



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**

OF GREY BRUCE & WEST SIMCOE

20
23

ANNUAL REPORT

Location: 890 4th Avenue E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 2N7

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Website: greybruce.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



"Big Brothers Big Sisters, A place I belong – Mentee"

BUILDING TOGETHER



WORDS FROM

Dan Snow, Board President

2023 was an exciting year of change for our agency. Along with serving my first year as Board President, our growing agency implemented a new donor management system, welcomed three new members to our Board, created a new Strategic Plan, strengthened our policies and community partnerships and most importantly, increased youth engagement in our community, group and in-school programs.

All of this would not have been possible without the talent, dedication and hard work of our staff, our community of volunteers and the funding we receive through our network of committed supporters. Our excellent staff led by Executive Director Beth Aubrey are the core foundation of our agency and each day they manage multiple priorities, are fully engaged throughout our community and are focused on our vision of creating communities where young people belong and are empowered to unlock their potential.

The community of volunteers start with our “Bigs” who are front and center, creating a positive environment for the growth and development of youth. The full suite of other volunteers include our event supporters, my fellow Board members and the many community partners who commit their time, enthusiasm and efforts throughout the year.

Our network of funding supporters who all invest in the future of local youth range from corporate partners to private foundations, government agencies and individual donors. This network of committed supporters enables our agency to exist and thrive in a very tough economic landscape. We thank you all for your investment.

Reflecting back, 2023 was a very busy and rewarding year of change. The excellent video created by our Youth Council sums it up well - “Foster change to be an advocate for a healthier tomorrow”

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our *year of change* in 2023. We look forward to our collective success in the future as we continue to *build together*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF, 2023

