower grades (*mentees*) to provide them with support and encouragement and to have some fun
- ▶ Mentors and mentees are matched one-on-one based on their interests and personalities
- ▶ Matches meet every week on school property, usually during lunch break, and spend that time together playing sports, sharing interests or just hanging out and talking
- ▶ The goal is to increase self-esteem and encourage healthy decision-making in the students being mentored

32 YOUTH MATCHED

34 YOUTH WAITING

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

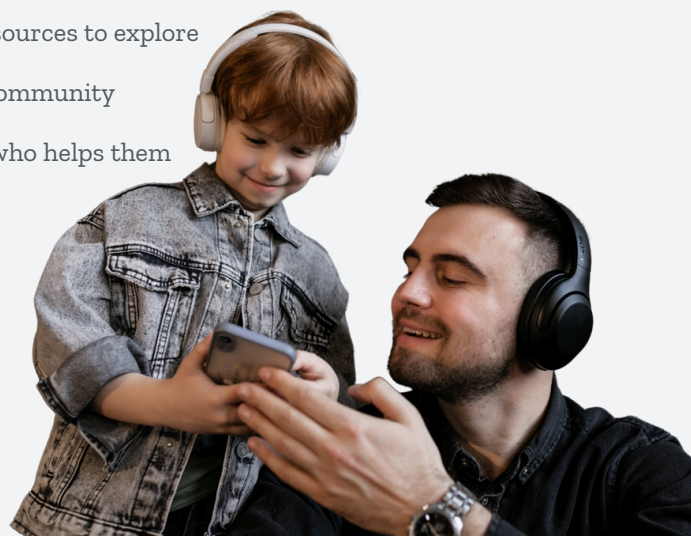
### Big sister/big brother/ big couple one-on-one matches

- ▶ Mentees and mentors explore and enjoy their local community together
- ▶ Matches choose their own schedule, activities, events or community resources to explore
- ▶ Matches share interests and discover new ones together in their local community
- ▶ Every match has access to support from their mentoring coordinator who helps them stay safe, committed and reach individual milestones.

107  
MATCHED

82  
WAITING

189 YOUTH SERVED



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & GROUP ACTIVITIES

6

Provincial funding allowed us to hire a summer student who ran several Lunch n Learn activities as well as ran a book drive and created literacy kits for 50 littles.

Provincial funding allowed us to expand on last year to provide snacks bags for 77 Littles and Mentees through the summer months. It also funded gardening plots for 6 matches in our Community Garden

Impactful Networking and Training opportunity for staff- Atlantic Staff Association Fall Conference at Debert Hospitality Center

## Random Acts of Kindness Challenge

January/12 Bigs and Littles - Matches put kindness into action for several community organizations such as the SPCA, Carma, STEPS, Haven House and Joan's Table.

## Just the Bigs Night

February/10 Volunteers - Bigs and Mentoring Coordinators came together to talk about being matched, to share and learn from each other.

## Boardgame Night

February/15 Bigs and Littles – We gathered at the Truro Fire Hall to play boardgames and have fun. It ended with all the littles joining together to play a giant game of snakes n ladders.

## Lucky Bingo

March/28 Bigs and Littles – With the Luck of the Irish we had a fun Bingo night, lots of green, treats and prizes.

## National Canadian Film Day

April/50 Bigs and Littles- Through a national partnership with Reel Canada, we had the chance to watch a Canadian film in a theatre all to ourselves! We watched "A Butterfly Tale" and enjoyed movie popcorn!

## Truro Raceway

June/30 Bigs and Littles - As guests of the Raceway, our matches got to watch harness racing and enjoy hotdogs and hamburgers.

## Laser Tag with Titan Action Games

June/30 Bigs and Littles- The rain forced us to move inside but it did not dampen the fun! Littles and Bigs raced around the Cougar Dome working in teams to reign supreme.

## Pride Parade

June/20 Bigs and Littles- Kids, Families, Mentors and Staff had SO much fun celebrating Pride and being part of the Truro Pride Parade!

## Nature Walk and Pool Party

July/30 Bigs and Littles - Matches enjoyed a beautiful summer day hiking and swimming at Victoria Park.

