

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

OF ERIE, NIAGARA & THE SOUTHERN TIER









# ANNUAL REPORT



# Note From the CEO



We realize that the concept of mentoring and what it takes to be a mentor can sound huge, but the truth is, it takes little to be Big. Mentoring is all about the **LITTLE MOMENTS** shared between a Little and a Big that have a **BIG IMPACT** on the life of a child.

As the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier, I hear about the little moments and their big impact each and every day. Moments like - playing basketball, working on an art project, having a slice of pizza, listening to your favorite song, or cheering on your favorite team. These little moments and the conversations that happen while our Littles and Bigs are sharing them lead to big moments like - feeling more confident, learning a new skill, getting a part-time job, and eventually graduating from high school.

Behind each one of these moments are the people like YOU who believe in the power of mentorship - our incredible Bigs, our leadership volunteers, our partners & ambassadors, our generous donors, our committed staff and of course, our wonderful families and children. Thank you for making our work possible.

I am proud to share some of our recent successes with you as highlighted in this report. Behind each number and each story, there are so many moments worth celebrating - from our continued commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; to expanding our reach in the Olean area to provide mentors to more children across our footprint - just to name a few.

Thank you for being a part of all of these moments and for standing with us as we work to help more children in our community achieve BIG things!

Emily R. L. Mahoney Chief Executive Officer

Small acts of kindness change the world.

It Takes Little to be BIG



Mission

## Expanding Our Impact in Cattaraugus County

It has been over **6 years** since Big Brothers Big Sisters expanded its services to the Olean area. We have a renewed and reinvigorated commitment to providing one-to-one mentoring to youth residing in the Olean Area and throughout Cattaraugus County and our efforts over the past year have resulted in greater community awareness and an increased number of children enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program.

#### Some highlights to celebrate from the past year include:

- The addition of a New Program Coordinator for Cattaraugus County who is committed to building partnerships and connecting with members of the community to impact the lives of more children through the power of mentorship.
- An official ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2023 to introduce the Olean office on Front Street to the community and to celebrate the impact of mentoring for local children.



2023 Cattaraugus County Pride Coalition Festival

- · New and expanded partnerships with local school districts and organizations.
- Being out in the community to share information and connect with families and potential volunteers

   including at the Olean Library, Farmer's Markets, Olean Pride event and opportunities to speak to
   local clubs.
- Providing training to staff, volunteers and families to ensure safe and high-quality mentoring relationships that will have a positive impact.

Together, with the support of our partners – new and long-standing – along with community leaders and our dedicated volunteers, Big Brothers Big Sisters will continue to grow!



On June 15, 2023 our BBBS Olean office held our official ribbon cutting ceremony

"I like being a Little Sister. I get to do fun things and have someone to talk to, too. My Big Sister is always there to support me on a bad day, when I ace a test, or if I need advice."

-Little Maddie, Olean, NY



# Relationship Responders



Our commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) remains strong and continues to grow with the guidance of the agency's Diversity Equity & Inclusion Task Force — a group composed of agency staff and community volunteers who are committed to supporting these efforts and providing on-going trainings and opportunities for staff, mentoring matches and the community. In response to the tragic events of May 14 in Buffalo, local staff had an opportunity to participate in a special JEDI training and discussion in November 2022 that was led by Eve Hemby, Director of JEDI at Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and Dr. Torie Weiston-Serdan.

Key staff were also able to attend the "Relationship Responders Training" hosted in Buffalo, NY as part of a national Big Brothers Big Sisters initiative that will assist agencies with tools, resources and members of the Big Brothers Big Sisters community for transitioning agencies to provide community support.

Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters continues to build our capacity in the JEDI space to increase our connection to the communities we serve and to provide mentoring that will have the greatest impact on children, families and communities.

## In the Community





Our staff, Bigs, Littles & families marched in this year's Buffalo Pride Parade





Participating in the year's Juneteenth celebration

## High School Bigs Mentoring

### **Launching Mentoring Programs in Local Schools**

With the start of the 2023-2024 school year comes the start of Big Brothers Big Sisters Site Based mentoring programs in MORE LOCAL SCHOOLS!

In the Site Based mentoring program model, mentoring matches meet weekly at a set time and location with the support of a Big Brothers Big Sisters Site Coordinator. The program often runs in a school building or a community center. This service delivery model also includes the High School Bigs Mentoring Program, in which a high school student is the mentor (Big) to an elementary or intermediate student within a school district.

#### Renewed Partner - Enterprise Charter School

For many years, Big Brothers Big Sisters had partnered with Enterprise Charter School in Downtown Buffalo to successfully provide mentoring to students at the school by utilizing local volunteer mentors from the community. After a brief pause in the partnership during the pandemic, this partnership is back for the 2023-2024 school year!

