































"Growing up in a single parent household under the poverty line was hard. Not hard in the day-to-day, because my life seemed normal to me, but hard in the ways it influenced my psyche and confidence. Could I really accomplish anything I wanted to? My first mentor made it clear to me that I could. Now decades later, as a mentor myself, I get to watch Jill grow up with the confidence that she too can accomplish anything she sets her mind to. I not only get the privilege of learning about this brilliant, compassionate kid, but she also teaches me more about myself.

To be a part of her life is truly the best part of mine."

Sarah J. Adkins





### **OUR MISSION**

Provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

### **OUR VISION**

All children achieve success in life.

1284

children served

64

partner schools

### THE DIFFERENCE MENTORING MAKES

Research has shown that children who have a mentor are:

55% more likely to enroll in college

52% less likely to skip a day of school

46% less likely to begin using drugs

81% more likely to participate in extracurricular activities

### DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2018 we had a big change. Not only did our logo change, but our look and our messaging were transformed as well. Our national office, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, led the charge on transforming the look of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our volunteers are not heroes, they are defenders of potential. Our Littles aren't lacking potential, that potential is just waiting to be ignited. This change is just the spark to fan the flames of growth and excitement in our organization.

We are proud to say that because of the amazing supporters, partners, and volunteers that believe in our mission, over 1200 children were served in 2018. These children were matched with a caring and supportive mentor who guided them, listened to them, and encouraged them. We know that these mentors have made a huge difference in these children's lives.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to the United Way of Central Alabama, our local school systems, local foundations, individual donors, volunteers, Board of Directors, Young Advisory Board, and staff who work diligently to ensure that the children we serve have quality, professionally supported matches.

Our partnerships strengthen the work that we do. Whether you gave time, money, or expertise, thank you for helping make a difference in the life of a child.



Du Sotmon

SUE JOHNSON, CEO



SHANE SPRAY
BOARD PRESIDENT



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### MATCH ACTIVITIES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham strengthened mentor and mentee relationships by organizing a variety of fun and engaging match activities for our Bigs and Littles. Throughout the year generous donors and organizations also donated tickets to events. Thank you to those who gave and made these experiences possible!

College Tours:

Alabama A&M

Drake State

Alabama State

University of Alabama

Birmingham Southern

Field Trips:

Rickwood Caverns

AL Horse Training

UAB Neuroscience Tour

Mayor's Office Tour

Swimming

**ACT Prep Class** 

Roller Skating

Bowling

Sloss Furnace Tour

Birmingham Zoo

Back to school cookout

Senior Reception

Fall Picnic

Hotdogs and Haircuts

Easter Baskets

**UAB** Football

Holiday Party

Parent Enrichment Activities

A Night of Big Stars Art Play Camp

Big Night on the Patio

Tickets:

Samford Theatre

**UAB** Football

UAB Basketball

Auburn Football

Alabama Football

Alabama Basketball

McWane Center

Birmingham Boulders Rock Climbing

Magic City Nutcracker

Alvin Ailey Performance

Barber tickets

Phantom of the Opera

Regions Traditions

Harlem Globe Trotters

Birmingham Bulls Hockey Tickets

Splash Adventure Tickets

Alys Stephens Center Performances

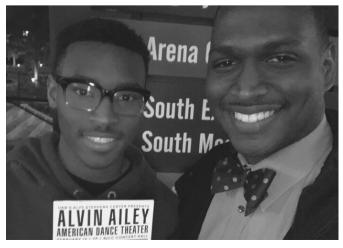
Baron's Baseball

NewsBoys Concert

Movie Tickets









## COMMUNITY-BASED

The Community-Based program provides adult mentors, or "Bigs", to children who are in need of a positive role mode. These volunteers commit to spending one-on-one time with their little brother or little sister at least twice per month for 3-5 hours per outing. Bigs and Littles spend time at the park, museums, sporting events, and a variety of other community activities. The most important part is the friendship that is formed and the role model that is gained. Bigs and Littles are matched based on preferences, similar interests, locations, and personalities.

## SCHOOL-BASED

The School-Based program matches volunteer mentors with children from local schools. The volunteers commit to visiting their little brother or sister at their school once per week during the school year.

Bigs and Littles might spend time doing homework or shooting basketball in the gym or just hanging out. The most important thing is that the Little has a reliable and positive role model in his or her life.

School-based matches keep in touch by phone or written correspondence during the summer.

232

1052





## Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs



Littles from Washington and Parker attend a Career Exploration Event to learn about future career paths.



Alabama Power Bigs and Littles celebrate the holiday together.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham became a proud partner of GEAR UP Birmingham in 2015. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP, is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post secondary education. This is a seven-year program that started working with 6th & 7th graders and this year served 10th and 11th graders.

Big Brothers Big Sisters was selected to receive funds to match students in Birmingham City Schools with mentors who will stay with them until graduation. Students may be matched with a mentor who visits the school once per week to meet with the child one-on-one or the school may be matched with a workplace. In the workplace mentoring program, students are transported from their school into workplaces across the city where they are then matched one-on-one with a mentor. The students visit with their mentor twice per month throughout the school year and have an opportunity to focus on character building, career planning, and communication skills.



