

# IGNITING POTENTIAL

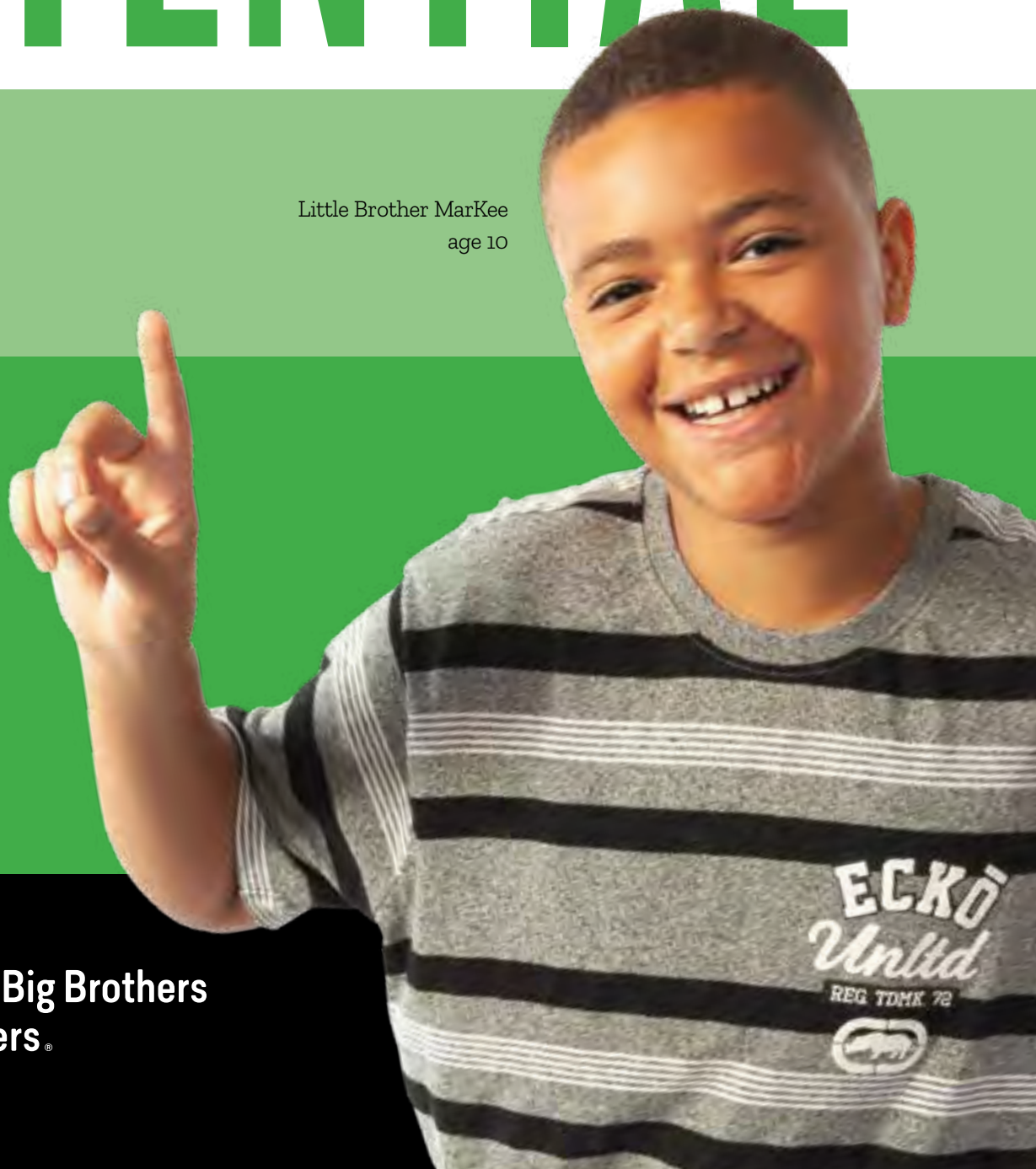
Little Brother MarKee  
age 10

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 54 years  
of helping Connecticut  
children reach their  
highest potential



Nutmeg Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®



# WHO WE ARE

Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, now celebrating its 54th year in Connecticut, initiates the highest quality mentoring relationships between vulnerable children and professionally-screened and supervised adult volunteers. Our goal is to improve the lives of children from single-parent and no-parent homes and enable them to become productive, responsible society members.