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities in this program, go to BiggerTogether.org or call (716) 873-5833. This volunteer opportunity is open to community members, including high school students who have completed 10th grade.

#### New Partner - Williamsville School District

This school year, Big Brothers Big Sisters is excited to launch a new High School Bigs Mentoring Program in partnership with the Williamsville School District!

High School students from the district will serve as Bigs to students attending Casey Middle School. Mentoring matches will meet weekly throughout the school year and participate in activities together that will help build skills and competencies related to their social-emotional wellbeing and academic success.

This program model impacts both the younger and older student by creating a healthy friendship within the school community and an opportunity to grow and learn from one another.

This program also operates in partnership with the following school districts: Lewiston-Porter, Maryvale and Royalton-Hartland. **Contact us to learn more about partnership opportunities!** 



# THOMAS HORE & JOSEPHINE SANTORO HORE 2023 BIGS OF THE YEAR



The Thomas Hore and Josephine Santoro Hore Big of the Year Award was created over 9 years ago to honor Bigs for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to being consistent and caring role models for their Littles.

The award celebrated the generous financial commitment that David T. Hore made to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier (BBBS) in honor of his parents, Thomas Hore and Josephine Santoro Hore, who he credits with giving him and his sister, Elizabeth Warren, the support and guidance they needed to succeed in life – much like the support and guidance that Big Brothers and Big Sisters give to their Littles.

The 2023 recipients of the 9th Annual Thomas Hore and Josephine Santoro Hore Bigs of the Year Award are Big Sister Darcy Hendershott and Big Brother Tim Silverstein. Both of these incredible Bigs have been matched with their Littles for years and recently got to cheer them on as they graduated high school!

### Congratulations to the 2023 Bigs of the Year: Big Sister Darcy Hendershott & Big Brother Tim Silverstein!



Big Sister Darcy Hendershott with her Little Sister Sarmadah



Big Brother Tim Silverstein with his Little Brother Noah

# THOMAS HORE & JOSEPHINE SANTORO HORE 2023 BIGS OF THE YEAR



### Big Sister Darcy Hendershott 2023 Recipient

Big Sister Darcy Hendershott met her Little Sister Sarmadah in 2018 when Sarmadah was 13 years old. When Darcy and Sarmadah first met, Sarmadah was shy, nervous to put herself out there, and was going through a hard time with school. Darcy and Sarmadah would often spend time together doing simple things, like playing their favorite board games, cooking, and just talking about whatever is going on in their lives.



Throughout the years, Darcy has helped Sarmadah gain confidence and self-esteem. Darcy shared that some of her favorite moments with Sarmadah were "seeing her go through her last moments in high school - her prom, her graduation, and her BBBS graduation as well. It was such an honor to see her become an adult, and it's hard to believe how fast it all happened."



Darcy says that the best part about being a Big "is watching your Little grow from a child to an adult. It's exciting to see them accomplish their goals and create new ones as they grow older."

Congratulations and a BIG thanks to Big Sister Darcy Hendershott for being an incredible Big!

To learn more about becoming a Big, go to **BiggerTogether.org**.



### Big Brother Tim Silverstein 2023 Recipient

Big Brother Tim Silverstein met his Little Brother Noah in 2016 when Noah was 11 years old. They quickly discovered that they had many shared interests, including sports and that they both enjoyed being to be active.

When they first met, Noah was struggling in school and Tim encouraged Noah to prioritize his school work and to hold himself accountable. Fast forward to June 2023 when Tim watched Noah as he walked across the stage to receive his high school diploma and also receive an award for his improvements in academics.

Tim has reflected on his time as a Big and shared, "I have watched him develop into a young man with great opportunity. That was further realized as I watched him walk across the stage at his high school graduation after winning a scholarship that was awarded based on leadership, respect, and work ethic, all of which were things I tried to impress on Noah."

Noah is now a freshman in college and has shared that Tim helped him "recognize that where you live does not determine what you will become in life. Your goals are up to you, but it is great to have a support system along the way."