# **BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham is celebrating another successful year for the Beyond School Walls program. Beyond School Walls is a workplace mentoring program that started in 2013. Children enrolled in the program are bused from their school twice per month during the school year to their partnering workplace. There they are matched with an employee who spends time mentoring and sharing about their career. Studies show that youth participating in workplace mentoring programs perform better in school, want to go to college and begin thinking more about their future.

In 2018, Protective Life and DYS joined Beyond School Walls as workplace partners, bringing the total of workplace partners to eight. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves a total of 65 children through this program.

### OUR WORKPLACE PARTNERS

City of Vestavia Hills
Alabama Power
UAB
Cadence Bank
City of Birmingham Mayor's Office
Division of Youth Services
Jefferson State Community College
Protective Life
Vulcan Materials



A Big and Little newly matched at Protective Life get to know one another.



Bigs and Littles at Cadence Bank learn about financial responsibility.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Our events find fun ways to raise money and help create a buzz about what we do. We have three signature events that bring in almost one third of our annual budget and help us connect even more people in our community to our mission.



## A NIGHT OF BIG STARS

The biggest night of the year features a one-of-a-kind show presented by Littles in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. We were honored to have Summer Classics as our presenting sponsor of the event. This year's event was held at The Club. Guests enjoyed a silent and live auction and live music from the Band "Shimmer."



### **BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE**

Lovingly referred to as the most fun you can have in rented shoes, Bowl for Kids' Sake is our agency's longest running fundraiser. It brings together coworkers, friends, family members, and groups of all kinds for a unique bowling party. Bowlers raise money for BBBS and celebrate their success with bowling, pizza, games, and prizes!



### **GLOW ON THE GREEN**

The fourth annual night golf tournament was hosted by our Young Advisory Board at Highland Park Golf Course. Players enjoyed 9 holes of golf in the afternoon and 9 holes of golf as the sun set over Birmingham. This one-of-a-kind golf event also included live music, a BBQ dinner, and amazing silent auction packages.





### BIG & LITTLE SISTER OF THE YEAR

CAROL MEADOWS AND TAKYIA CUNNINGHAM



## in Takyia's words

My Big Sister Carol has had a big impact on my life. She has helped me increase in my education, self-esteem, and become the person I am today.

When my mom went to prison I really didn't have anyone I could go to and have fun with. I felt alone and Carol broke me out of my shell. I cried a lot while my mom was away and Carol helped me to feel better and showed me love. Carol is special, the type of person you just don't find anywhere. She is nice, respectful, loving, fun, and one of the most caring women I've ever met.

Carol is like family and my entire family loves her very much. She has been to all my dance recitals, came to see me on holidays, and at school programs.

If I had never joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham and received a big sister I probably would still be that shy, crying girl, who struggles

with her work. I would never know how to interact with others or believe in myself. I would have never experienced so much fun or all those new places. Thanks to my Big Sister Carol, I am determined to be successful, graduate, and one day become a big sister, myself. I want to be a role model and mentor to other shy and depressed little girls who need love.

### in Carol's words

I first met my Little Sister Takyia at her grandparents' house. The meeting felt as though I had been knowing Takyia and her grandparents all of my life. We immediately bonded and at that very moment, I knew that I had made the right decision to become a Big Sister.

We enjoy spending time together at church and both are very active in church ministries. There have been some challenging times with school work and we have always been able to pray together and the outcomes have been successful. My Little Sister Takyia is now in high school and on the honor roll, working a job and has her driver's permit.

I stepped out on faith and committed myself as a Big Sister and not only have I been Blessed with a little sister, but I have been blessed with another family. I know the future holds many blessings for Takyia and I am thankful every day that I was able to help make a difference.



### BIG & LITTLE BROTHER OF THE YEAR

BEN MURCHISON & KYSIER WOMACK



## in Kysier's words

I love Ben being my Big Brother. He has always been very nice and thoughtful. He gives me great advice when I need to hear it and has been the best big brother in the world. He helps me with issues that go on at school and checks on me daily. He is like a father figure to me. My Big Brother Ben helps me train for upcoming activities that I am doing and is my inspiration. If I could have one thing, it would be that Ben could be my Big Brother forever. He is and will always be a role model to me.

in Ben's words

There are many special moments and events that I can highlight throughout my time with Kysier, but I'm equally fond of what became our 'routine' for so many years. On most Saturdays, I would pick Kysier up early and take him to the YMCA to play basketball, swim, and lift weights. We'd catch up on the previous week's events in school (and Auburn football) on our drive to the Y, and we'd usually talk through any issues he was having during an always competitive game of one-on-one basketball. He won. A lot. Our Saturdays would always conclude the same way; a trip to Moe's Southwest Grill for Chicken Nachos. I feel these days were where he and I truly formed our bond and got comfortable sharing our feelings with each other.