## Kids N Kops

August/12 Littles- We partnered with Truro Police to run a summer day camp for 12 Littles in our program. We spent a week at the Truro Police station learning and having fun!

## Shubenacadie Wildlife Park

September/40 Bigs and Littles- Matches enjoyed a guided night tour of the wildlife park.

## Trunk or Treat

October/40 Bigs and Littles- Matches decorated their trunks and had the chance to dress up and trick or treat at the BBBS office.

## Holiday Party

November/150 littles - We pulled out all the stops for an awesome holiday party, held at Douglas St. Rec Centre. We had carnival style games, pizza, Starbucks, glitter tattoos, Santa, a magician and so much more.





# GIVING BACK

The success of our fundraisers allows us to generously support littles and their families.

## Mentoring Matters Fund

The purpose of this fund is to support the matched and waiting children and youth in any BBBS Colchester program to ensure all young people are granted opportunities to thrive through mentorship while working within the parameters of our organization's mission and values.

**\$15,256**

IN SUPPORT OF LITTLES

- ▶ Music/Dance: **\$1700**
- ▶ 4H/Riding Lessons: **\$890**
- ▶ Sports: **\$6,611**
- ▶ Camps: **\$7855**
- ▶ Educational/School Related **\$1,200**
- ▶ Grad fees: **\$1,330**



## Holiday support

▶ We provided each child with \$25 Truro Downtown Dollars and hosted a Holiday Party for a total of **\$5000**

▶ We partnered with Red Woof Inn Doggie Daycare, who contributed by providing 100 gifts as well as sponsoring one family with everything they needed for Christmas Day, including breakfast, supper and dessert

▶ Staff from Vimy Court supported three families, providing toys, clothing and meals.



**Truro Music Festival donation**  
**\$500**

**Truro Soccer Club donation**  
**\$525**

## Match outing support

**\$1,213** directly to our matches to connect and share new experiences together

## Red Woof Backpack Program

**83** backpacks fully stuffed with school supplies provided through our partnership with Red Woof Inn Doggie Daycare

**\$32,994** IN SUPPORT OF  
OUR MATCHES AND OUR COMMUNITY

# THE MICHELLE MISENER BUILDING FUTURES BURSARY

The purpose of this bursary is to encourage the pursuit of post-secondary education among individuals who are involved with BBBS Colchester. Bursaries are awarded based on the number of applications received, availability of funds and financial need of the applicant. Providing the recipient maintains satisfactory academic progress as defined by the individual institution, the bursary can be renewed for up to four academic years.

**\$10,500**

PROVIDED TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS GOING ONTO POST SECONDARY

- ▶ Marlee Alexander
- ▶ Taylor Power
- ▶ Alexa Cameron

- ▶ Jeremy Gale
- ▶ Tyler Lohnes-McNutt
- ▶ Emma Clark

# FUNDRAISERS

## Big Bucks 50/50

Our weekly 50/50 draw raised **\$225,945** to support program administration, Mentoring Matters Fund, bursaries and more!

## Travelotto

**\$28,020 raised**

In 2024 every month was winner's choice! Winner's always had the cash-out option! The bonus draw winner had their choice of an all-inclusive vacation or \$5000 cash!

## Annual Big Night Out Gala

We raised **\$14,350** at our second Annual Gala hosted by Warmth by Design and presented by Classic Rentals.

## Adrian Martynkiw Annual Ball Tournament

We raised **\$545** at our first Annual Adrian Martynkiw Ball Tournament held at the Bible Hill Airport Fields.



Our Fundy Scoops Dairy Bar social enterprise exists to provide youth with early work experiences where they can learn and grow. In a day where most businesses offer our youth very little training, we provide a valuable resource that will serve these youth well in future life endeavors. Training starts with simple transferable skills training such as customer service, cash handling and setting expectations. For many of the youth it also includes basic business education and leadership skills training.

