



## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Area**

### **APPENDIX A TOWN OF TILLSONBURG**

#### **2019 Municipal Grant Request**

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#### **Agency Mission Statement**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area, is a dynamic community based organization committed to fostering the healthy development of children, youth, and their families by providing diverse mentoring opportunities.

#### **Executive Members**

<i>PRESIDENT:</i>	Kim DeKlein
<i>PAST PRESIDENT:</i>	Melanie Rodrigues
<i>VICE-PRESIDENT:</i>	Jason Routley
<i>SECRETARY:</i>	Jennifer Schafrick
<i>TREASURER:</i>	Mathew Williams
<i>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</i>	Deb Landon

#### **Reports (Attached) –**

2017 Audited Statements; October 30, 2018 Financial Statement, 2019 Approved Budget; Approved resolution for request for funding

#### **Provincial or Federal Funding Received in Last 12 Months**

Ministry of Education Funding, managed through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, for our site-based programmes - In-School Mentoring and Go Girls!

2017/18 School Year - \$12,813

2016/17 School Year - \$11,120

2015/16 School Year - \$11,500

Under the new Provincial government, the Ministry of Education will not be funding any school-based programming at this time. It is crucial that we find the necessary funds from the community to ensure the continuance of these programs.

#### **Why Public Funds Should Be Given To Our Organization**

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a mentoring organization for children and youth, impacting the lives of over 250 children annually. Screened volunteers are matched with children and youth aged 6 to 17. They participate in a variety of mentoring programs and activities that provide an opportunity for them to realize their full potential. We offer 11 mentoring programs in the community and within local schools and libraries. Funds are needed to provide the professional resources, space and equipment to recruit, screen, match, monitor and evaluate each match relationship; whether that is 1:1 or group programming. The agency also offers recreational activities

that engage the children and volunteers to help build those relationships. For many of our children and youth, these activities are not experienced in their personal lives. Educational opportunities are offered for our members as well, such as anxiety workshops, mental health information nights, cooking classes, life skills training, etc. The agency could not exist without the support of community. We rely on donations, grants, special events and corporate support to provide these valuable programs.

The primary goal of the Big Brother Big Sister organization is to provide friendship and support through one-to-one contact and group activities. A Big Brother/Big Sister/Mentor can provide their young friend with a suitable influence designed not so much to solve problems, as to help the child see their own worth and develop confidence and self-esteem. The key to the Big Brother Big Sister program is FRIENDSHIP, the emphasis being on preventative work with children. Volunteers are encouraged first and foremost to establish a warm and natural relationship with their Little Brother/Little Sister/Mentee. Helping children reach their full potential can lead to positive community outcomes like a reduction in poverty and unemployment, a sense of belongingness, safer schools and neighbourhoods, and a new generation of civic-minded adults.

#### **For What Purposes Will The Grant Be Used**

Funds will be used for agency program delivery and services. We currently provide the following programs and services:

- Matching Programs: Big Brother / Big Sister  
Couples for Kids  
Adult In-School Mentoring  
Literacy Mentoring  
BIG/bunch Group Mentoring - 5 groups  
Cops for Kids Group Mentoring - 1 group  
Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds (school-based group programming for girls aged 12-14) – available in all elementary schools (public & separate)  
Game On! Eat Smart, Play Smart (school-based group programming for boys ages 12-14) – available in all elementary schools (public & separate)
- Volunteer Recruitment & Retention
- Volunteer Training & Support Program
- Parent Support Groups
- Life Skills Mentoring
- Transportation
- Advocacy

Our greatest need is to recruit volunteers to our traditional Big Brother Big Sister program for the over 40 children on our waiting list - primarily boys. Many of our boys have been waiting up to 5 years for a Big Brother. Some have reached the age of maturity and have never been matched. We are thankful for our group and waiting list programs that continue to meet the needs of every child in our program.

We have been fortunate in the past to receive funding to implement and expand new programming but unfortunately that funding does not provide sustaining dollars. It is our obligation to solicit funds from our communities through donations, sponsorships, and fundraising events. We are also recommended by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada to hold at least 50% of our operational funds in reserve to realize our short-term goals. Throughout the year we have drawn from our reserve fund to cover any unforeseen deficits.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area received accreditation by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada in July 2014. The agency is proud to be recognized as a highly respected and efficiently run agency.

## **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS – Big Brother, Big Sister, Couples, BIG/bunch & Cops for Kids**

Lone parents head a large and growing number of Canadian families with children. Children from single parent families are known to be at an increased risk of a variety of emotional and behavioural problems as well as difficulties in school.