We achieve this by offering a Community-Based Program, a School-Based Program, and a Foster Grandparent Program – all of which help at-risk youngsters avoid destructive behavior and reach their highest potential.

Big Sister Alexa Megna (left); Little Sister Jaelee, age 6 (middle); and Jaelee's mom, Jessica (right).



# WHY WE ARE UNIQUE

With more than 100 years of Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring success to build on (combined with 54 years of Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring success), we invest our resources to create enduring, life-enhancing experiences for volunteers and the children they mentor.

We create each match via a time-tested six-step process. Once established, our seasoned professionals monitor, support and evaluate each match to ensure positive outcomes and relationship longevity. This is why Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters is considered Connecticut's premier mentoring organization.



# For the more than 70,000 kids we've served since our founding, we have ignited great potential.

## During 2018 - 2019:

- ▣ Our Community-Based program served 507 children.
- ▣ Our School-Based program served 386 children.
- ▣ Our Mentor 2.0/MentorU program served 105 children
- ▣ Our volunteer mentors devoted more than 155,000 hours to inspiring, teaching and bonding with their "Littles".
- ▣ Our Foster Grandparent Program operated at 42 sites, and served 380 children.
- ▣ Volunteer mentors' time spent with "Littles" this past year was worth over \$4.8 Million – a huge value that your support made possible.
- ▣ Our staff spent more than 44,000 hours creating and supporting life-changing matches between children in need and caring Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

94%

of children reported better relationships with adults.

97%

children increased their self-confidence.

89%

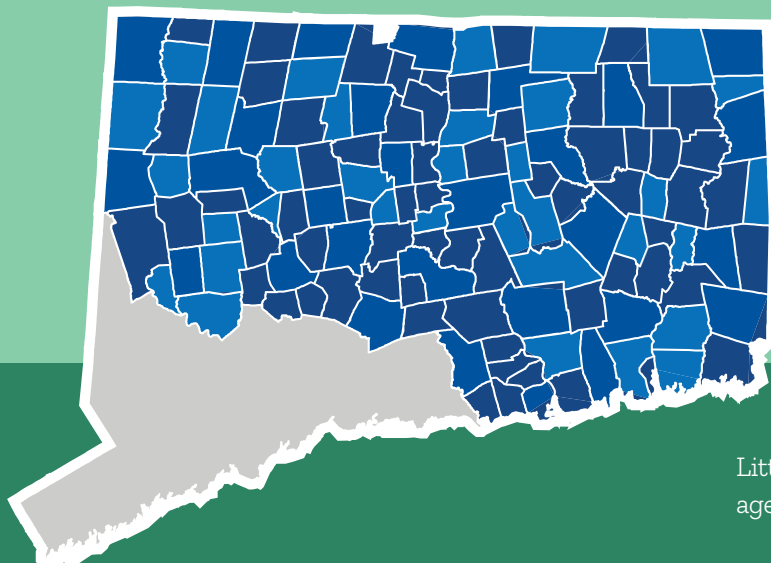
of children improved their academic performance.

89%

of children developed an improved sense of future.

87%

of parents reported improved family relations.



Little Brother Isaiah  
age 8

# When founders Bernie Fields and Arthur Director began Big Brothers Big Sisters in CT in the early 1960s,

the organization covered just the Middletown area. Now, as Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates its 54th year of helping children facing adversity succeed, we've grown our service area to include 132 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities in Hartford, Tolland, Windham, Middlesex, Litchfield, New London and upper New Haven counties (the shaded section of the map below represents our statewide service area.)



