



FUNDING PROPOSAL 2023

TOWN OF TILLSONBURG



Big Brothers
Big Sisters
OF OXFORD COUNTY

TOWN OF TILLSONBURG

2023 Community Grant Application

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County is enabling life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people so that all young people realize their full potential.

Please accept this package as a formal proposal for program funding for mentoring programs offered to children and youth in the Town of Tillsonburg. We thank you for your past support and belief in what we do and we hope to continue to work together to ensure all young people in Tillsonburg realize their full potential.

Executive Members

President – Jason Routley

Vice President – Emily Van Straten

Treasurer – Greg Bruce

Executive Director – Kristen Ralph

Reports Attached

2021/2022 Audited Financial Statement (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022)

2022-2023 Approved Budget

Approved resolution for funding requests.

Why do you require funding and what will the funds be used for?

Big Brothers Big Sisters continues to provide mentors to young people who face adversity and are in need of an additional consistent and supportive developmental relationship. We intentionally recruit volunteers based on the needs of Tillsonburg's young people and take time to professionally screen, train and support them to create strong, healthy relationships. Mentors are trained not only on how to keep our young people safe but also to build a developmental relationship with their mentee that expresses care, challenges growth, provides support, shares power and expands possibilities. Each mentoring relationship is then monitored and supported by a professional caseworker who works with the mentor, young person and their family and graduates the match to a natural support.

Our programs and outcomes focus on quality of life, providing individualized mentoring experiences to meet the needs of our young people to enhance their quality of life and contribute to their community.

Our total request to the Town of Tillsonburg is \$4,000 to support young people build relationships with measurable outcomes:

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE	MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING	EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT READINESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Relationship skillsSocial awarenessResponsible decision makingSelf-managementSelf-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Positive identitySocial inclusion & empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School connectednessCommitment to learningEnhanced constructive use of time

Our Theory of Change states that BBBS mentoring programs will work to reach 'children and youth who face adversity'. Through our mentoring services, we gain privileged insight into the lives of families and children across Tillsonburg. At the agency, we have already seen a 16% increase in new applications for support at mid-year then we had for the entirety of last year. BBBS uses an evidence-based child intake

process so that we can know who we are reaching, validating that we are reaching the children who need us the most. The Need Registry is grounded by the 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' (ACEs) study. The ACEs study successfully demonstrated an association between adverse childhood experiences & negative health and social complications across an individual's lifespan. The ACEs study has had a profound impact on youth services as it scientifically proves the need for intervention and buffering between children and their adverse childhood experiences in order to increase the likelihood of positive youth development.

According to a recent study at McMaster University, 62% of adults have noted they have experienced at least 1 adverse childhood experience. As we have dived into this work, we realized that 100% of young people we serve in Tillsonburg have experienced at least 2 adverse Childhood Experiences and 57% have had 5 or more of the 13 we track. Current statistics in Tillsonburg include:

1. Child is experiencing social isolation – 71%
2. Parental separation or divorce - 72%
3. Child has been involved or removed by Child Welfare Services - 22%
4. A household member has had a substance abuse problem - 21%
5. A household member has experienced mental illness - 50%
6. A household member has experienced incarceration or has been involved with police - 21%
7. Child has experienced bullying - 93%
8. Child has often seen or heard violence in the home, neighbourhood or their school - 50%
9. Child has experienced the death of someone close to them - 36%
10. Child arrived in Canada with refugee status - 0
11. Exposure to financial stress or financial abuse - 43%
12. Child is exposed to a vulnerable employment standard - 21%
13. Child is coping or recovering from a mental health illness - 43%

We know that responsive relationships help build resilience across childhood and into adulthood. The single most common factor for children and teens who develop the capacity to overcome serious hardship is having at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult.¹ These relationships provide the personalized responsiveness and protection that buffer children from developmental disruption and model the capabilities, such as the ability to plan, monitor, adjust, and regulate behavior, that enable individuals to respond adaptively to adversity and thrive. This combination of supportive relationships, opportunities for new and positive experiences and intergenerational skill exchange is the foundation of resilience.

¹ In-Brief-The-Science-of-Resilience, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University. 2018