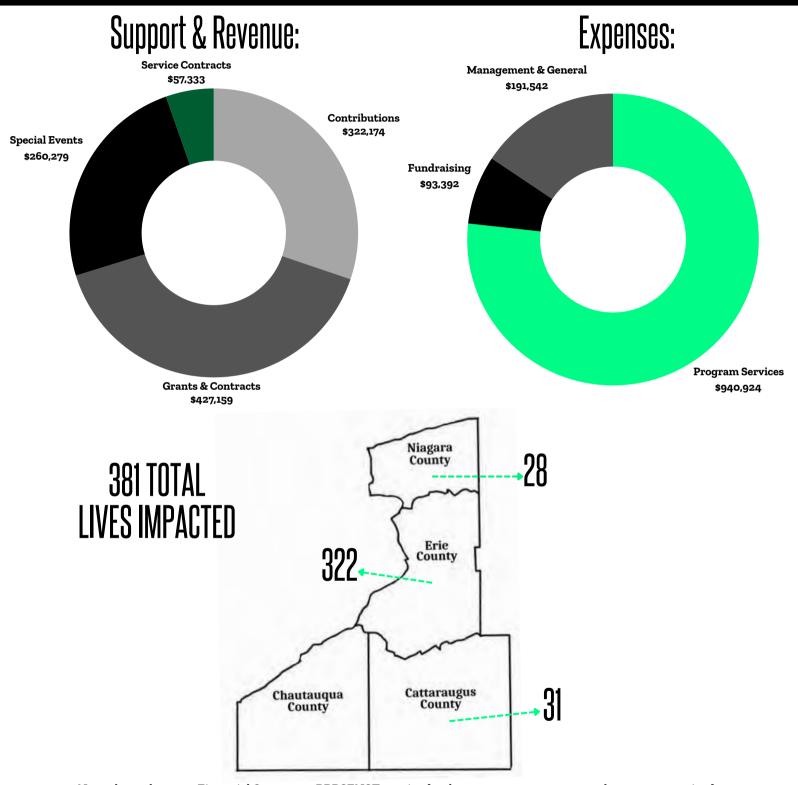
Noah's mother, Emily, shared that "Tim helped Noah realize he can accomplish anything he set his mind and hands on to accomplish. It's dedication, hard work and commitment. And reaching out to those who are there to help and support you."

Congratulations and a BIG thanks to Big Brother Tim Silverstein for being an incredible Big and congratulations to Noah, this year's Russell J. Salvatore Scholarship recipient!



## By The Numbers in 2022





Note about the 2022 Financial Summary: BBBSENST received a three-year \$300,000 grant that was recognized as revenue in 2020, however the organization will incur approximately \$100,000 in expenses related to the implementation of the grant in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Bonadio & Co., LLP prepared the 2022 audit. A full copy of the annual audit can be obtained from Be-A-Friend Program, Inc./Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier. The audit report is filed with the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, located at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

### Program Impact =

Detention Better Relationships
Trust Risky Behaviors
Self-Confidence Truancy
Bullying Higher Aspirations
Academic Success
Isolation

### Match Anniversaries ====

Congrats to all of our Bigs & Littles who celebrated 5+ anniversaries in 2022. Your commitment to your friendship is amazing and deserves recognition!

Big Sister Colleen & Little Sister Gazaira
Big Brother Kevin & Little Brother Robert
Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Sean
Big Brother Jamie & Little Brother Jamar
Big Brother Norman & Little Brother Jamill
Big Sister Sara & Little Sister Erica
Big Brother Matthew & Little Brother Isaiah

Big Brother Brandon & Little Brother Demarious
Big Brother James & Little Brother Dante
Big Sister Candice & Little Sister Avione
Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Christopher
Big Sister Erin & Little Sister Julianna
Big Brother Tim & Little Brother Noah
Big Brother Roemello & Little Brother TreSean

Our apology for any errors or omissions in the above list



# Thank You For Supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters



The following list showcases some of the generous financial commitments Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier received in 2022\*. We would also like to thank the generous donors who are not listed here for their incredible support. Together, these investments helped ignite the power and promise of 393 children facing adversity!

#### \$25,000 & Up

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National Office\* City of Buffalo - Community Development Block Grant Erie County - Department of Social Services

Erie 1 Boces

Mr. David T. Hore

KeyBank in Partnership with First Niagara Foundation

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\*Includes pass through grants from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and NFL Inspire Change

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

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<sup>\*</sup>This list includes donations made between January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier

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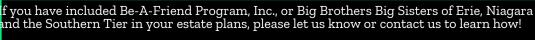
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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of these listings and that the generosity of our donors were properly recognized. If your support was omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincerest apology and notify us by contacting Kara Cantrell, Director of Development & Community Relations, at (716) 873-5833, ext. 245 or Kara.Cantrell@bbbsenst.org.

\*This list includes donations made between January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie, Niagara and the Southern Tier. Unless otherwise noted, this list does not include any gifts In-Kind of items or services.



Contact Kara L. Cantrell, Director of Development & Community Relations, at (716)873-5833 ext. 245 or Kara.Cantrell@bbbsenst.org

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### **Ambassadors Board**

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Ambassadors Board, formally known as the Young Professionals Board, is comprised of dedicated professionals across the community who donate their time, expertise and ideas to help Big Brothers Big Sisters continue to grow and reach new levels of success.

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## Small acts of kindness change the world. Join the movement!

A Million Little Moments is all about highlighting the impact of small acts from mentors, family members, friends, coaches, teachers, and caring supporters.

Share your stories and let's show the world how Little It Takes to Be BIG at BeBigNow.org. Follow us on social media @BBBSENST