# IGNITING

Luke Williams is a Big Brother in our program. He's matched with Little Brother Tristan, age 10. Luke, an associate producer with ESPN, is the catalyst for Tristan's ignited potential.

## Igniting Potential

Tristan's mom is also igniting his potential. She began by enrolling her son as a Little Brother with us. She continues by supporting him in our program.



Big Brother Luke Williams and  
his Little Brother Tristan

# POTENTIAL

**Because generous individuals and organizations like the United Way of Meriden and Wallingford,**

represented by Maria Fernanda Campos-Harlow, Executive Director, continue to contribute to our program, potential is being ignited for Little Brother Tristan.



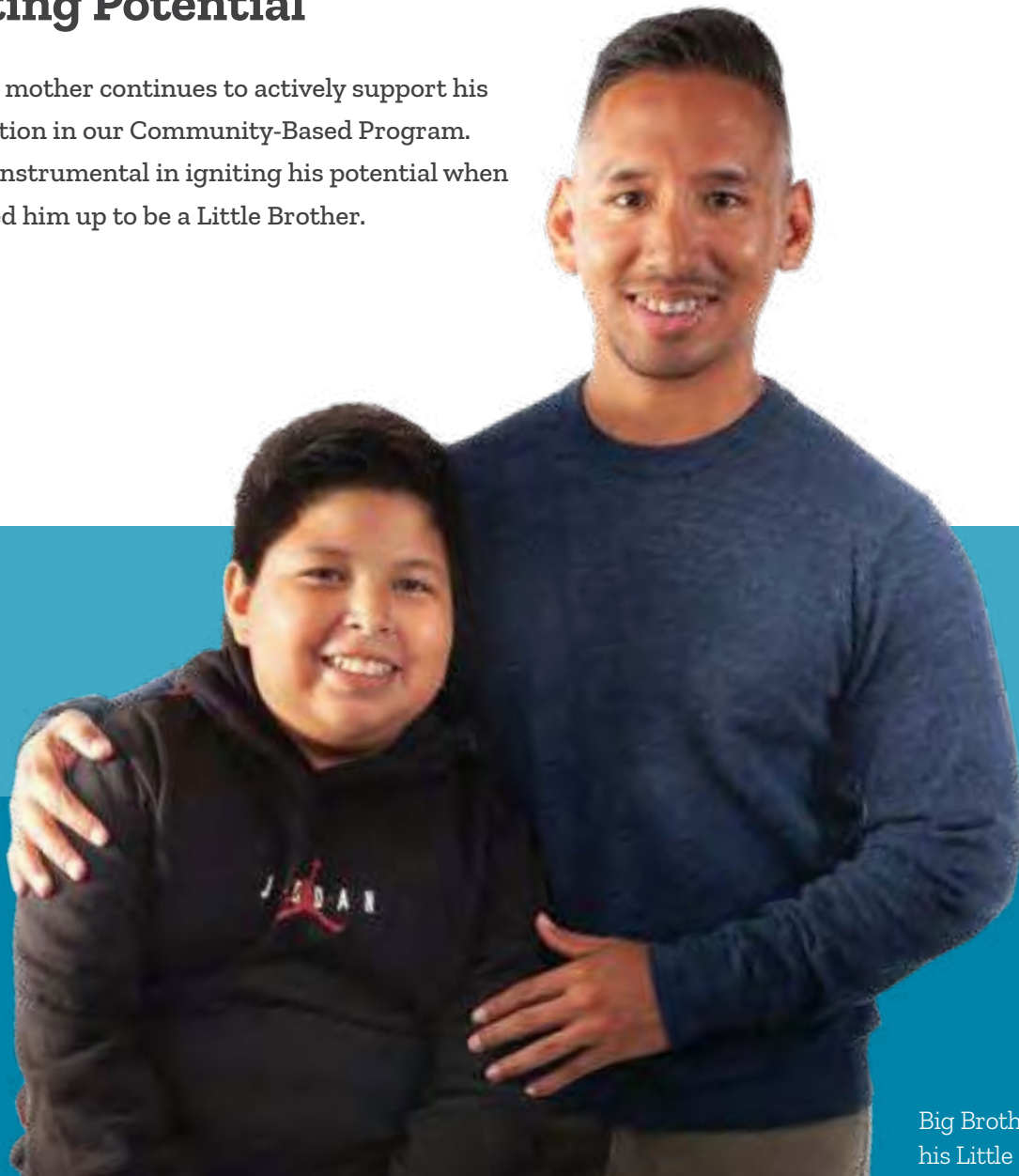
Maria Fernanda Campos-Harlow

# IGNITING

Victor Lira works for the Connecticut Department of Correction. When he's not on the job, Victor enjoys spending away-from-work hours as a soccer coach. He also enjoys his time as a Big Brother to 12-year-old Ricardo. Victor takes pride in being the catalyst for Ricardo's ignited potential.

## Igniting Potential

Ricardo's mother continues to actively support his participation in our Community-Based Program. She was instrumental in igniting his potential when she signed him up to be a Little Brother.



Big Brother Victor Lira and his Little Brother Ricardo



# POTENTIAL

**Because generous individuals and organizations like the Husky Ticket Project continue to contribute to our program,**

potential is being ignited for Little Brother Ricardo. The Husky Ticket Project raises funds to provide free UConn game tickets to youth organizations like Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, and is building the next generation of UConn athletics fans. The non-profit was founded and is managed by UConn alums Kevin Solomon, Kevin Kortsep and Jeremy Longobardi. Go Huskies! Go Husky Ticket Project!



From left,  
Kevin Solomon,  
Kevin Kortsep and  
Jeremy Longobardi

# IGNITING

Big Sister Sarah Parker works at Hart Acupuncture & Nutrition in Farmington. Her Little Sister is 17-year-old Kayla, who's a senior at Bristol Eastern High School. Inspired by her mentor and their match experience, Kayla's thinking about social work as a possible career. Sarah and Kayla have been matched for more than nine amazing years.

