



**Nutmeg Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 54 years of helping Connecticut
children reach their highest potential

Igniting Potential

**Little Sister Daniella
age 8**





These two chummy guys are actual brothers as well as Little Brothers (mentees) in our Community-Based Program. Evan, age 10, is matched with Big Brother Sam Wilsey.



Little Brother Drew, age 11, is matched with Big Brother Jerry Vasylyk.

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.

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 insure 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've ignited great potential.

During 2019 - 2020:

Our Community-Based programs served 484 children.

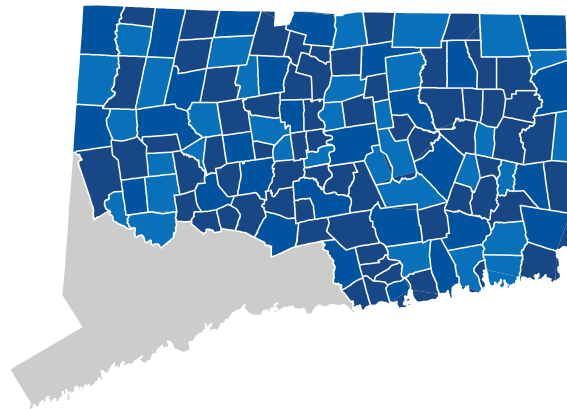
Our School-Based programs served 349 children.

Our Foster Grandparent Program operated at 35 sites, and served 346 children.

Our volunteer mentors devoted more than 140,000 hours to inspiring, teaching and bonding with their "Littles".

Volunteer mentors' time spent with "Littles" this past year was worth over \$4.Million – a huge value that your support made possible.

Our staff spent more than 24,000 hours creating and supporting life-changing matches between children in need and caring Big Brothers and Big Sisters.



95%

reported that their "Bigs" were Very Important Adults in their lives

85%

reported an increase in feelings of joy

84%

reported an increase in feelings of happiness

66%

reported a decrease in instances of school discipline

45%

reduction in depressive symptoms

43%

reduction in missed school days

25%

reported an increase in plans for college attendance



Little Sister Noel
age 10

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 represents our statewide service area.)



Igniting Potential

Little Brother Jayden
age 11

Koga Akinsola, a Project Contents Consultant from South Windsor, has mentored Little Brother Jayden since September of 2020 and is **helping to ignite his potential.**

Jayden's mom is also igniting his potential. She began by enrolling him in our program. She continues by supporting him in the program.



Big Brother
Koga Akinsola

Because generous individuals and organizations like the **American Savings Foundation**, represented by Maria Falvo, President & CEO, continue to support our programs, potential is being ignited for Little Brother Jayden.



Maria Falvo



Little Brother Nyzaya
age 13

Igniting Potential

Pablo Figueroa has been a Big Brother for 6 years. He lives in Hartford and is the owner/operator of Brand Limousines. Little Brother Nyzaya would be the first to tell you that **Pablo is the catalyst for his ignited potential.**

Nyzaya's mom also ignited his potential when she signed him up with us. She's proud of Nyzaya's progress and supports his participation in the program.



Big Brother
Pablo Figueroa

Because generous individuals and organizations like **Eversource Energy**, represented by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, President of the Eversource Energy Foundation, continue to contribute to our program, potential is being ignited for Little Brother Nyzaya.



Theresa Hopkins-Staten



Igniting Potential



Little Sister Natasha
age 18

Kim Mauro works at Key Bank as an Experience Leader. When she's not busy seeing to all things bank-related, Kim is a Big Sister to Little Sister Natasha. **Kim is honored and happy to be a major factor in Natasha's ignited potential.**

Natasha's aunt also ignited her niece's potential when she enrolled her as a Little Sister in our program. She continues to advance Natasha's progress by enthusiastically supporting her progression in the program.



