



# Big Brothers Big Sisters<sup>®</sup>

## OF THE MIDLANDS

### WHO WE ARE

Since 1959, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands has been supporting connections that result in positive outcomes by matching children with caring adults to guide them. Along the way, we have earned national recognition for program quality and organizational excellence.

Our target population includes youth ages 7 to 18 from seven counties across Nebraska (Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Saunders and Washington) and Iowa (Pottawattamie and Mills). The children and families we serve come from all walks of life. The commonality that all our youth do have is a desire to have a mentor and a parent or other caring adult in their life who feels they could benefit from one.

### WHAT WE DO

Our core program makes meaningful, supported matches between adult mentors (Bigs) and children ages 7 through 14 (Littles). Community-based mentoring is our core program, which is designed to help develop strong one-to-one relationships and make a lasting impact on the lives of our Littles.

### BEST PRACTICES

The following "best practices" distinguish our program and services from other mentoring organizations:

#### Volunteer Screening and Training

We perform extensive background checks on our mentors and staff (including reference checks). Our in-depth interview and training ensure that all volunteers are prepared to become effective mentors.

#### Intentional Matching

We carefully create every mentoring relationship with a number of considerations in mind. Our relationships are successful because we align our Bigs' and Littles' geographic proximity, personal interests, personalities and life experiences.

#### Match Support

We provide ongoing guidance and support to every Little, their parent/guardian and Big on a regular basis. Our professional Match Support Specialists monitor mentoring interactions, offer insights and advice to ensure child safety, facilitate healthy relationship development and promote positive youth outcomes.

### OUR MISSION

To build and support one-to-one relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for youth.

### OUR VISION

All children achieve their full potential.

# \$1,762

Supports a match for one year.

### OUR HISTORY

Big Brothers of Omaha founded by James R. Rosenquist and Philip Patterson



BBBSM named Best All-Around Performer of the Year



BBBSM earns Quality Award



BBBSM Board of Directors named National Board of the Year

BBBSM named in the Top 50 Nonprofits to Work For the past five years



BBBSM Board of Directors named National Board of the Year



1959

1973

2006

2007

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019



Big Brothers merges with Big Sisters to form BBBSM



BBBSM named National Agency of the Year



BBBSM named Gold Standard Agency for second year in a row



BBBSM named National Agency of the Year



BBBSM named National Agency of the Year and earns Quality Award



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### COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING

A child and a professionally screened and trained mentor share time together participating in a variety of activities they both enjoy.

#### Commitment:

- ✓ Twice per month
- ✓ At least 4 hours a month
- ✓ Commit to at least 12 months

#### Basic Qualifications:

- ✓ Must be at least 19 years of age
- ✓ Must be a high school graduate or have a GED
- ✓ Valid driver's license and car insurance
- ✓ Completed background check

Some mentors meet their mentees on the weekends. Others get together with them in the evenings. Each match is unique and develops a schedule that works for all parties.

### ACTIVITIES

We encourage matches to try new things within our community. Here are just a few examples:

- Shoot hoops
- Try new restaurants
- Arts and crafts
- Just hang out

It is up to you and your mentee to decide what you would like to do together. Our agency receives donated tickets to a wide range of activities. We also host a variety of free agency activities for matches.

### STEPS TO BECOME A BIG

- Step 1:** Complete an application form
- Step 2:** Attend an Information Session and Mentor Training
- Step 3:** Complete interview with an Enrollment Coordinator
- Step 4:** Hear all about your mentee from a Match Support Specialist
- Step 5:** Meet your mentee and their family

### OUR IMPACT



# 1,064

Children Served  
in 2018



# 30+

MONTHS

Average Mentoring  
Relationship

Mentors help youth achieve their dreams. After just 12 months in the BBBSM program, most mentees show improvement in the following:



# 97%

Developed Increased  
Feelings of Social  
Acceptance



# 93%

Reported Improved  
Confidence in School



# 88%

Maintained or  
Improved Grades



# 93%

Reported Disapproval  
of Risky Behaviors