All children require stable relationships with caring adults, in order to build healthy self-esteem, confidence, knowledge and skills. Building these skills enable children to survive and thrive, despite life's challenges. "At risk" children confront a number of factors that may minimize their opportunities for building such relationships. The children referred to the Match Programs represent a range of complexity of needs, and differing degrees of needs. Needs can range from low self-esteem, lack of positive role model, lack of family stability, and can be economically disadvantaged. The more identified needs the children have, the greater the complexity of needs and intervention required.

Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is about being a friend and someone to look up to. It's about hanging out, talking and sharing, with many smiles along the way. It's about making one child feel very special. After the enrolment process, the agency provides training and matches the volunteer with a Little Brother or Little Sister who shares their interests. Every child needs someone they can share with, talk to or confide in. Whether it's playing sports, learning a new craft, playing computer games or just hanging out, a Big Brother or Big Sister will make a big difference in the life of that child. They will both be forever changed by the experience. It's about sharing a little time together – a few hours a week or every couple of weeks.

Group mentoring programs are designed for children waiting to be matched with a mentor. Group activities are organized and supervised by adult volunteers. These activities are suitable for all kids waiting for a match, as well as children who have different needs than those in the one-to-one program.

The community-based programs strive to do the following:

- Provide a role model and a friend
- Promote the importance of staying in school and healthy relationships with family and peers
- Install trust and self-confidence in order to make healthy decisions
- Encourage leadership skills and independent thinking
- And above all, make a difference while having fun

## **SITE-BASED PROGRAMS – Adult In-School Mentoring, Go Girls! & Literacy Mentoring**

Studies show that mentoring helps kids stay in school, avoid risky behavior such as bullying, and grow up having more respect for family, peers and community. Through site-based mentoring programs, we collaborate with our educational partners and local libraries to assist children and youth understand and maximize their unique talents, strengths and capabilities.

### **Adult In-School Mentoring & Literacy Mentoring**

The In-School Mentoring program provides boys and girls with a role model and a friend to talk to and share experiences of growing up with, within school grounds. For one hour a week, mentors meet with their mentee and engage in activities such as board games, crafts or just hang out in the

playground. The program requires a weekly visit of 1 hour for the duration of the school year. Matches do not meet over the summer break or during other school holidays. The Literacy program takes place at the local library during the school year.

#### **In-School & Literacy Mentoring Makes a Difference**

- 90% of mentors saw a positive change in the child they were mentoring
- 88% of students showed improved literacy skills
- 64% had developed higher levels of self-esteem

#### **Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds**

This program is a group mentoring program for girls ages 12-14 that focuses on physical activity, balanced eating and self-esteem. The single, most important goal of the program is to positively shape the lives of young women and girls by helping them build a positive self-image – setting them on a path to reach their full potential in life.

#### **RATIONALE**

All of our programs have been developed around the concept of opportunities with the sole purpose of assisting children to deal with obstacles in their lives. The volunteer provides different experiences that they may not have without this relationship. Volunteers by teaching youth through example create safe, happy children in the short term and caring independent adults in the long term.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a proven service that produces noticeable changes in the lives of young people and helps build community resiliency. To ensure that every child who needs a mentor, has a mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters needs the additional support from volunteers, corporate sponsors and donors.

We are proud to have the continued support of the municipalities within our service area who recognize the value of our programming and the need that it fulfills in their communities.

#### **Expected Donations, Gifts, Etc. That We Expect To Receive In The Funding Year**

1. Sponsorship and proceeds derived from annual special events:
  - Bowl for Kids Sake
  - Curl for Kids Sake
  - Bid for Kids Sake
  - Children's Christmas party
  - food for events
  - In-Kind support through donations of equipment, services, etc.
2. United Way member funding
3. Prize donations for all our events and activities
4. In-Kind Computer & Technical Support
5. Camp sponsorship opportunities donated by community groups and Tim Hortons
6. Directed funds for Christmas hampers for clients
7. Unsolicited donations from community members and groups

#### **Outline Of Activities Provided By Our Organization**

1. Mentoring programs and services (see attached flyer)
2. Agency activities and programs that address education, physical activity, recreation, arts & culture, life skills
3. Camp and registrations for extra-curricular activities (eg. Soccer, music)
4. Child Safety Program