Big Sister
Kim Mauro

Because generous individuals and organizations like **Comcast**, represented by Dennis Mathew, Vice President of Comcast's Western New England Region, continue to support our programs, potential is being ignited for Little Sister Natasha.



Dennis Mathew



Igniting Potential

Norma Sanchez,
Foster Grandparent of the Year
for the Greater Hartford Region

Because generous individuals and organizations like the **United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut**, represented by two members of its Board of Directors, Shellye Davis and Steven Litchfield, continue to support our organization, potential is being ignited for all the children Norma Sanchez has been mentoring at CRT Douglas Early Care Education Center.



Shellye Davis
President,
Hartford Federation
of Teachers.
AFT Connecticut PSRP
Vice President



Steven Litchfield
Regional Vice
President for
Greater Hartford
for TD Bank



Igniting Potential



Big Sister Jenn Pascal (left),
Little Sister Meladee (middle) and
Meladee's mom, Janyra Viera (right)

Potential has been ignited for Little Sister Meladee because a Match Support Coordinator like Nagy Mishriky (right) maintains ongoing contact with Meladee, Meladee's mother and Jenn Pascal to make certain the match is progressing smoothly and adhering to the guidelines of the Big Brothers Big Sisters service delivery model.

Potential has been ignited for Meladee because an Enrollment Specialist like Lorriane Poitras-Gallant (left), drawing on 116 years of Big Brothers Big Sisters history and her own youth services experience,

worked with Meladee, Meladee's mother and Jenn Pascal to carefully create a match that's having a significant life-enhancing impact on all participants.

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

Lorriane Poitras-Gallant, Nagy Mishriky
and Aniyah Smith



Chairman's Letter

Whatever the program, Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring has always involved one-to-one, in-person get-togethers. At schools, universities, workplaces and front doors, Big Brothers and Sisters would meet one-on-one with mentees to have fun, bond and plan for the future.

When the pandemic reached our state, all this changed. Almost overnight, programming developed over more than a century was no longer feasible.

To protect our kids, we thought outside the box. In a few short weeks, we moved operations from in-person to virtual. Using our new Virtual Mentoring Dashboard, Bigs and Littles met online for tours, games and activities. By April of 2020, 95% of our Community-Based Bigs and Littles had moved to Virtual Mentoring.

Mentors and mentees in our School, Workplace and Foster Grandparent Programs also moved to Google Classroom and Zoom gatherings – with virtual break-out rooms to give Bigs and Littles one-to-one time. In addition, our team built a new Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, providing fresh topics and activities for each week.

I'd like to thank our Bigs, Littles, families and partners for being so open to new approaches. I'd also like to thank our dedicated staff, whose hard work made this great new programming possible. Our team's innovations now equip us to provide more Connecticut children with top quality mentoring than ever before. Onward!



Ted Cutler
Chairman, Board of Directors
CEO, Tecton Architects



Little Brother Leo
age 7



Little Sister Daniella
age 8

President's Letter

If the past year showed us how resilient and adaptable our kids and staff can be, the coming year will show how ready they are to keep moving forward.

As we return to in-person programming, we will continue to offer Virtual Mentoring for those facing travel restrictions – ensuring more kids and mentors can stay connected. We will keep building out our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, so that children and mentors in all programs can use it throughout the year. And we'll continue to promote home-based projects through Science and Art Fairs that encourage intellectual exploration and creativity.

Most indicative of our post-pandemic mindset, in the coming year we will launch our first major postsecondary-school program, Big Futures.

Understanding that 18-year-olds are not children but young adults, we will seek to clarify and support their aspirations for higher education, job training, jobs or enlistment. We will work with new partners to ensure that, whatever a young person's goals, we're providing them with optimal resources – while also giving mentors, parents and guardians the information they need.

Amid all this innovation, our mission remains constant: To provide young people with one-to-one mentoring that helps them reach their highest potential. Thank you for all you do to help us provide this critical support to deserving young people!



