



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
OF ST. THOMAS-ELGIN

MARCH

2022



St. Patty's Survivor JACKPOT \$625 CASH 21 Growlers



# ANNUAL REPORT

519-633-3830

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## Cover Photos

Featured on the front cover is a collage of pictures from events, fundraisers, matches and the kids we serve. We are thankful to all our supporters who stepped up joined us as we gathered in person for our events, group activities and most importantly with our matches both in the community and in the schools in 2022.

We are especially grateful to all the new volunteers who decided it was time to start igniting potential in our children and youth in 2022.

# EXECUTIVE ADDRESS



Potential is everywhere!

We learned so much in 2022 about how resilient and dedicated our staff and volunteers are as they continued to work through the residual effects of COVID-19 as we cautiously moved toward more in-person meetings with the children and youth that we serve.

Our Board of Directors worked in a meaningful and comprehensive way to provide the support needed to the agency as well as taking on the huge task of working to replace our Executive Director, rooted in the position for over 31 years. Huge accolades are extended to the incredible staff team who engaged with input and ideas, knowing the value of the evidence-based outcomes that mentoring interventions add to the lives of your youth.



Throughout the year Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Thomas-Elgin was fortunate to have the support of our volunteers who juggled and balanced mentoring into their own realities and truly showed up in whatever way possible for the children and youth who needed that injection of hope and support early in the year.



Our fantastic funders and community supporters gifted us resources, time, talent and eternal passion - keeping the impact of mentoring at the foundation of our community service and support.



We have learned much, grown stronger, and welcome the opportunity to continue igniting the power and potential of our children and youth throughout Elgin County.



**Barb Matthews**  
Executive Director



**Brady Ideson**  
President,  
Board of Directors





# OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of all young people so they can realize their full potential.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

In 2019, Big Brothers Big Sisters across Canada adopted a new look and launched a national Theory of Change that provided a clearer picture of our path to supporting young people and making change. We have been excited to move this work forward through our work in the community.

## HOW DO WE IGNITE POTENTIAL?

- By intentionally recruiting based on the needs of our community's young people
- By matching young people with a professionally screened volunteer mentor
- By mentoring and supporting that match with a professional caseworker
- By training and supporting the mentor, the mentee, and the family
- By building a Developmental Relationship between the mentor and the mentee that: Expresses Care; Challenges Growth; Provides Support; Shares Power; and Expands Possibilities
- By graduating the match relationship towards natural support

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Young people graduate our programs with measureable outcomes:

- Social Emotional Competence; relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management and self-awareness
- Mental Health & Wellbeing; positive identity, mental wellness, and social inclusion & empowerment
- Educational Engagement & Employment  
Readiness: school connectedness, commitment to learning, and enhanced constructive use of time







# WHO WE ARE

## GROWING STRONGER EVERY YEAR!

It all started in 1970! It began with an idea to support fatherless boys through mentoring. We are proud to have grown over the past 50+ years to a more inclusive organization.

Much has changed over time, our commitment to mentoring has not. Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Thomas Elgin has continued to providing our life-changing mentorship programs FREE of charge to the young people of Elgin County and their families. We are facilitating and building a relationship between the mentor and young person that expresses care, challenges growth, provides support, shares power, and expands possibilities. Mentors teach by example and make an invaluable difference to young people. With the support of a caring mentor, these risks can be reduced, or even avoided, and youth can reach their full potential.

The goal is for young people to grow into amazing adults, ready to lead our future generations. Witnessing the transformation of a young person into a confident, concerned and motivated adult is truly remarkable. Ushering them into adulthood, seeing them grow into successful, responsible members of the community and society at large is even more satisfying. Proudly, it's something our staff, volunteers, and partners, help make happen every day.

## CARING RELATIONSHIPS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER





# WHO WE SERVE

## 269

### Children & Youth

were served by our agency



## 72

### Volunteers

mentored our youth in 1:1 programs as well as group programs



## 139

### Youth

were served in 1:1 mentoring programs as well as school based and agency group programs



## 98

### Friends of the Agency

supported the agency by serving on committees, assisting with events and fundraisers



**2022 truly reflected a year of navigation as we moved away from the restrictions and started to meet in person again. Many thanks to our volunteers who remained connected with our youth throughout a year of as we moved away from the challenges of Covid-19.**

# OUR FEATURED PROGRAMS

The traditional Bigs mentoring programs provide youth between ages 6-18, with a role model to talk to and share the experiences of growing up with. Through regular outings, a relationship is developed between the mentor and the mentee built on trust and common interests, and is supported by our experienced case-workers. The Bigs mentoring program usually requires a regularly scheduled outing once a week for 1-3 hours each and a minimum of a one year commitment.



The In-School mentoring program provides youth from grades 1-8 with a role model and a friend to talk to and share the experiences of growing up within school grounds. For one hour a week, mentors meet with their mentee and engage in activities such as board games, crafts or just hang out on school grounds.

Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds is a mentor-lead, seven session program for female identifying participants between ages 10-14 that incorporates fun, educational games and activities designed to stimulate self-reflection and group discussion. Each session addresses the topics of active living, balanced eating, and feeling good.





# OUR FEATURED PROGRAMS CON'T

Game On! Eat Smart, Play Smart, Live Smart is a 7-week group mentoring program for male identifying participants between ages 10-14. Through non-traditional physical activities, complemented with healthy eating support, participants are engaged in life skills, communication, and emotional health discussions designed to engage participants in the pursuit of life-long healthy lifestyles.



The BBBS Big G mentorship program aims to create and strengthen intergenerational relationships through a one-to-one community-based program. A mentee aged 6-18 is matched with a mentor aged 55+ based on mutual experiences and shared interests. The pair meet for 4-8 hours per month in the community and build a healthy, caring relationship. This grandparent/child type relationship will also give you the opportunity to expand your network, increase your social connections and explore the community all while influencing the next generation to be the best they can be.

**In 2022 equity, diversity and inclusivity continued to be a priority as we worked to share with our community that we are a safe space for kids to feel seen and heard.**

**As our community started emerging from Covid restrictions we returned to in person in-school mentoring and groups.**





# OUR FUNDERS & DONORS

We are very thankful for the continued support of our major donors and community partners. It is only through the generosity of our caring community that we are able to serve so many at-risk children and youth in St. Thomas and Elgin County, with life-changing mentoring programs.

## COMMUNITY DONORS



Support provided by



Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario



United Way  
Elgin Middlesex



BARRIE FAMILY  
COMMUNITY  
FUND



# EVENT & AGENCY SUPPORTERS

**Advanced Stainless**  
**Ainslee Tracey, Royal Lepage Triland Realty**  
**Ansell's Awards and Specialties**  
**The Auto Guys**  
**Canadale Nurseries**  
**Caps Off Brewery**  
**Care Chiropractic**  
**Centennial Sports Club**  
**CIBC**  
**City of St. Thomas**  
**Clovermead**  
**Crown of Jewels**  
**Debbie Hamilton, The Co-operators**  
**Dejardins, John Bruschetto**  
**DHI - Darbshire Home Inspection**  
**Domino's Pizza**  
**Don & Hazel Williams Charitable Fund**  
**Doug Tarry Homes**  
**Edward Jones - Renee Vansevenant**  
**Elgin Chrysler**  
**Elgin Pure Water**  
**Entegrus Fibre**  
**Ferguson Dimeo Law**  
**Forest City Staffing**  
**Geerlinks Home Hardware**  
**Giant Tiger**  
**Glass Canada**  
**Gorman-Rupp Pumps**  
**Grandma's Oven**  
**Hayhoe Homes**  
**Horizon Leadership**

**Knights of Columbus - Aylmer**  
**Knights of Columbus - St. Thomas**  
**Lenderline**  
**Lions Club of Port Stanley**  
**Manchin Family**  
**Manulife Securities, Brett Fox, Steve Malone**  
**Masco Canada**  
**No Frills - Aylmer**  
**Optimist Club - St. Thomas**  
**Optimist Club - Talbot Trail**  
**Optimist Club - Talbotville**  
**Peter Inch & Associates**  
**Port Stanley Lioness'**  
**Reith & Associates**  
**Reliance Home Comfort**  
**Shaw's Ice Cream**  
**Smart Panda**  
**Stay True Tattoo**  
**Steelway Building Systems**  
**Storagemart**  
**St. Thomas Anglican Church**  
**St. Thomas Curling Club**  
**St. Thomas Hearing & Denture Clinic**  
**St. Thomas Optimist Club**  
**St. Thomas Police Assoc.**  
**St. Thomas Police Service Board**  
**Tru for U**  
**Walker Dairy**  
**WestJet**  
**Winmar**  
**Yarmouth Group**

Mentoring Matters to the people of Elgin County. Support of Big Brothers Big Sisters has allowed programs to continue to grow, evolve and expand to meet the needs of our community. While we are not able to recognize all donors, sponsors, and supporters here, we are incredibly thankful for each and every one of you. You continue to provide a foundation that allows our agency to be able to focus on our mission and vision.







# 2022 EVENTS

## CURL FOR KIDS SAKE MARCH 2022

We were lucky to be back to our live bonspiel in 2022. Wendy's restaurants hosted a lunch for our curlers who showed up in a BIG way with their pledged support for our agency.



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## ST. PATTY'S SURVIVOR MARCH 2022

St. Patty's Survivor was back again for a fun 10 day virtual elimination draw in partnership with Caps Off Brewery. 21 teams of 4 players hoped they would be the one final survivor winning the cash prize & growlers from Caps Off Brewery. Long time volunteer and agency supporter Lisa Matchim was the BIG winner.



