



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Metro Milwaukee

788 North Jefferson Street, Suite 600
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3739

(414) 258-4778
bbbsmilwaukee.org

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Partnering to
change lives and
improve our
community



An Inspiration
to Each Other



Big Brothers Big
Sisters Celebrates
Our High School
Graduates



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of Metro Milwaukee

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/
FALL 2018

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS CELEBRATES OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

This summer marked a major milestone for many of our Big Brothers Big Sisters matches. Mentors and families beamed with pride while our mentor2.0 and Community-based seniors received their high school diplomas.

Overall, 98% of all high school seniors in Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring program graduated on time, and 70% enrolled in post-secondary education. **Congratulations to all the graduates, their mentors, and their families on achieving this outstanding accomplishment!**



OPPORTUNITIES GROW FOR BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS' mentor2.0 STUDENTS

THINK BACK ON YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. FOR MANY OF US, THESE WERE YEARS OF EXCITEMENT. POISED ON THE THRESHOLD OF ADULthood, WE LOOKED FORWARD TO A FUTURE OF UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES AS WE EXPLORED POSSIBLE CAREERS OR PLANNED TO CONTINUE OUR STUDIES.

When youth in Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring program begin high school, they may not see a future of possibilities. Many face financial, language and cultural barriers that make it hard for them to navigate the education system. Often these teens will become the first generation in their families to graduate from high school.

Mentor2.0 is Big Brothers Big Sisters' curriculum-based, technology-enhanced high school

mentoring program. It combines the one-to-one relationship model Big Brothers Big Sisters is known for—with a twist. Our mentor2.0 volunteers communicate with their mentees through a secure online platform. Big Brothers Big Sisters staff provide weekly curriculum-focused lessons in the classroom and facilitate monthly face-to-face meetings with each class, so mentors and students can work on lessons together.

Lessons are designed to help students explore all post-secondary options. Youth develop essential non-cognitive or "soft skills," such as critical thinking, perseverance, character, and utilizing a growth mindset. Volunteer mentors—all career-focused, college educated, adults—encourage them with real-life examples and offer invaluable advice, support, guidance, and friendship.

To implement mentor2.0, Big Brothers Big Sisters partnered with Veritas High School on Milwaukee's south side. Mentors are matched with incoming freshmen. Relationships continue throughout high school and through students' first year of post-secondary education. This summer our first class of mentor2.0 students graduated from high school! As this program continues into its 5th year, for the first time in our 43 year history, Big Brothers Big Sisters will continue to provide professional support to any mentoring match who wants our guidance beyond high school.

The future is full of unlimited opportunities. With their mentors' help, students in our mentor2.0 program are on their way!

SPECIAL EVENTS

FACING THE FUTURE TOGETHER



Join us for this year's **Big Gala: A Celebration of Mentoring** on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Pfister Hotel. This special event brings together over 350 area business and community leaders. Make a reservation today by calling (414) 831-4580 or email gala@bbbsmilwaukee.org.



Thank you to presenting sponsor BMO Harris Bank and all of the golfers, NFL alumni celebrities, sponsors, and volunteers who made our 28th annual NFL Alumni Golf Classic a BIG success! With your help, we met our goal and raised over \$172,000 to support the children we serve.



DONOR IMPACT:

PARTNERING TO CHANGE LIVES AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY

THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER MILWAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTY CHANGES LIVES AND IMPROVES OUR COMMUNITY. BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS HAS BEEN A PROUD PARTNER OF UNITED WAY SINCE 2005.

When you make a donation, you **change lives** for people in our community. Funding from the United Way through our allocation and donor designations helps Big Brothers Big Sisters place children facing adversity into one-to-one mentoring relationships. Many of the children we serve come from single-parent homes, and their families often struggle financially. Their neighborhood may not be safe, they may face bullying at school, or they may have an incarcerated parent.

Big Brothers Big Sisters **changes lives** by matching these children with caring adult volunteers. With our evidence-based mentoring model and a mentor to encourage, listen to, and inspire them, youth are more likely to succeed in school. They are less likely to engage in harmful risky behaviors like alcohol and drug abuse. Finally, children with a mentor develop social and emotional skills that eventually help them grow into strong, healthy adults. But the life-

changing impact of your gift doesn't end there.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' professional support staff **changes the lives** of each child's family. Whether providing children with backpacks stocked with school supplies, inviting moms and dads to enriching parent engagement events, or supporting the family with resources and referrals, Big Brothers Big Sisters staff members wrap their care around entire families.

Volunteer mentors report that becoming a Big Sister or a Big Brother **changed their life** for the better too. Mentors develop leadership skills, self-awareness, and cultural sensitivity as well as perspective. One volunteer said "mentoring allows me to see people outside of the community I live in, and not just from the youth perspective, but even other mentors are from all over the city. It's really allowed me to see the fabric of the community."

Thank you to all our donors who help change lives for children, families, and volunteers in our community. If you would like to help change a life for the better, forever, please give generously through your company's United Way campaign, or visit bbbsmilwaukee.org/donate.

AN INSPIRATION TO EACH OTHER

WHEN BERTHA ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL FOUR YEARS AGO, COLLEGE SEEMED LIKE AN UNACHIEVABLE DREAM. "I'M THE FIRST GENERATION TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, SO GOING TO COLLEGE IS NOT A VERY BIG TRADITION IN MY FAMILY," BERTHA SAID.

Her mentor Treanna graduated from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in Business. She currently works at GE Healthcare in Waukesha. Treanna's experience served as an inspiration to Bertha.

"The mentor2.0 program has really kept me motivated," Bertha said. "There have been times when I've thought about giving up, when I thought 'I don't really need to go to college.' But then my mentor Treanna pulled me up and reminded me what I need to be successful. Being a first generation student, I don't have that at home."

Without Treanna's example and encouragement, Bertha believes her life would have taken a different track: "In all honesty, if I wasn't in mentor2.0, I would have wanted to go to college, but I probably wouldn't have. I would have made excuses and just tried to look for a decent job. But Treanna has been very inspirational to me."

Now 18 years old and a freshman in college, Bertha knows exactly what she wants to do with her life. "I know I want to help people, especially

those in poverty." Bertha is attending UW-Madison, where she plans to go into the medical field, studying psychology and neurology.

While Bertha credits Treanna with being her inspiration, Treanna glows as she returns the compliment. Treanna said, "Thinking about the first day we met and how much Bertha and I have really grown together... seeing her actually accomplish something that she thought she couldn't do... I'm so proud of her. Bertha is an inspiration."



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