Andy Fleischmann
President & CEO

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

CHILDREN

MALE:

47%

FEMALE:

53%

AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:

28%

ASIAN

1%

BI-RACIAL:

6%

CAUCASIAN:

22%

LATINX/PUERTO RICAN:

41%

OTHER:

2%

ADULTS

MALE:

36%

FEMALE:

64%

AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:

10%

ASIAN

6%

BI-RACIAL

2%

CAUCASIAN:

66%

LAT/PUERTO RICAN

15%

OTHER:

1%

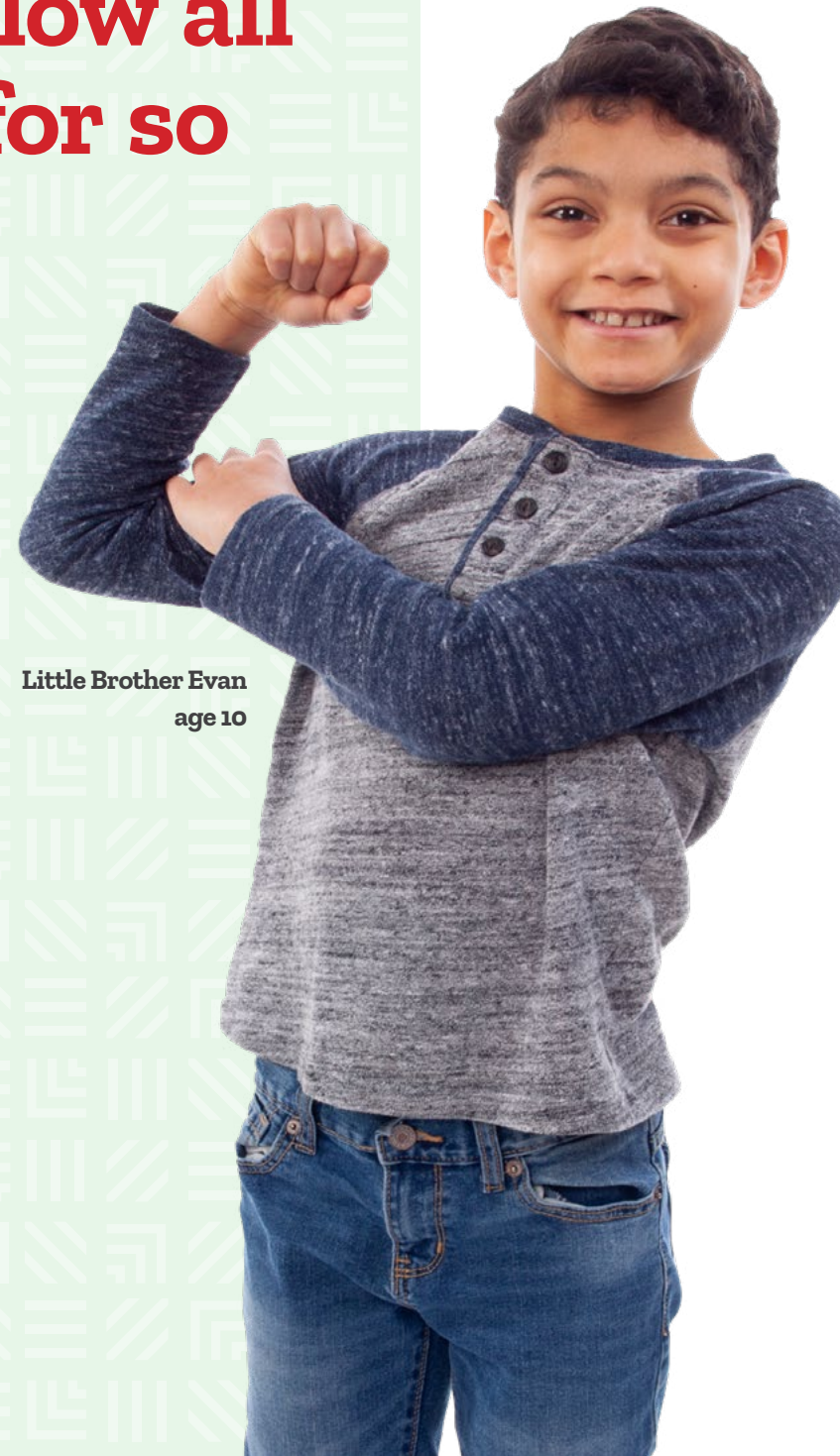
AUDITED FINANCES Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Support and Revenue	\$2,018,960
Individual Contributions	\$ 904,762
Federal Grants	\$ 583,741
Special Events	\$ 209,079
United Way Grants	\$ 76,907
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 200,748
Other Revenues	\$ 41,888
Investment Income	\$ 1,835