## Igniting Potential

Because it's igniting her daughter's potential and providing her with the inspirational role model she needed in her life, Kayla's mom is glad she took the initiative to enroll her daughter in our Community-Based Program.



Big Sister Sarah Parker and  
her Little Sister Kayla

# POTENTIAL

**Because generous organizations and individuals like J. Martin Brayboy continue to offer counsel, friendship and financial support to Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters,**

potential is being ignited for Little Sister Kayla. Martin Brayboy is a Vice President at Rose & Kiernan, Inc., a 150-year-old general insurance agency serving business, industry, individuals and public and private organizations.



J. Martin Brayboy

# IGNITING

Always cheerful, always positive, Donald LaPenta excels at igniting the potential of 3rd grade students at the Pitkin Elementary School in East Hartford, students like 10-year-old Markee, who looks forward to seeing Donald's smile each morning. "Grandpa LaPenta" – as everybody at Pitkin Elementary School affectionately calls him - is the Foster Grandparent of the Year for our Greater Hartford region.

## Igniting Potential

Administrators at Pitkin Elementary School in East Hartford determined the facility would take part in our Foster Grandparent Program. That's why Donald LaPenta has ignited the potential of countless students he's mentored during his tenure.



Foster Grandparent  
Donald LaPenta and  
Little Brother MarKee

# POTENTIAL

**Because generous organizations and individuals like John and Laura Beyer continue to offer counsel, friendship and financial assistance to Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters,**

potential is being ignited for Little Brother MarKee and for all the children Donald LaPenta mentors in the Foster Grandparent Program at Pitkin Elementary School in East Hartford. John Beyer is the President of Realized Solutions, Inc. Laura is the Southington-based company's Director of Marketing. Over the last four years, Realized Solutions has donated forty employee-built bicycles to grateful kids in our programs, and sponsored an array of special events.



