

Since 1977, our Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. (BBBS) has provided caring mentors for children in need of a champion. School aged children from Forsyth and Davie Counties (grades K-12) are able to access our local BBBS services. During the past 40 years, more than 20,000 children within our community have found that having an advocate helps them achieve success in life. At this time, BBBS is embarking on a capital campaign in order to enhance and expand programming.

Mentoring relationships help build and deepen social connections in our community, making it a stronger and more vibrant place to live and work. As such, *The Big Picture* will fund the move of BBBS to a new facility to unite our stakeholders in one place. A welcoming facility will advance all facets of our work, and will help share our mission and how as a community we can help children facing adversity. With space for fun and safe entertainment, recreation, and educational programming, BBBS will be able to thoroughly connect the dots between our former and current volunteers (Bigs), children (Littles) and their families, our donors and the community.

Mission and Objectives

All children benefit from a nurturing environment and will blossom with the support of strong role models who can teach them and encourage them. BBBS is a special organization because it invests in each individual child's needs. Only BBBS is built around a one-on-one partnership between a professionally selected mentor and a child facing adversity. It is a process that absolutely works, leading to improved relationships with peers and family, avoidance of risky behaviors, and academic success. The recent Youth Outcome Survey reports: 89% of its participants improved their ability to avoid risky behavior, 95% reported improvement in school and 82% were less likely to skip school. Much of the work of one-to-one matches is performed within the community. As part of volunteering for BBBS, Bigs commit to the expectation to meet with their Littles a minimum of one hour a week for an entire year. It is common for Bigs to report that the reward they receive is greater than any time they have given. Several area matches have remained connected for more than 30 years.

Meeting the Need

Our BBBS has demonstrated steady program growth over the past couple of years. Today, 700 children and their families from Forsyth and Davie counties actively receive services from the agency. This wouldn't be possible without the dedication of more than 500 caring volunteers. Even with these great outcomes, at any given time, BBBS will have over 100 children waiting for a mentor. They need our help.

Proposed Activities

The Big Picture is the first-ever campaign for BBBS capital needs. Campaign funds will make it possible to expand program services by establishing a mentoring center that will welcome volunteers, matched and un-matched Littles and their families. These expansions will enhance the BBBS experience for existing participants and position the organization to immediately respond with support services to children on the waiting list.

In order to begin serving new families, BBBS must move from its current location on Westdale Avenue. The existing building is a converted older home that is drastically outdated. The current facility does not have large rooms or open spaces to welcome and engage the community. Because the office building was once a home, it is not ADA accessible.

BBBS is looking to the community to raise \$2 million for the purchase and up-fit of the building at 200 S. Marshall Street. This new location, with a prominent presence, will aide in improving agency awareness and will help increase volunteer interest. A key component of the new location will be the use of shared spaces for programming, as the majority of the new square footage will be used for program activities, Big/Little interaction, group training and community events.

Goals, Methods for Achievement and Measurement of Impact

The new facility grants BBBS the ability to use space after-school, during the summer and on weekends. Staff will be able to form stronger relationships with Littles and matches, better supervise their match and provide additional training and support. Building relationships with the matches by having an opportunity to bond with them in a welcoming, safe facility will also increase match retention resulting in longer, stronger matches. The primary goals of the new space are to:

Goal 1) Immediately Serve Children on the Waiting List

- Currently, many of our waitlist and match activities take place off site. Big Brothers Big Sisters knows there will be an enormous benefit to having the capacity to host events on site. We will increase the number of matched children by providing a space for matches to meet.
- We will begin to offer guided match activities. Many potential and current Bigs have asked about opportunities for inexpensive activities as they plan their time with their Littles.

Goal 2) Increase High School Graduation Rates

By tracking mentor relationships provided to repeat and struggling 9th graders, BBBS has demonstrated that early intervention leads to a higher graduation rate for our school system. Working in partnership with the public schools and other community organizations, BBBS provides mentors for children who have to repeat their freshman year in high school.

Research shows that without intervention, only 30 percent of these children graduate. But for those children who've been matched with a mentor through our agency through their senior year, the graduation rate is 96 percent!

- Capturing these students in the middle school years is most effective. Middle schools do not have afterschool programs at school and assigning a teacher to stay after school is cost prohibitive. The new BBBS location will solve this issue by providing group mentoring. This is a programmatic enhancement to the one-to-one, traditional mentoring program. This will be available to both matched and unmatched middle school students.
- An engaging, inviting location will draw older participants that tend to draw back from the traditional community based model of Big/Little mentorship as they enter high school. These children are of particular importance to BBBS; the majority of high school drop-outs will do so during their freshman year.
- A dedicated homework/media lab will allow matches and Littles to visit the BBBS office after school to complete school related tasks. Students will have access to computers for homework, projects, SAT prep, to submit work or college applications, and research various job trades.

Goal 3) Focus on Reading Metrics and Address Summer Learning Loss

- Begin developing matches as early as Kindergarten, with a focus on engaging Title I schools to promote BBBS matches. The new mentoring center offers a place for the Kindergarten student and their Big to meet. Unlike other site based locations, there will be access to our computer lab and other fun and educational activities - all in one location with staff supervision.
- Provide summer engagement programs to help bridge the gap with summer learning loss. This will include relationship building activities to target the developmental, social and emotional needs of the children we serve.

Goal 4) Improve Family Engagement/Provide Community Leadership specific to Trauma Informed Care

- Childhood trauma is a community-wide issue that BBBS is addressing. This new space will be safe and comfortable for families completing their enrollment process.
- Selected nationally as one of four Trauma-informed Care (TIC) pilot BBBS agencies (others are Anchorage, AK; Tampa, Florida; and Los Angeles, CA), Trauma-informed care is an approach to providing services utilizing a thorough understanding of the profound effects of trauma and violence on the individual. Witnessing traumatic events, such as domestic violence, shooting and fighting, can impact the development of a child's brain long after the events have ended. BBBS staff will have the space to train a large number of Big on building community resilience. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recommends for a trauma-informed approach to "reflect adherence to six key principles rather than a prescribed set of practice and procedures."
 - Safety
 - Peer Support
 - Empowerment, Voice and Choice
 - Trustworthiness and Transparency
 - Collaboration and Mutuality
 - Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues
- In the new facility, trained TIC BBBS staff will host parent empowerment sessions that will encourage *Protective Family Factors*. BBBS recognizes that the people we serve are often affected by overarching systems, including housing, corrections, courts, primary health, emergency care, and social services. Parents will learn how to establish effective family communication and learn engaging activities to help their child develop personal self-management and social skills.

Conclusion

Families that seek the support of Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. know the direct, positive influence another caring adult offers as a mentor to their child. This relationship makes all the difference in helping shape the direction, development and aspirations of each Little. Expanding services through an improved BBBS facility will ensure that no child waits too long for the care and attention that Big Brothers Big Sisters programs provide. BBBS represents all of us and is one of the only platforms to engage all ages, all backgrounds, and all aspects of our community. We ask you to join us as we engage in this capital project, to help BBBS fully realize its potential to serve our greatest resource, our children.