Expenses	\$2,039,767
Program & Program Management	\$ 1,827,252
Fundraising	\$ 212,515

Net Assets	
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$ 555,007
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (20,807)
Net Assets – End of Year	\$ 534,200

Little Brother Evan
age 10



Our Donors

Major Sponsors: \$50,000 +

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Corporation for National and Community Service
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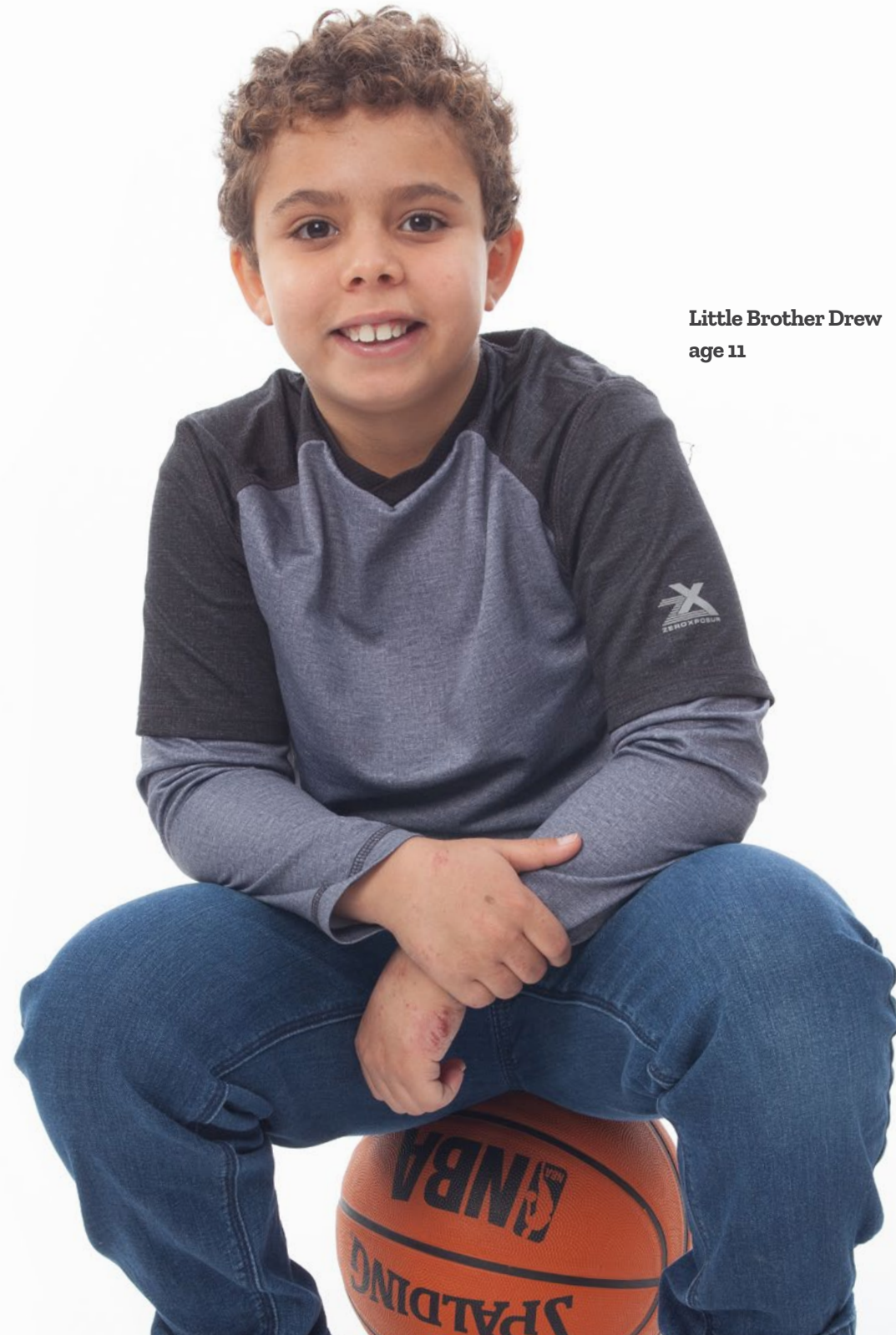
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**Little Brother Drew
age 11**