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## GOLF FOR KIDS SAKE AUGUST 2022

We made a BIG move the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club and we sold out our tournament months before the actual event in August. Wendy's Restaurants was our title sponsor for the day. The weather was great and everyone was very generous with additional sponsorships and donations to our agency.



# 2021 EVENTS CONT'D

## RAILWAY CITY ROAD RACES SEPTEMBER 2022

We assumed the running of the RCRR in St. Thomas in partnership with Wellkin Child and Youth Mental Wellness. Almost 500 runners came out in September in support of children's mental wellness through both our agencies. Glass Canada was our title sponsor.



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## DOUG TARRY HOMES BAKE FOR KIDS SAKE DECEMBER 2022

Gifted community members came out to showcase their talents in our 2nd Bake for Kids Sake gingerbread house competition. Doug Tarry Homes, our title sponsor, along with several area home builders showcased their skills in cookie house construction as well. The support was overwhelming!



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## WESTJET GIFT OF FLIGHT DECEMBER 2022

WestJet generously donated a trip for 2 to anywhere WestJet flies for our Gift of Flight raffle. Tickets were sold at most of our events with the final draw being made in December at our Bake for Kids event. Carol and Dan Caldwell were the BIG winners!





# OUR BOARD

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*We couldn't do it without our BIGGEST champions!*

### **Brady Ideson**

Board President

### **Hank Zehr**

Past President

### **Angela Cooley**

Director

### **Sarah Ryckman**

Vice President

### **Kim Herridge**

Treasurer

### **Renee VanSevenant**

Director

### **Mike Butler**

Outgoing Director

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### **Mike Butler**

Outgoing Director

Mike Butler - Mike finished his time with the Board of Directors in the summer of 2022 having served for more than four years. Mike retired from his career with the Ontario Provincial Police after 32 years of service in 2022 as well.

Mike has been a long time supporter of this agency and he was a former Big Brother as well. He served on our personnel committee and helped with several special events over the years. He has outdone himself with his service to our community and we wish him well on his new adventures. Well done Mike. Enjoy your retirement.





# OUR BOARD & STAFF

## STAFF



### **Barb Matthews**

Executive Director

Barb completed her final year as Executive Director in 2022. It's hard to believe that Barb has dedicated 31 years of her life to BBBS St. Thomas Elgin.

She has impacted so many lives, especially the children and youth in our community. We celebrated with a party at the CASO Station on December 8th. Barb retired officially at the end of December and will remain on part time to guide the new Interim Executive Director in 2023.



### **Carolyn Johnson**

Marketing and Fund Development



### **Madelyn Annette**

Community Based Mentoring  
Co-ordinator September-December



### **Kara Lynds**

In-School  
Mentoring Co-ordinator



A Mentoring Room was built and dedicated to Barb since she has been such a BIG part of the agencies 52 year history in Elgin. We will always be grateful to Barb for building a strong legacy for our kids. We know they will enjoy this space for years to come.



### **Carly Enns**

Community Based  
Mentoring Co-ordinator  
January-August





# BACK TO IN PERSON

## Group Events Make a Come Back

2022 marked a return to in person activities for our matches and waitlist kids for the first time since Covid shut everything down in 2020. We fished, rode horses, bowled, and a special group of kids, aged 8-10 years, got to spend a week with a group of police officers at our Kids N Kops program.

A lot of these programs were made possible because of the generous financial and volunteer support of community groups and the St. Thomas Police Service. Volunteers from the area Optimist Clubs showed up so our kids could ride horses and enjoy a nice lunch at the Dude Ranch in July. August marked the return of Kids N Kops and a fun filled week with several special police officers.



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## Lots of New Introductions

With the world returning to our new normal, lots of volunteers were ready to be matched with several lucky Littles. Covid continues to impact the way our matches meet. In addition to our traditional matches we still have matches that prefer to meet virtually. We also built a Mentoring Room in 2022 so matches could meet in person with the support of our Mentoring Co-ordinators and fun activities.





# TREASURER'S REPORT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Thomas-Elgin ended our fiscal year in a very healthy financial position. Despite the challenging fiscal environment, we continue to attain positive operating results. For this, we thank our funders, the generosity of individual and corporate donors, the dedication of volunteers and Board members, and the passion of the Organization's caring staff for their ongoing support and confidence. Together we make it possible to deliver such impactful youth mentorship programs and help build a brighter future in our community.

**Kim Herridge....Treasurer**

**BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF ST. THOMAS-ELGIN  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 281,916	\$ 250,391
Accounts receivable	3,390	3,140
HST receivable	10,406	4,241
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,664</u>	<u>1,664</u>
	297,376	259,436
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
	<u>\$ 387,376</u>	<u>\$ 349,436</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,842	\$ 7,531
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	<u>154,659</u>	<u>149,477</u>
	163,501	157,008
Canadian Emergency Business Account (Note 6)	<u>20,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	183,501	187,008
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<u>203,875</u>	<u>162,428</u>
	<u>\$ 387,376</u>	<u>\$ 349,436</u>

**APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