Laura and  
John Beyer

# IGNITING

Alexa Megna is a Senior Qualitative Manager at Gonzos, Inc., where she moderates qualitative research for Fortune 500 companies. She is also one of the founding members of Bigs Ignite, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters' affinity group for current and former mentors. This is the second time Alexa has volunteered with us as a Big Sister. She has a gift for uplifting children and igniting their potential. You don't have to take our word for it. Just ask Alexa's current Little Sister, Jaelee. Her smile says it all.

## Igniting Potential

Jaelee's mother, Jessica, signed her daughter up to be a Little Sister in our program because she felt Jaelee, 6, could use another positive sounding board in her life. An added benefit is the potential Big Sister Alexa has helped ignite in Jaelee.

Jaelee's mom, Jessica (left), Little Sister Jaelee (middle) and Big Sister Alexa Megna (right)



# POTENTIAL

Potential has been ignited for Jaelee because a Match Support Specialist like Tara Gill (left) maintains ongoing contact with Jaelee, Jaelee's mother and Alexa Megna to make certain the match is progressing smoothly and adhering to the guidelines of the Big Brothers Big Sisters service delivery model.

## Igniting Potential

Potential has been ignited for Jaelee because an Enrollment Coordinator like Jessica Williams (right), drawing on 116 years of Big Brothers Big Sisters history and her own youth services experience, worked with Jaelee, Jaelee's mother and Alexa Megna to carefully create a match that's having a significant life-enhancing impact on all participants.

Sara (middle) is 10-years-old and currently on our waiting list. She and her mother, who enrolled Sara in our program, are hoping that she will soon be matched with a caring, inspirational adult mentor - just like Big Sister Alexa Megna. Then, Sara, like Little Sister Jaelee, can broaden her horizons, develop her capabilities and fulfill her great potential.

Tara Gill, Jessica Williams, and Sara, who's holding the yellow-furred Pikachu.

