



# LIFE CHANGING IMPACT

2023 IMPACT REPORT



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
OF WESTCHESTER & PUTNAM

# INTRODUCTION

# CHANGING PERSPECTIVES. CHANGING LIVES.

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 7 through young adulthood in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

## ABOUT US

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. And we couldn't do any of it without you.

## MISSION

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

## VISION

All youth achieve their full potential.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community we are accountable for each child in our program achieving:

- Higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational success



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

We are so proud to bring to your attention the remarkable milestones achieved by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester and Putnam as it enters its 65th year as an affiliate of the federation of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Additionally, I would like to highlight its second complete year as a standalone 501(c)(3) organization.

As you may already know, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester and Putnam has been a beacon of hope and support for our communities, positively impacting the lives of more than 450 children in the region. The organization's dedicated and compassionate volunteers have been instrumental in providing mentorship and guidance to at-risk children, empowering them to overcome challenges and realize their full potential.

Over the past six and a half decades, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester and Putnam has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering meaningful relationships between mentors and mentees. By pairing caring adults with young individuals facing adversity, the organization has successfully created a support system that nurtures personal growth, self-confidence, and resiliency among our youth.

The impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester and Putnam extends far beyond the individual mentoring relationships. Through our programs and initiatives, our amazingly dedicated staff, an incredible board, and our nearly 200 volunteer mentors, the organization has played a significant role in strengthening our community as a whole. By investing in the next generation and equipping them with the necessary tools for success, we are building a brighter future for our region.

## **Our goals for 2024 continue to be ambitious:**

- Serve more children by expanding our levels of private and public funding
- Recruit more volunteer mentors
- Strengthen our school-based program, teaching older grade students to be positive role models to younger grade students
- Continue to build our Big Futures program, ensuring the continuance of every child in our program having a post-secondary plan for college or a career
- Continue to offer virtual tutors to every program participant who needs one
- Continue to support training and education opportunities for our team

Thanks to you and your unwavering support, we are able to continue to empower at-risk children and provide them and their household members with opportunities to thrive. I am confident that with our joint continued efforts, we will have countless success stories in the years to come.

## **Together, we can continue to create a positive and nurturing environment for our children.**



Val Brown, CEO  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester & Putnam

# GREAT MEMORIES FROM 2023

**BIG FUTURES SUMMER INTERNSHIP**



**GOLD AGENCY AWARD**



**SUMMER GAMES**



**DREAM BIG GALA**



**ARCADE MATCH ENGAGEMENT EVENT**



**FARM MATCH ENGAGEMENT EVENT**



**HOLIDAY PARTY**



**BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**



# MATCH PROFILE: BIG JOHN + LITTLE JAIDEN

**S**ometimes timing and intention are a heartbeat away from the miraculous. The match between Big John and Little Jaiden is a great example of this.

It can be challenging to find a Big with the patience, compassion, and—especially important—commitment to the long term, that are crucial when matching a Little from a high-stress family background. But John came to us intent on mentoring a child with a difficult upbringing. The profound insights he learned from working with children and families in Africa, coupled with his experience serving as a Big Brother twice before in two different states, in addition to 9 other mentoring relationships in his life, made him uniquely qualified for any mentoring challenge.