Chair: Dan Snow

Vice-Chair: Donna Whetstone

Treasurer: Bret Shepley

Secretary: Rehana Ciriani

Director: Widdad Al-Busaidy

Director: Jennifer Trenbeth

Director: Cindy Wheeler

Director: Tim Mohr

Director: Cynthia Connolly

Executive Director: Beth Aubrey

Mentorship Coordinator: Drew Woods

Mentorship Coordinator: Tianna Krampien

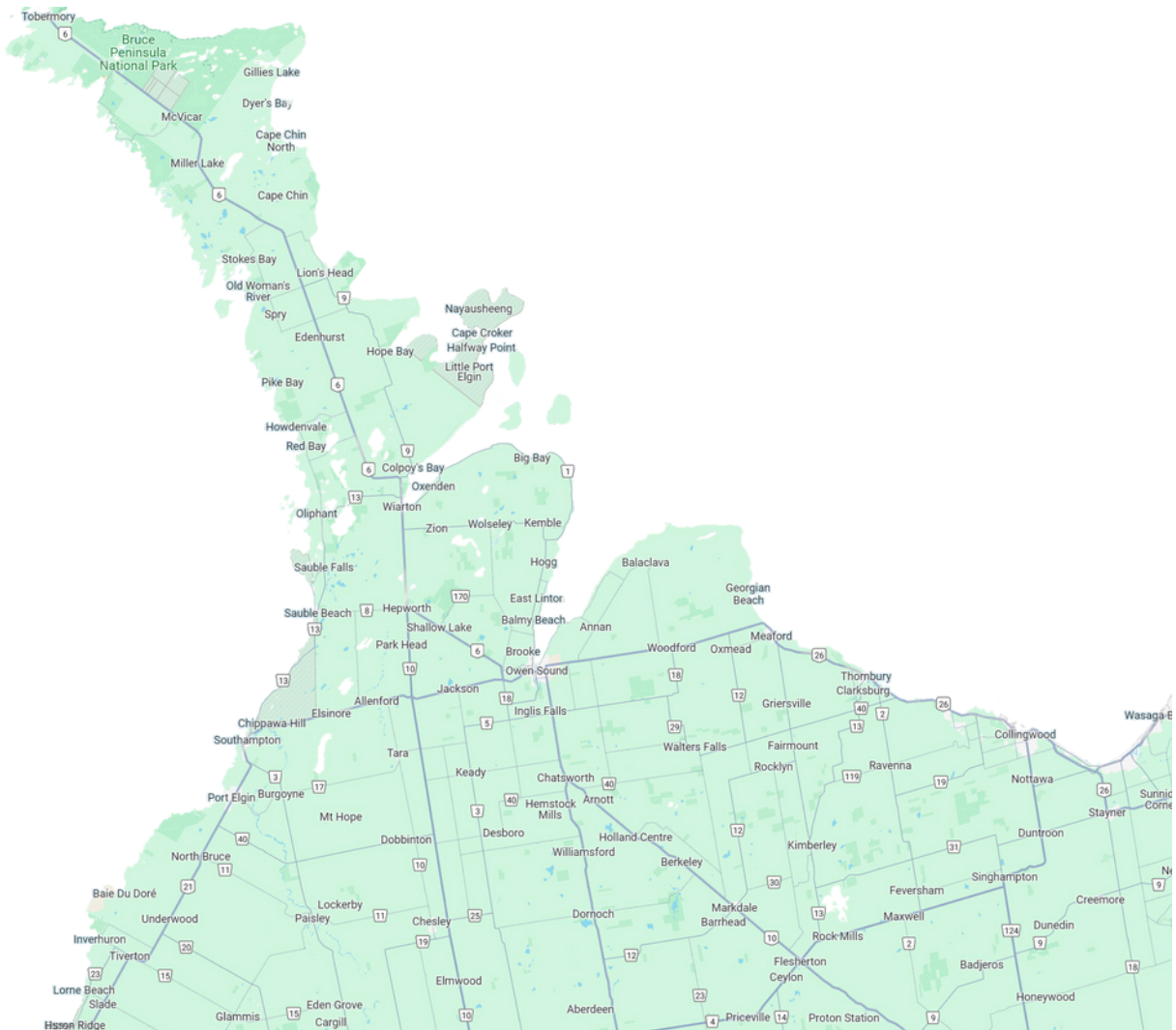
Fundraiser & Development: Kat Scott

MISSION

PROVIDE ONE-TO-ONE AND GROUP MENTORING PROGRAMS THAT FOSTER GROWTH AND BUILD COMMUNITY.

VISION

TO CREATE COMMUNITIES WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE BELONG AND ARE EMPOWERED TO UNLOCK THEIR POTENTIAL.



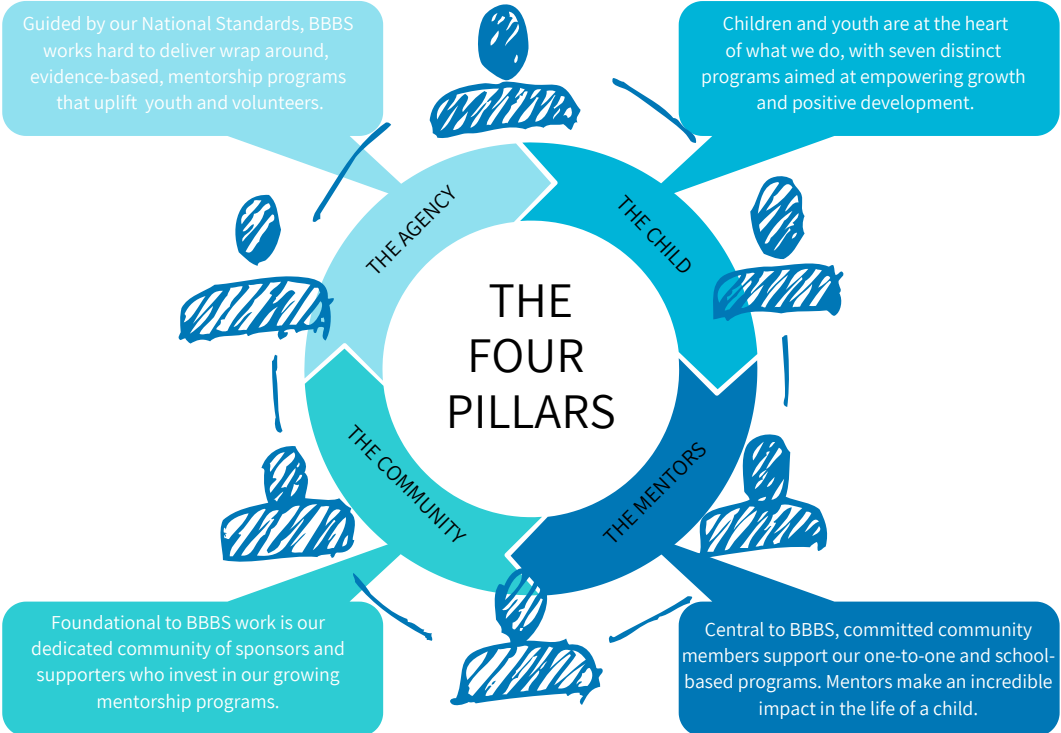
COMMUNITY APPROACH

Prevention and fostering networks of support are essential to the Big Brothers Big Sisters model. **We invest in children, youth and families through community-based programs that, center the child, ensure healthy eco-systems, and support positive development.**

By integrating the community, family, agency and Mentor, youth are surrounded by and connected to the many benefits that mentorship provides. By expressing care, demonstrating support, sharing power, and challenging growth, our programs and services expand possibilities.