# Fundy Scoops

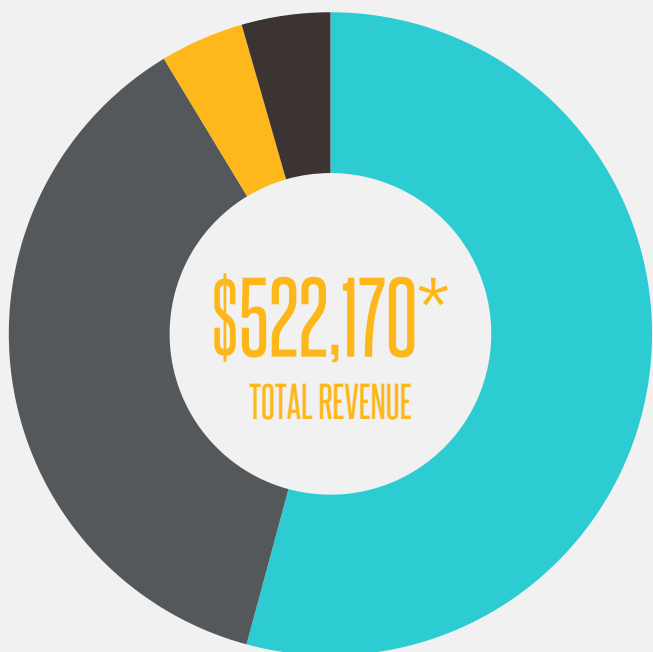
- ▶ 15 youth, including five littles.
- ▶ Opening day was May 17
- ▶ Yappy Hour continued for its fifth season. A huge thank you to Red Woof Inn Doggie Daycare for their support of this weekly event.
- ▶ The Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to provide ice cream cones for our Littles this summer.





# FINANCES

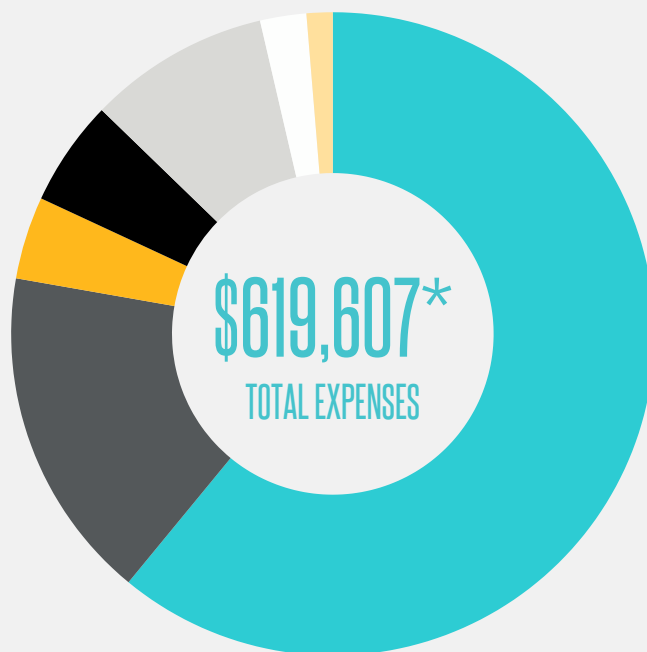
9



## REVENUE

▶ Fundraising	\$282,652
▶ Grants & donations	\$193,640
▶ Dairy bar social enterprise	\$21,977
▶ Interest/other	\$23,201

\*Includes prize portion of Big Bucks 50/50 draws



## EXPENSES

▶ Program admin, wages & benefits	\$377,685
▶ Office administration	\$104,156
▶ Amortization & interest	\$32,997
▶ Program & funding support	\$56,491
▶ Building	\$25,740
▶ Marketing & recruitment	\$14,415
▶ Fundraising	\$8,123

# SUPPORTERS



## BIG BUCKS 50/50 VENDORS

Foodland Stewiacke	Fulton's Tatamagouche	Kennedy's Bible Hill
MacQuarries Esplanade	MacQuarries Brookfield	MacQuarries Bible Hill
Proxii Gas (formerly Wilson's Gas Bar)	Petro Can Robie St.	Bible Hill Bowlacade
East End Mini Mart	Valley Variety	Alz Makasanji' (formerly Keith's Gas Bar)
RECC	Esso Milford	Elmsdale Gaurdian
Debert Mini Mart		