

Summer
2017

BIG IMPACT!

Celebrating 45 years of creating powerful, one-to-one mentoring relationships in our community!



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Carolinas

Mentor2.0 Completes Year Three

Students at Harding University High School Expand their Horizons

Three years ago, Big Brothers Big Sisters launched Mentor2.0, a new mentoring program at Harding University High School. This past school year, the program served more than 100 students at three grade levels (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.)

For this program, students at each grade level meet with their mentors monthly at structured, group events, and stay in touch by email between meetings. "One thing that makes Mentor2.0 unique is the group activities that allow students and mentors at each grade level the chance to interact with one another," says Ellery Franklin, Program Coordinator. "I think the comradery that develops is very positive for both the mentors and mentees who participate in the program. Students definitely benefit from their interactions with multiple mentors."

Jasmine and Lin (pictured at right) are one of the original Mentor2.0 matches. Jasmine just completed a successful junior year at Harding, taking AP classes and making the A/B Honor Roll. "I am very impressed with Jasmine's maturity and communication skills," says Lin. "She already has a good idea of what she'd like to do with her life and has set a goal of attending college and pursuing a business degree."

Jasmine shares, "Lin is very understanding and she's always there for me. She's helped me get through some tough times and has also offered lots of practical advice about how to get into and pay for college." She adds, "Mentor2.0 has helped me

be more of a leader. I've learned how to help others and how to take the lead in conversations."

Jasmine recently demonstrated her leadership and public speaking abilities when she spoke on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters at the Mecklenburg County budget hearings. Her testimony was a great addition to our case for continued county funding for our mentoring programs.

Jasmine and her Mentor2.0 classmates will be seniors this coming school year. Thanks to your support, these students will have experienced four years of mentoring by the time they graduate, helping them reach their full potential with increased self-confidence and educational aspirations.



photo by www.richtaylor.photography

Thanks to your support...

- More than 1,500 children in our region have life navigators who provide guidance, support, and a listening ear.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas will continue to develop innovative programs like Mentor2.0 to reach more youth of all ages each year. In this issue, learn more about *Bigs in Blue* and *Children of Families in Transition*, two programs launching this year.



New Name & Website

New name reflects growing geographic reach of our mentoring programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte is now **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas**. We've also launched a new, mobile-friendly website at bbbscentralcarolinas.org.

"It sounds like a small change, but it reflects something very big", says Donna Dunlap, CEO. "We now serve more than 1,500 children across Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and York counties. When we started serving children in York County in the fall of 2016, we decided that we needed a name that better represents who we are."

Dunlap adds, "As we celebrate our 45th year in this region, Big Brothers Big Sisters recognizes that there are thousands more children who would benefit from one-to-one mentoring, which is why we've continued to set aggressive goals for growth. The measurable impact of our programs is well aligned with the findings of the recent Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report. Big Brothers Big Sisters is excited to contribute to improved economic mobility for young people across this region."



Leaving a Legacy

There are several ways to include Big Brothers Big Sisters in your estate planning

Making a gift through your estate is one of the most effective ways to support Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission and vision for many years to come. Legacy gifts include a bequest in your will, a gift from your retirement plan, a gift from an annuity, a gift of life insurance policy, a gift of a trust, and a gift of real estate.

For more information about making a Legacy Gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters, contact:

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Outstanding Service

Departing board members have helped us serve more children

Members of our board of directors are some of our most passionate and dedicated volunteers, providing guidance and expertise to help us fulfill our mission and vision.

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to five members departing from our board this summer: Tom Brydon, Artie Collins, Emily DiNunzio, Patrick Rogers, and Kendria Sweet. Their contributions have helped our programs grow and thrive over the past decade, allowing us to provide mentors to record numbers of children. We appreciate your commitment to helping children reach their full potential.

Pictured at left: Tom Brydon with little brother Corey. Photo by www.richtaylor.photography.

Win Tickets to the PGA Championship!

Visit bbbscentralcarolinas.org/events/pga-championship-affle

Big Brothers Big Sisters is raffling two pairs of "sold out" Wanamaker Club tickets for the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow, August 10-13, 2017. Visit our website to learn how you can enter to win. All proceeds benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas. Tickets must be purchased by July 26th at 10 a.m.



Big Brothers Big Sisters Launches Two New Programs

Bigs in Blue and Children of Families in Transition (COFIT) will help Big Brothers Big Sisters provide more mentors to more children in our community



Big in Blue

Big Brothers Big Sisters is partnering with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) to launch Bigs in Blue, a one-to-one mentoring program that connects police with youth in communities where they serve.

Bigs in Blue was developed by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to address the pervasive problem, and often devastating consequences, of poor relations between police and the communities they serve. The program is currently operating in 25 cities with another 25+ coming on board soon.

The goal for the first year is to establish 30 mentoring relationships between CMPD officers from the Eastway and North Divisions and youth living in neighborhoods where they patrol. In the future we hope to replicate this program throughout Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and York counties.

Children of Families in Transition

Big Brothers Big Sisters is partnering with the YWCA and A Child's Place to provide mentors (Bigs) for children from families without permanent and stable housing. Our goal is to serve 30-50 children through this program over the next year.

The challenges and obstacles facing homeless children and teens are significant and can be devastating. Fortunately, there are organizations like A Child's Place and the YWCA who provide support and services to families without stable housing.

By pairing a mentor or "Big" with a homeless Little, and then continuing the relationship once their family has found a stable living arrangement, Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide the child with desperately-needed consistency during turbulent and transitional times.



Thanks to our Community Partners

- CMPD, Carolina Panthers Foundation, and Charlotte Knights Foundation for supporting Bigs in Blue
- Longleaf Foundation for supporting COFIT
- Carolinas Healthcare Systems and Quicken Loans for joining our Beyond School Walls program
- York County United Way and York County Community Foundation for helping us expand our mentoring programs in York County
- Peninsula Community Foundation and TIAA-CREF for supporting mentoring in the Central Carolinas
- Ron and Don Sherrill for their generous contribution to our *Match Challenge Campaign*
- EVERYONE who contributed to the success of our 2017 *Bowl for Kid's Sake*



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Carolinas

Serving Mecklenburg, Cabarrus,
and York Counties

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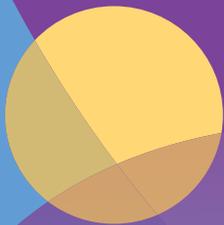
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Save the Date!

13th Annual Big Day at the Lake Saturday, July 22, 2017

Thanks to the many Lake Norman area residents and businesses who come together to share the lake with our Bigs and Littles, and raise money to pair more children with life-changing mentors.

More info: bigdayatthelake.com



MISSION:

To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

VISION:

That all children achieve success in life.

IMPACT:

Children with one-to-one mentors (Bigs) do better in school, feel better about themselves, and engage in less risky behaviors, such as drugs, alcohol, and fighting.