Children and youth supported through our growing programs and services self report numerous benefits from improved health and wellbeing to higher educational engagement and employability. Long term studies tell a similar story with **mentored youth reporting life long success.**

By offering programs that integrate recreation, intergenerational connections, and opportunities for learning, **we invest in children and youth in deep and meaningful ways.**





PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

IN COMMUNITY 1:1 MENTORING

This mentoring program, at the heart of BBBS, allows youth (ages 6-16) to connect with a role model in the community. Through regular outings, relationships are developed, built on trust, support and common interests. The program, with a focus on prevention, takes a community-based approach and reached 158 youth and volunteers in 2023 alone.

“Angela and I met less than one year ago and she has already made a huge impact in my life. Angela is never upset, she always has a smile, we laugh, we joke, we tell each other stuff. I trust her. Angela has helped me grow to be a better person. Angela has helped encourage me become the best version of me. She has helped encourage me to overcome my fears” (Little).

“Our grandson met Mike initially at his school. The trust and acceptance began there and flourished as they became big and little through the BBBS organization. That was 4 years ago, the relationship has continued to flourish since. Graiden will say Mike trusts him and accepts him. As Graiden’s grandparents, having a young man like Mike in Graiden’s life has been nothing short of amazing, such a positive and caring influence” (Family)

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

LEARN IT!

‘LEARN IT!’ enhances students’ ability to learn within the classroom by complimenting key learning objectives in one-to-one or small group setting. With a focus on numeracy and literacy, youth in grades three to eight learn new skills in a fun, creative, and youth-centered learning environments. The program supports education achievements through a mentorship approach and reached six schools in 2023.

GO KIDS!

This small-group mentorship program focuses on achieving healthy bodies and healthy minds. ‘Go Kids’ teaches youth about positive lifestyle habits, builds emotional wellness and promotes resilience. The ten week program supports the healthy development of young people through life skills, in-school classes and group mentorship.

GAME ON!

‘Game On!’ applies a mentorship approach to provide small groups within schools information and support to make informed choices about a range of healthy lifestyle practices. Through non-traditional physical activities, participants are engaged in life skills, communication and emotional health discussions designed to support participants in the pursuit of life-long healthy lifestyles.

GROUP-BASED MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

OUTDOOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

This program offers youth the opportunity to get outside all year long at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre. Offered monthly, the program welcomes Bigs, Littles, volunteers and families to share in land-based learning and skill development. Proudly supported by the James Goreski Foundation, the program provides intergenerational learning opportunities focused on community building, relational wellbeing, and mentorship. In 2023, the program offered 135 camp seats to local youth!

BIG BUNCH

Our monthly Big Bunch drop-in program welcomes Mentors and Mentees. Hosted in rotating regions across our three counties, the 2023 program offered educational workshops, outdoor group activities, and countless opportunities for connection, resourcing and support.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council was established in the fall of 2022 and continues to welcome youth monthly. The Council’s primary objective is to amplify youth voices around issues that affect our community and the council has been doing just that. In 2023, the council received 150 hours of training and lead numerous social-justice-focused, community betterment initiatives.