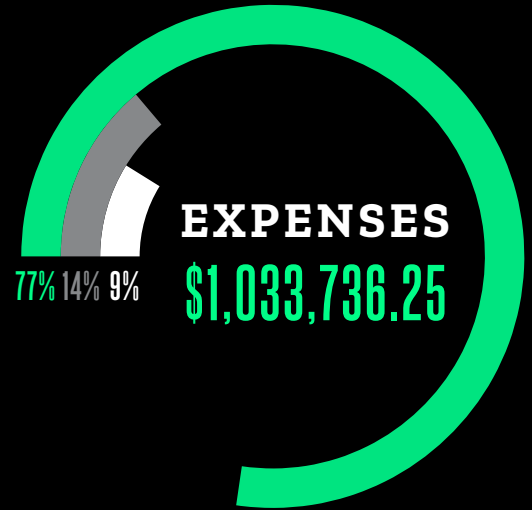
At the same time, we received a call from a loving and concerned woman whose grandson, Jaiden, was in her care. Jaiden's father is serving a life sentence in prison, she explained, and his mother lost custody due to a Child Protective Services case for physical and emotional abuse. Due to his mental health diagnosis and behavioral concerns, Jaiden attends a specialized school. He has a Care Manager who works closely with the family, and a therapist; however, his grandmother was determined for Jaiden to have a strong, positive male role model in his life.

Big John stepped right up to the plate. He insists on weekly outings because he wants to be a consistent, regular presence in Jaiden's life – especially at the beginning as they build their foundation of trust. So far, they have gone out to eat, played basketball, and gone swimming at a local fitness center.

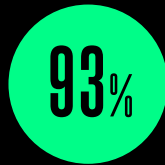
Jaiden's grandmother frequently expresses her gratitude for Big John and the impact he's already had on Jaiden. She's shared many times that she was worried that nobody would be willing to match with her grandson because of his rough upbringing. But out of difficulties grow miracles, and Big John was there to answer Jaiden's need. ■



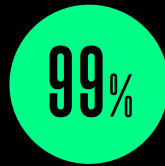
# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



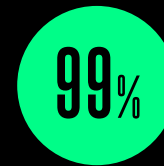
- Grants
- Investment Income
- Program Services
- Events/Fundraising
- Clothing
- Fundraising
- Individual Donations
- In-Kind
- Management & General
- BBBSA
- Donor Restricted



Less Likely To Engage In Substance Abuse



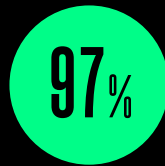
Promoted To The Next Grade



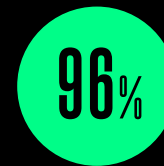
Graduate From High School



Go On To College, Vocational School Or A Paying Job



Feel More Confident Problem Solving With Help From Their Mentors



State Their Bigs Give Them Good Advice



# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING

Most of our kids are from single-parent homes or live with a non-parent caregiver. They live below the poverty level, with caregivers struggling to be an active presence while providing financial necessities for their family. Exposed to greater adversity such as elements of gang activity, substance abuse, and crime, they have the potential for greatness but need a special role model and friend they can trust. Our volunteer mentors, with our trained social workers to support them, are a lifeline for these kids, providing them with a one-to-one special match to help them realize their potential. Change a life and become a Big Brother or Big Sister! For more information visit us at: [bigswestchester.org/apply-to-become-a-big](https://bigswestchester.org/apply-to-become-a-big)

## SITE-BASED PROGRAMS

After-school programs including group mentoring, activities and homework help for all ages.

## BIG FUTURES

Personalized professional career and college counseling for our Littles aged 15+, including winter activities, college visits, a paid summer internship and their post-secondary plan with one-to-one support.

## WAITLIST EVENTS

Monthly, fun activities for our Littles who are waiting to be matched to a Big. Family and guardians are invited to join in.

## MATCH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Special events designed to gather groups of matches of similar age and interests to form friendships and poses in the interest of longer and stronger relationships. Family engagement events include activities such as barbecues, bingo and scavenger hunts to engage the child's community and strengthen the family relationships.

## CLOTHING DONATION PROGRAM

Give your unwanted clothes and accessories a second life while also supporting our youth mentoring programs! To schedule a free home pickup or find a drop off bin at one of our many locations:

**Call 800-244-6350 or go online at [bigswestchester.org/donate-clothing](https://bigswestchester.org/donate-clothing)**



**EMPOWERED  
POTENTIAL.**

**BIG**

**FUTURES.**



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters<sup>®</sup>**  
OF WESTCHESTER  
& PUTNAM

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