Perhaps my fondest memory is Kysier being a groomsman for my wedding in 2017. He kept me company and calmed my nerves during the morning of my wedding as I anxiously awaited the ceremony and wrote my vows. As he walked down the aisle with the other groomsmen I smiled and reflected on the smiling 3rd grader I'd met back in 2008 who wanted to talk about sports as soon as I met him. He'd grown into a smart, athletic and motivated young man with a very bright future. My wedding would not have been complete without him being there, and I hope that I'll one day be walking down the aisle as a groomsman for him. There are countless other memories I can recount, but these ones stick out the most. Being a Big for my Little Brother Kysier has broadened my overall view of the world, has been rewarding beyond measure, and has changed my life forever.



### **INCOME**

EVENTS	\$378,578
UNITED WAY	408,418
GRANTS	221,895
CONTRIBUTIONS	183,919
INTEREST	307

**TOTAL INCOME**: \$1,193,117

### **EXPENSES**

PAYROLL	\$893,513
ADMINISTRATIVE	174,946
INSURANCE	45,832
OCCUPANCY	22,141
DUES	21,842
SUPPLIES	107,930
MISCELLANEOUS	7,916

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,274,120



Match Makers is Big Brothers Big Sisters monthly giving program. Match Makers help us continue making new matches of Bigs and Littles. No matter the amount, Match Makers have committed to ongoing support which is vital to our organization. Learn more at www.bhambigsmatchmakers.org

Shannon Belmont
Michael Bolton
Nancy Miller Borg
Michael Clarke
Mike Clarke
Blake Dimick
CJ Hastings
Kerry and Addie Hendricks
Sue Johnson
Katie Krack
Emily and Woody Mathis
Farris Mauldin
Brooke McKinley
Clayton and Shealy McKinnon
William Meador

Stacey Miles
John Morris
Jonathan and Brooke Ratliff
Kiranda Robbins-Watts
Elise Robinson
Annette Rowland
Brenchard Sackey
Sammy Schiffman
Candace Smith
Scott vonCannon
Vance and Kala Waldron
Jessica Whatley
Bryan Whisenant
Sherry Wilson



What will your legacy be? The Legacy Society is made up of individuals who have made future gifts through their wills, life insurance policies, or retirement plans, through trusts, in their final estate plans or in some other way. We are grateful for their foresight and generosity.

Mike and Julie Anderson
The Clements Family
Keith and Laura Covington
Tina DiMonte
Susan N. and Wyatt R. Haskell
Jimmy and Sue Johnson
Jack Key
Judy and Bill Lewis
Mark and Jenna Lovoy
Justin Russell
William Schuler \*Deceased
John and Deborah Sellers
Shane Spray
John W. Williams

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Includes Individuals, Foundations, and Corporatations who have given over \$100

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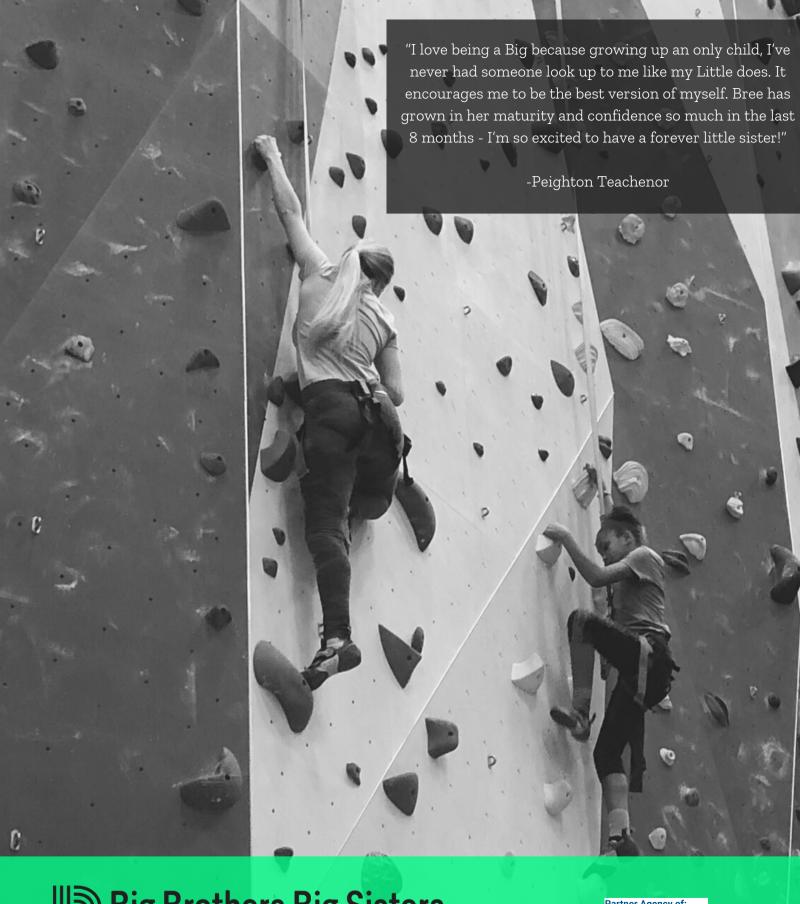
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Freida Zamiatala

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