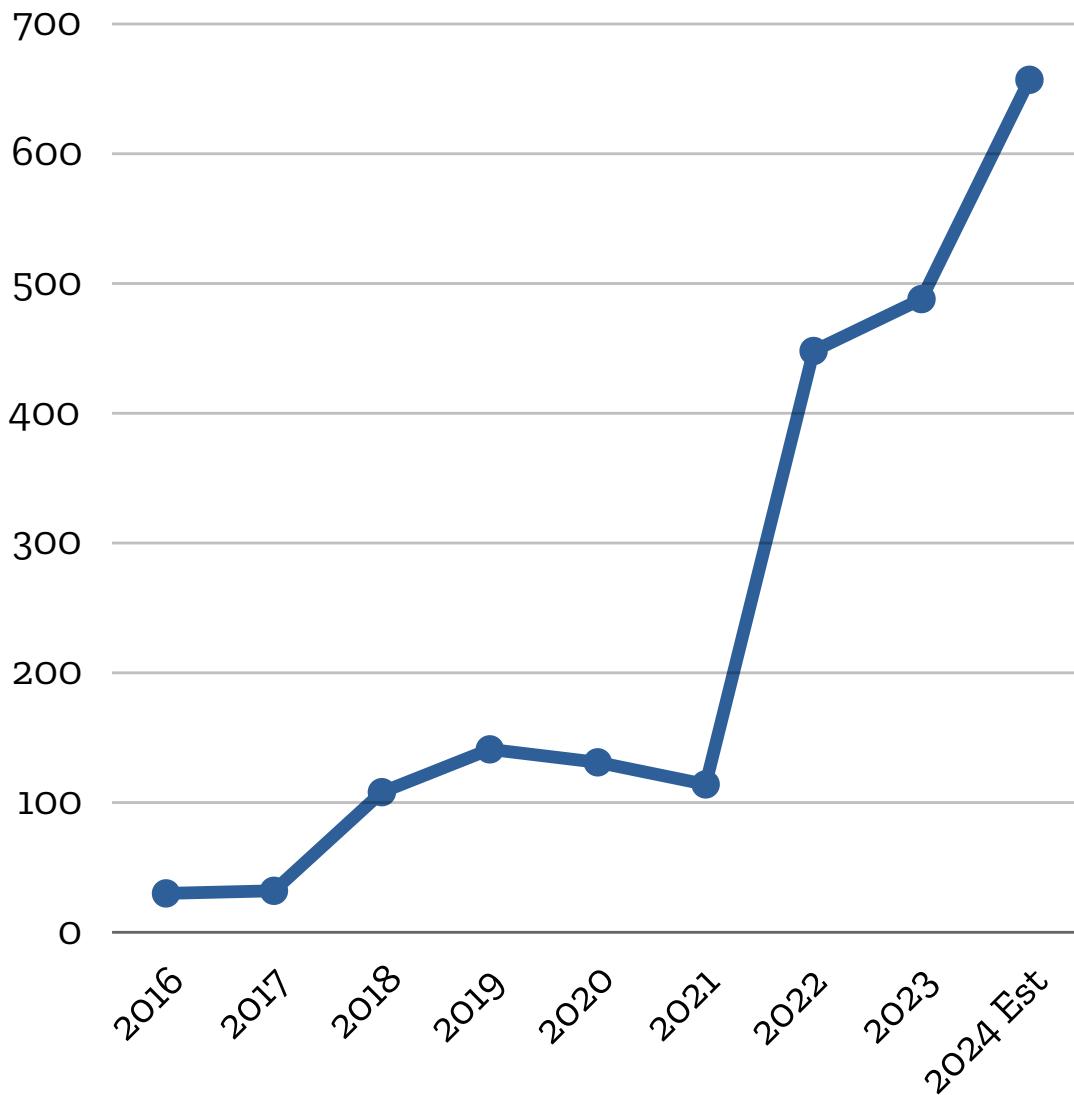
WHAT

From our one-to-one to our school and community-based group services, our mentorship programs support healthy development while combatting adverse childhood experiences.

WHY

Evidence shows youth exposed to opportunities for growth and networks of support have better overall life outcomes alongside increased mental health and wellbeing.

Total Number of Youth Service Points (all programs, 2016-2024)



PART OF OUR STORY

Healthy, Connected Communities Thrive

Support and endorsement from community partners help ensure our programs continue to grow and thrive. As an essential *part of our story*, our valued partners demonstrate their belief in our mission by investing in our growing programs, year after year. 2023 seen a noted investments in service delivery as BBBS shaped and re-shaped its programs and services to meet the expanding needs of youth and families. Here is how the community and our supporters made our work possible.

PARTNERS MATTER.

In addition to Bowl for Kid's Sake and Golf for Kid's Sake, BBBS held its first ever Bigger Together Pickleball tournament. Proceeds from all three events totaled \$65,000 with support from Bruce Power, Century 21, Shankar Law, Scotia Wealth Management, the Power Workers Union, Wakeford Company, Walker Aggregates, Beyond Reach Production, the Tailored Pickleball Academy, Buchner Manufacturing, Calhoun Super Structures & Nicole Insurance.



CHARITY OF CHOICE MEETS COMMUNITY NEED.