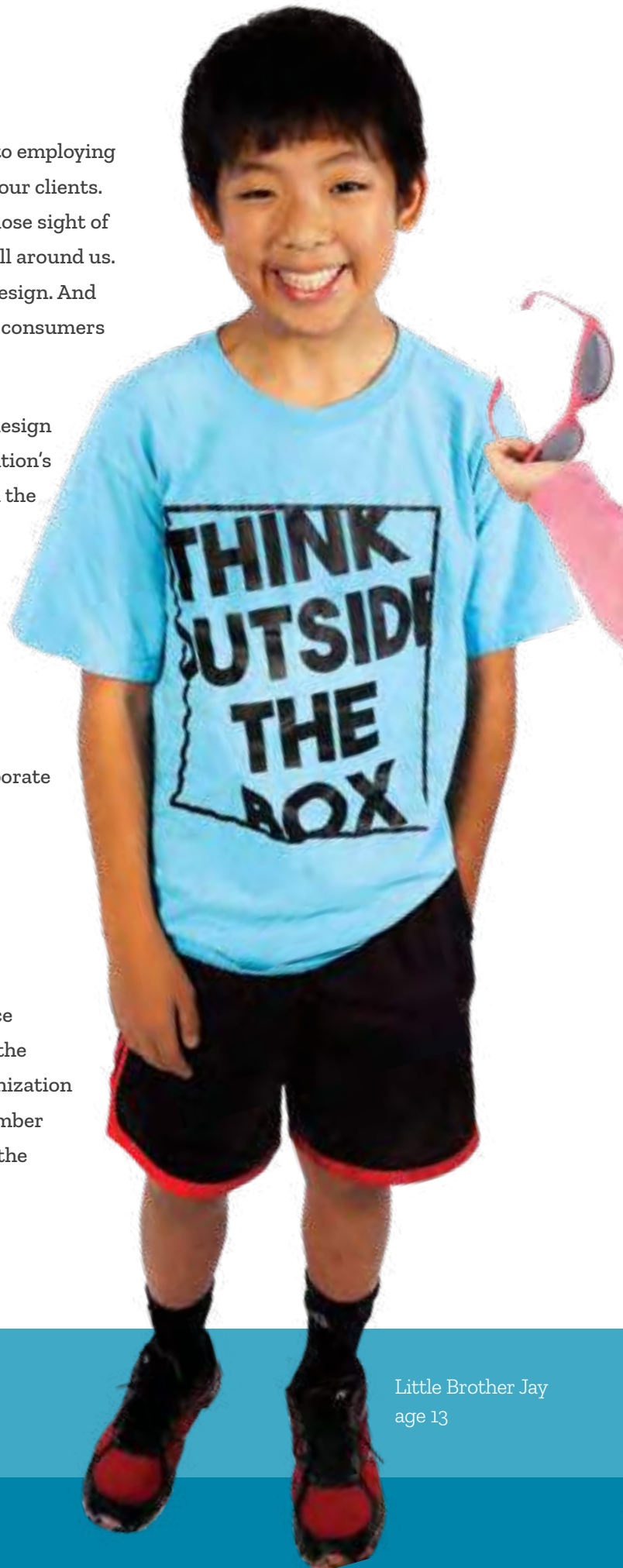


# Chairman's Letter

At my firm, Tecton Architects, my team and I are committed to employing thoughtful design to bring about the goals and objectives of our clients. Because of the intensity of this focus, it's sometimes easy to lose sight of the fact that there are many other aspects of design in play all around us. There's fashion design. Graphic design. Industrial/product design. And how many of us have become more informed and discerning consumers owing to masterfully designed websites?

Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters also relies on painstaking design – specifically in the area of mentoring programs. The organization's Community-Based Program is designed for great children in the community, and mentors who have between 6 to 10 hours a month to spend with a child in need. On-Campus Mentoring is designed to serve children who may never have seen a university campus before – and who love traveling to a campus weekly to meet with undergraduate mentors. Nutmeg's Beyond School Walls Programs at Comcast and Cigna are designed for children who may have never seen such technologically advanced workplaces, and for corporate employees who might not be able to mentor were it not for meetings held on their corporate campus. School-Based Mentoring is perfect for students in elementary and middle schools with schedules that can accommodate mentors at lunchtime or after school.

I've always been very much aware of just how powerful a force design has been in my professional life. It's gratifying to see the key role it plays at Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization I've long admired and have chosen to support as a Board Member and now as Board Chair. Thanks to the thoughtful design of the programs Nutmeg offers, many more children will have the opportunity to be inspired, to be energized and to realize their full potential.



Ted Cutler  
Chairman of the Board

Little Brother Jay  
age 13



# President's Letter

We are more than halfway through our team's five-year growth plan, and the results have been strong. I am happy to report that, over three years, **Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters augmented its revenues by 18%, and increased the number of children we serve by 49%.**

This great growth reflects tremendous effort. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to our generous Board of Directors and funders, the individuals, foundations and companies whose multi-year commitments have driven our growth.

Increased multi-year funding has allowed us to invest in key new personnel and productivity-enhancing hardware and software, driving growth in the number of children we serve nearly three times faster than our financial expansion.

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Community-Based Mentoring	491	504	507
Site-Based Mentoring	342	351	386
Foster Grandparent Program	308	344	380
	<u>1141</u>	<u>1199</u>	<u>1363</u>

All of our programs have been growing: Community Based Mentoring by 20% over the FY16 baseline; Site-Based Mentoring by 43%; the Foster Grandparents Program by 73%.

We're excited about the dramatic increase in the number of children we're now able to serve. But there are still so many more deserving kids who desperately want and need our support. With your help, we will reach them soon – connecting them with inspiring mentors who help ignite their full potential.



