



Big Brothers Big Sisters

OF GREY BRUCE

Volunteer Information Package

We're Big Brothers Big Sisters

For over one hundred years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been making a positive difference in the lives of our nation's youth by developing and implementing a wide range of mentoring programs. We provide one-to-one and group programs, for both in school and outside of school.

Serving as role models, our Bigs teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, the importance of education, and of having respect for self, family, peers and community. Each time we match a Big and a Little or introduce a group of students to an in-school program, something incredible is built – a life-changing relationship built on friendship, trust and empowerment.

Standing with a youth and empowering them to become a confident, concerned and motivated young person is a remarkable thing. Walking with them into adulthood, seeing them grow into a successful, responsible member of their community and society at large is truly humbling. Proudly, it's something our staff, volunteers and donors help bring about every day, and we're very grateful for their generosity and support.

Whether it's in the form of time or money there is no more important investment we as individuals can make than in helping our nation's youth realize – and share – their full potential.

We're Big Brothers Big Sisters, and we believe in the value and values of mentoring.

Fostering Success

We believe every youth should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, both as individuals and citizens .

We believe that by standing with youth in our communities, it could lead to a reduction in poverty and unemployment, to safer schools and neighbourhoods, and to a renewed optimism for growth.

Fostering Success

We believe every youth should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, both as individuals and citizens .

We believe that by standing with youth in our communities, it could lead to a reduction in poverty and unemployment, to safer schools and neighbourhoods, and to a renewed optimism for growth.



Vision

"All young people realize their full potential"

Mission

"Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people"



We believe that opening a child's eyes to what is-opens their mind to what could be.

Over 100 Years of Making a Difference in Communities

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada is a Federation comprised of 102 member agencies servicing more than 1100 communities across the country.

Each Big Brother Big Sister agency provides direct service to youth by matching them with a Big, in quality mentoring relationships. Our agency staff members are experts at screening volunteers and matching them with a Little having similar interests.

The national organization provides services and programs to member agencies to assist them with their hands-on work with parents, youth, and volunteers. Services range from staff training workshops to our leading Child Safety Program, which includes an emphasis on abuse prevention and recognition. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada works diligently to ensure that program quality is superior in all parts of the country.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce has been creating friendships since 1960 when a working committee of interested citizens met at the YMCA to found the organization. In 1964 the local organization was one of the founding members of Big Brothers of Canada.

The organization was incorporated in 1985 and complies with the Organizational and Service Delivery Standards of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grey Bruce is completely financed by local sponsorship and grants. It employs a full time professional caseworker. A volunteer Board of Directors is responsible for the operation of the organization.

How Big Brothers Big Sisters Works

A "Little" is a youth between the ages of 6 and 16 who is in need of mature, adult mentoring outside the home. They may be having trouble adjusting to everyday life or may just be a child in need of a supportive friend and champion.

A "Big" is a caring adult over the age of 18 who wants to stand alongside a youth and ignite the potential within them. They volunteer to give some of their time to that youth. It may be only a couple hours a week, but it could dramatically change both the Big and the Little's life.

Great care is taken to ensure that any volunteer is of sound character before they are approved as a Big Brother or Big Sister and are matched with a "Little". The Big and Little then spend time together, getting to know each other and sharing their interests.

Youth Need Mentors

Every Little that comes into our programs comes with their own 'story'. Some have two parents, some have one parent, some live with their grandparent, and some are in the foster care system, but all could use another adult in their lives, a person who can share their problems and their joys, give advice, and help develop their interests.

Great care is taken to ensure that any volunteer is of sound character before they are approved as a Big Brother or Big Sister and are matched with a "Little". The Big and Little then spend time together, getting to know each other and sharing their interests.

Youth Need Mentors

Every Little that comes into our programs comes with their own 'story'. Some have two parents, some have one parent, some live with their grandparent, and some are in the foster care system, but all could use another adult in their lives, a person who can share their problems and their joys, give advice, and help develop their interests.



Join Our Leadership Team

Board of Directors Mandate

The Board will continuously monitor their organization's programs and activities to be sure they are aligned with the mission to achieve short-term goals and long-term purpose. They will exercise fiduciary responsibility to obtain and appropriately use resources required to carry out the organization's mission.