Big Brothers Big Sisters relies heavily on flow through funding from community partners. Once again, The Sound Charity Shootout provided BBBS with a \$8,500 donation and the Bluewater Education School Board made a large investment in our school-based programs. We thank these local partners for investing in our programs and supporting our impact in the community.

FUNDERS THAT SPARK ACTION.

Government of Canada – Community Services Recovery Funding: BBBS received \$38,500 in funding to upgrade and adapt its foundational systems. This upgrade supported enhanced internal practices and standards of care.

James Goreski Foundation – Once again the Outdoor Wellness program was fully funded by the Goreski Foundation, welcoming youth and families monthly as one of BBBS most popular programs.



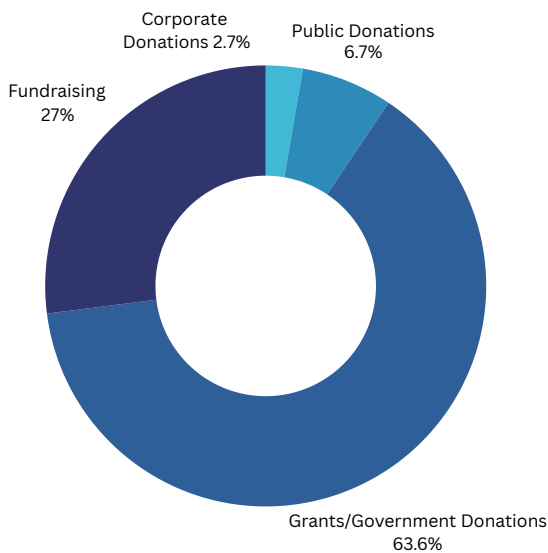
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Revenue increased over 35% from 2022 to 2023 largely due to Ontario Trillium funding, Community Services Recovery funding and a noted increase in grant acquisition. Diversification of funding, strategic fundraising, new partnerships and support from one-time government funding sustained the agency over the duration of 2023. Growth in programs and needed expansion in staffing resulted in higher expenditures in 2023. 2024 forecasts a noted increase in service delivery, a need for optimization of operational efficiencies, and an increased focus on long-term financial resilience.

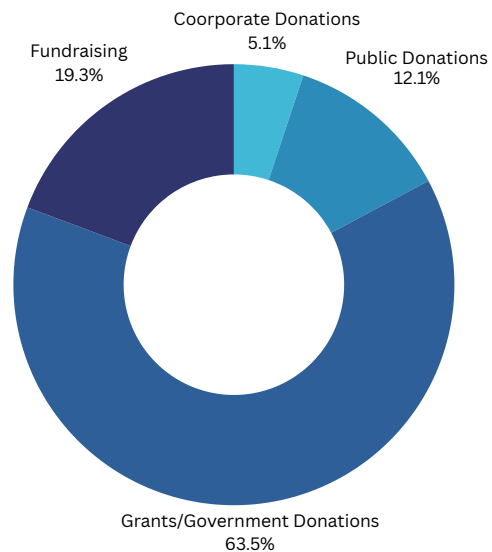
Statement of Operations	2022	2023
Revenue	\$245,059	\$385,843
Expenditures	\$256,369	\$379,710
Net	-\$11,310	\$6,133



2022 Revenue Breakdown:



2023 Revenue Breakdown:



THANK YOU

In 2023, Big Brothers Big Sisters was supported by a number of incredible sponsors. A special thank you to our Diamond (\$10,000+) and Platinum (\$5000+) contributors for believing in our vision and helping bring our mission to life. We also thank our many gold, silver, bronze and friend contributors as well as the countless community members who attended our fundraisers and the businesses who provided in-kind donations for those events. **You are part of our community!**

DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS

Shankar Law, Century 21, Peninsula Ford Lincoln, Community Foundation Grey Bruce, Power Workers Union, Beyond Reach Productions, Ken Grivel, Mark Perry, Vicky-Lynn Hicks, King & Associates, Lindsey Bradbury, Rogers TV, Bayshore Broadcasting, Owen Sound Attack, Rotary Club of Wiarton, Municipality of Meaford, Collingwood Today, Pepsico, Scenic Caves Nature Adventures, Foodland, the Womens Cave, Barclay Wholesale, Walmart Owen Sound, CIBC, & Noble.



OUR VALUED PARTNERS

LITTLE MOMENTS





Big Brothers Big Sisters

OF GREY BRUCE & WEST SIMCOE



AGENCY INFORMATION

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