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Little Sister Meladee
age 12

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7/1/19– 6/30/20

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Little Sister Noel
age 10

BIG HEARTS

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7/1/19 – 6/30/20

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



Our Beyond School Walls **Site-Based Program** is now in its 12th successful year. It's sponsored by Comcast and is held at its Berlin facility with Comcast employees – like Big Sister Vicky Gallo - serving as mentors to children in the program – Like Little Sister Aymnhas, from New Britain's Lincoln Elementary School. The program, due to the pandemic, has been meeting virtually, and looks forward to getting together in-person as soon as possible.



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, pre-pandemic, are Big Sister Rachel Alexander, right, and her Little Brother, Lyric.

One of our standout **Community-Based Program** matches, Big Brother Michael Johnson and his Little Brother Zamarion, were an audience hit as featured speakers at our Annual Gala this year, which was held virtually rather than in-person for the first time in the long history of Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Big Sister Siobhan McGirl, a broadcast reporter with NBC Connecticut, is matched with Little Sister Jahyleeanne of New London in our **Community-Based Program**. With the onset of the pandemic, they had to get creative with their scheduled get-togethers. Lately they've been connecting via Zoom – where they read books, talk and make salad, soap and natural facial masks with yoghurt and lemon.



Our Big Sister of the Year, Nicola Culmo and her Little Sister Jenalys, posed for the candid photographer at a photo session for one of our Annual Report photo sessions prior to the current health crisis. Nicola – who teaches biology, anatomy and physiology at William H. Hall High School in West Hartford – has been a Big Sister with Nutmeg in our **Community-Based Program** since 2015.



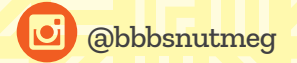
Big Brother Pablo Figueroa – our Big Brother of the Year – and his Little Brother Nyzaya have been matched in our **Community-Based Program** for the last four years. Prior to COVID-19, they loved meeting up in person for all sorts of match activities. Now they communicate electronically and love that almost as much. They're pictured here in a pre-pandemic visit to their favorite Chuck E. Cheese restaurant/entertainment center.



Our **Foster Grandparent Program** has been meeting virtually at 35 **Site-Based** locations each week in Greater Hartford and Eastern Connecticut. In the program, senior mentors, like Lorraine Dollard – far left – (Foster Grandparent of the Year for Eastern Connecticut) – pass along their love, knowledge and life experience to adolescents needing their attention and guidance. Mrs. Dollard is pictured, prior to COVID-19, with a group of her mentees from the Groton, Connecticut area, and their parents.

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With Us.



Scan the QR Code
to visit our website!



**Nutmeg Big Brothers
Big Sisters.**

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nutmeg@bbbsnutmeg.org

**Little Brother Jorden
age 6**

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