Code of Ethics

In the Big Brothers Big Sisters movement, services performed by staff in supporting the personal, emotional and psychological well being of a child can be generally classified as social work. Social work is a profession that endeavours to foster human welfare through professional services and activities aimed at enhancing, maintaining, or restoring the social functioning of the person. Our members believe in the dignity and worth of each human being regardless of individual differences.

Statement of Diversity

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, our commitment to diversity is our promise to each other and the communities we serve. We strive to reach out to and welcome every child, every mentor, every staff person and every volunteer so that we may support, strengthen, benefit from and contribute to the richness and complexity that is Canada. Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to being an inclusive movement in which differences are valued and respected in all aspects of service delivery and organizational practices. By continually demonstrating our commitment to these principles, we enrich ourselves and the lives of those we are dedicated to serving.



Studies by Big Brothers Big Sisters show that mentored youth are: 27% less likely to start drinking, 52% less likely to skip a day of school, 33% less likely to act violently.

Responsible for determining policies and procedures and for monitoring organizational performance to achieve the mission and mandate of Big Brothers Big Sisters Grey Bruce.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Understand and demonstrate a commitment to the organization's mission and programs

- Keep up to date with issues and trends that affect the organization
- Be informed about agency policies and programs in order to support adherence to the National Standards as set out by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada
- Prepare for meetings by reading agendas, minutes, reports and other documentation required to actively participate in them
- Attend meetings regularly
- Contribute skills and knowledge by participating actively in meetings and committee work
- Make inquiries when clarification or more information is needed
- Get to know other committee members and build a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus
- Understand and monitor the organization's financial affairs including review and approval of annual budgets
- Avoid any potential conflicts of interest
- Understand and maintain confidentiality
- Share in the oversight of staff including review and approval of employment contracts
- Ensure the organization is complying with all legal and regulatory requirements
- Be an active participant in the committee's annual evaluation and planning efforts
- Participate in fundraising for the organization and any events related thereto
- Participate in orientation, educational and strategic planning sessions;
- Be available for unscheduled meetings and phone calls;
- Serve as an ambassador for the organization; Harmony Centre, 890 4th Avenue West, Owen Sound, ON.
- Assist in the recruitment of new Board members, volunteers and Big Brothers and Big Sisters; and
- Assist in fostering positive relationships among the Board, staff and community to support fulfillment of organizational mandate.

TERM OF SERVICE

Upon acceptance as a Board member you agree to serve a minimum of one year.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings are scheduled to meet board member schedules and are currently held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Grey Bruce office located at the

EXPENSES

Board members will be reimbursed for approved expenses.

SUMMARY OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

Board members are protected under Big Brothers Big Sisters Grey Bruce insurance policy held by GOWAN Insurance.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION

If I become a Board Member, do I have to be a Big Brother or Big Sister?

ANSWER

No. Although some Board Members are Big Brothers or Big Sisters, you will work to direct the organization.

QUESTION

Is there someone who handles the day-to-day casework and office work?

ANSWER

Yes. We have employed a Professional Caseworker to carry out the day-to-day work of the agency.

QUESTION

How much time is required?

ANSWER

That is up to you, but generally two to four hours a month is required to prepare for and attend Board meetings. There may be additional time required for board committees or special events.

QUESTION

Do I get paid?

ANSWER

No. This is a volunteer position.

QUESTION

How often does the Board meet?

ANSWER

Once a month for approximately two hours.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Call: 519-376-9494 or

Email: ed.greybruce@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



QUESTION

Will being a Board member cost me any money?

ANSWER

No.

QUESTION

Are there men and women on the Board?

ANSWER

Yes. The Board is made up of a cross section of the community including men and women.

QUESTION

Is there a screening process that I must go through?

ANSWER

Yes. You will be interviewed, references will be required and a police check completed.

QUESTION

How long am I expected to sit on the Board?

ANSWER

Currently, a single term is three years. We ask that you commit to at least one year. After each term you can decide if you would like to continue to help us out and after three (3) terms we ask that you take a one year leave of absence.