Little Sister Sianie  
age 7



Andy Fleischmann  
President & CEO

# The percentages and numbers below all add up to **IGNITED POTENTIAL** for so many kids across Connecticut.

## Children

<b>MALE:</b> 46.3%	<b>BI-RACIAL:</b> 8.0%
<b>FEMALE:</b> 53.7%	<b>CAUCASIAN:</b> 15.9%
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:</b> 25.7%	<b>LATNIX:</b> 42.9%
<b>ASIAN</b> 0.9%	<b>OTHER:</b> 6.6%

## Adults

<b>MALE:</b> 33.1%	<b>BI-RACIAL:</b> 5.1%
<b>FEMALE:</b> 66.9%	<b>CAUCASIAN:</b> 59.1%
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:</b> 10.1%	<b>LATNIX:</b> 12.2%
<b>ASIAN</b> 4.1%	<b>OTHER:</b> 9.4%

## AUDITED FINANCES Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Support and Revenue	\$2,112,320
Individual Contributions	\$1,037,419
Federal Grants	\$569,494
Special Events	\$234,874
United Way Grants	\$80,280
In-Kind Contributions	\$103,052
Other Revenues	\$74,545
Investment Income	\$12,656
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,231,252</b>
Program & Program Management	\$2,016,277
Fundraising	\$214,975
Net assets – Beginning of Year	\$673,939
Change In Net Assets	(\$118,932)
Net assets – End of Year	\$555,007

Little Sister Elena,  
age 9



# Our Donors

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Little Brother Ricardo  
age 12

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Little Sister Sara  
age 10

# BIG HEARTS

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Big Sister Leah Leonhardt  
and Little Sister Sianie





# BIG HEARTS

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Program Enrollment Specialist

# Our Community and Site-Based Programs are continually **IGNITING POTENTIAL.**



Our Beyond School Walls Site-Based Program is now in its 11th successful year. It's sponsored by Comcast and is held at its Berlin facility with Comcast employees – like Big Brother Ken Arce – serving as mentors to children in the program – like Little Brother Angel and Little Brother Jack – from New Britain's Lincoln Elementary School.



Our Foster Grandparent Program meets at 42 Site-Based locations each week in Greater Hartford and Eastern Connecticut. Senior mentors, like Maria Surillo, pass along their love, knowledge and life experience to adolescents needing their attention and guidance, like Abimael (left) and Juniel (right).



Our On-Campus Site-Based Mentoring Program takes place at UConn and Eastern Connecticut State University with students from those schools mentoring children from the Windham School District in ways that ignite their potential and help them succeed in life. Pictured showing off decorated pumpkin are Big Sister Brielle Berkowitz, front, and her Little Sister, Sophia.



One of our longtime Community-Based matches, Big Sister Lorrie Adeyemi and her Little Sister Kacy, were a hit as featured speakers at our Annual Gala. Later, they joined the guests for an evening of festivities that included an inspirational program.



Our Big Couple of the Year, Gabrielle and Tim Tilley, posed for the roving photographer with their Little Sister Angie at our annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Year Awards event in late spring. Gabrielle, Tim and Angie are veteran participants in our Community-Based Program.



When Governor Ned Lamont celebrated National Mentoring Month by proclaiming January 27th Big Brothers Big Sisters Day in Connecticut, joining him in his State Capitol Building office for the special event was a group of "Bigs" and "Littles" from the Community-Based Program, including Big Brother Nagy Mishriky and his Little Brother, Jayden.



Our yearly Bowl-for-Kids'-Sake event rolled out in March at Spare Time Lanes in Vernon. Big Brother Bill Bentrup and his Little Brother Jovani, from our Community-Based Program, are shown planning their lane strategy before making bowling history.



**Nutmeg Big Brothers  
Big Sisters.**

# HELP IGNITE A CHILD'S POTENTIAL

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Little Brother Colby  
age 8



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