

## WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT?

The length of time and frequency of meetings vary for the Community-Based Mentoring, Sports Buddies, and Site-Based Mentoring Programs. Bigs are asked to make a commitment for at least a year. Community-Based Mentoring and Sports Buddies Program matches may continue until the Little graduates from high school or turns 18 years old, whichever occurs later. Site-Based Mentoring Program matches may continue to meet within approved schools until the Little advances to high school. A Big must be reliable and consistent.

- **Community-Based Mentoring Program** – 3-5 hours/week
- **Sports Buddies Program** – 1-2 visits/month
- **Site-Based Mentoring Program** – 45-60 minutes/week

## WHAT DO MATCHES DO TOGETHER?

Bigs and Littles decide their activities together. The most important thing a Big can do for a Little is to be a friend – to listen, give advice if asked, and have fun! More important than the activity chosen is the time spent together building a friendship.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County plans bimonthly activities designed to introduce Bigs and their Littles to other Big-Little matches, through activities like swimming, picnics, and holiday parties.

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

In an effort to ensure a positive mentoring experience, professional program staff provide ongoing support by offering advice, providing guidance, answering questions, and mediating issues that arise.

VOLUNTEER



## ABOUT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Serving Littles in the community since 1956, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County is an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the oldest and largest mentoring organization in the country. Policy and program guidelines are established by a community-based board of directors in accordance with national program standards and practices.

## THE IMPACT

The mentoring programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County are evidence-based. Studies show that Littles served by Big Brothers Big Sisters have higher aspirations, greater confidence, and fare better academically than their peers. Additionally, youth paired with mentors also make healthier choices, have better relationships, and exhibit fewer symptoms of depression.

100% of funds raised by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County stay in our community!



## CONTACT US: BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®

OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

## A VOLUNTEER'S GUIDE



DEFENDING POTENTIAL  
CREATING POSSIBILITIES

[www.bbbswcmd.org](http://www.bbbswcmd.org)

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS' MISSION

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

## WHY SHOULD YOU VOLUNTEER AS A BIG?

Serving as a Big is fun, rewarding and truly makes a difference in the lives of the Littles served. Caring Bigs support their Littles in their healthy development into productive adult members of the community, by assisting them in their educational, social, emotional, and character development.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County offers **Community-Based Mentoring, Sports Buddies, and Site-Based Mentoring Programs**. Volunteers may serve as a Big themselves or, if married for at least two years, serve as a Big Couple to a Little Brother with their spouse.

Bigs are simply a friend to the Little with whom they're matched, not a substitute parent. They are there to be a source of support and guidance for the Little and to let them know they care. It's really as simple as that!

## WHAT IT TAKES?

Bigs must be at least 18 years old. The enrollment process includes the following:

- Complete an application (online at [www.bbbswcmd.org](http://www.bbbswcmd.org) or email [info@bbbswcmd.org](mailto:info@bbbswcmd.org) to request one)
- In-person interview, pre-match training and home safety assessment (The home safety assessment is not required for Site-Based Mentoring Program Bigs.)
- Reference checks, criminal background and driving record checks (The Site-Based Mentoring Program also requires fingerprinting.)

Upon acceptance as a volunteer, Bigs are matched with a compatible Little. Community-Based Mentoring and Sports Buddies Program Bigs will be matched with Littles between the ages of 6-15 and Site-Based Mentoring Program Bigs will be matched with Littles in kindergarten through 8th grades.

BECOME A **DEFENDER**  
OF POTENTIAL



**BE THE  
BIG**

# 3 WAYS TO MAKE AN IMPACT



## COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

Bigs and Littles spend 3-5 hours together each week and enjoy many activities in the community. Activities could include going to the park, attending community and cultural events/activities, as well as just hanging out to listen to music and talk.



## SPORTS BUDDIES PROGRAM

Bigs and Littles spend time together 1-2 times per month to attend a sporting event or participate in a physical fitness activity. Bigs model good sportsmanship and physical fitness, while providing opportunities for Littles to experience new sporting events and activities.



## SITE-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

Bigs visit with their Littles at a participating school for 45-60 minutes each week, during the school year. The following is a list of just a few of the many activities that Bigs and Littles enjoy: playing games, completing art projects and crafts, talking and sharing jokes, reading books, and brushing up on classwork.

To become a **Big Brother/Sister**,  
complete an application online at  
[www.bbbswcmd.org](http://www.bbbswcmd.org) or email  
[info@bbbswcmd.org](mailto:info@bbbswcmd.org) to request one.