5. Community Development
6. Participation in youth oriented committees/organizations
7. Berdine Hurley Scholarship Bursary - to assist former clients to pursue post secondary school education *(Interest derived from a \$30,000 restricted investment provides funds for annual allocations; fund cannot be used for any other purposes of the organization)*
8. Ryan Landon Memorial Fund & Mary Smith Memorial Fund - recipient named each year at Recognition Night; restricted funds for special projects
9. Paul's Shoes & New Balance Partnership - provide back-to-school shoes for eligible agency children each year
10. Satellite Office in Tillsonburg through partnership with Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre - open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons
11. Canadian Tire Jump Start Program - lead agency for Ingersoll & Tillsonburg chapters for distribution of over \$50,000 per year for sport registrations

## **Partners**

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>How They Contribute</b>
United Way of Oxford	Major funder. Through our support and participation at United Way workplace campaign presentations, we are able to showcase our agency's programs and services therefore offering more awareness about our agency.
Thames Valley District School Board	Referral of children for our site-based (school & library) mentoring programs and to our community-based (1:1 and group) mentoring programs. Use of space in local schools for programming, support of local school staff as liaison for site-based programs. Working closely with SAFE Schools to develop a process to promote, engage, and oversee all BBBS mentoring programs within each school in the County and region.
London District Catholic School Board	Referral of children for our site-based (school & library) mentoring programs and to our community-based (1:1 and group) mentoring programs. Use of space in local schools for programming, support of local school staff as liaison for site-based programs.
Fusion Youth Centre	Use of facilities for quarterly agency activities. Fusion staff are available to mentor in the schools in support of our in-school mentoring and Go Girls group program. Use of facility and staff for implementation and ongoing training of our new community-based Go Girls program held in the evening. Use of facility and staff for implementation and ongoing training of future Game On group programming for boys. Partnering together to offer an event which will showcase both the Fusion Centre and BBBSIT to make the community aware of our programs and for recruitment purposes.
Upper Deck Youth Centre	Use of space for Cops for Kids group programming in Tillsonburg.
Ingersoll Public Library	Use of space for agency Literacy Mentoring Program.
Tillsonburg Public Library	Use of space for agency Literacy Mentoring Program.
Tim Horton Children's Foundation	Sponsorship of children in our program to participate in camp opportunities and scholarships.
Woodstock & District Big Brothers Big Sisters Association	Joint recruitment radio campaign. Sharing booths at local trade shows and community fairs. Sharing agency event calendars to look at possible joint marketing (eg. Bowl for Kids Sake 2016 – joint advertising and shared pledge sheets)

CAS Oxford	Free reference checks on agency volunteer applicants. Training for agency staff in regards to “Duty to Report” and other program related issues.
Scotiabank Tillsonburg	Sponsorship of annual Curl for Kids Sake event; manager and staff volunteer as In-School mentors; advocacy for agency programs.
Unifor Local 88	Use of free space for agency activities and events. Financial support of our annual Bid for Kids Sake Charity Auction & Battle of the Hors D’Oeuvres as title sponsor, team sponsorship in our annual Curl for Kids Sake, team participation in our annual Bowl for Kids Sake; volunteers and advocacy for agency programming.
Oxford OPP	Fees waived for police clearance and vulnerable sector checks on all agency volunteers. Staff are engaged as volunteer leaders in our Cops for Kids Program in Tillsonburg.
Ingersoll Masons	Provide financial support of our annual Children’s Christmas party; team sponsorship in our annual Curl for Kids Sake; free use of space in their Masonic Hall.
Local Municipalities	Annual financial support of agency programs
Ingersoll Lions Club	Reduced rate for office lease; participation in all agency fundraising events; volunteers recruited from the Lions Club.
Tillsonburg Lions Club	Mann the bar at our annual Bid for Kids Sake and donate 50% of proceeds back to the agency in support of agency programs and services.
Local Business & Industry	Local business & industry has provided flex time or time off to allow their employees to volunteer with the agency. This includes mentoring, office support, events, etc. They also make donations to our agency events to help raise funds or provide incentives to increase participation of participants.
Tim Horton Children’s Foundation & Local Stores	Event sponsorship through advertising; camp opportunities; leadership training for children; scholarships for post-secondary education for those children who complete leadership training
Paul’s Shoes	Free “back to school” shoes to eligible children in our program
Local Newspapers & Print Media	Free coverage and promotion
Canadian Tire Jumpstart	We are the lead chapter for Ingersoll and Tillsonburg which provides convenient opportunity for our clients to be registered in recreational activities in the community at little to no cost. It also provides additional awareness of our programs through contact with local sporting organizations who may refer clients to our agency.

**Support from local government is greatly needed and appreciated.**

**Making a difference - one child at a time!**

***Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area***