



Big Brothers
Big Sisters®
OF CONNECTICUT

IGNITING POTENTIAL

2022
ANNUAL
REPORT

Little Brother Damarrius
age 10



WHO WE ARE

We're currently celebrating our 57th year in Connecticut! For many of those years, as Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, we served three quarters of the state. Following a 2022 merger that transformed us into Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut, we now serve the entire state.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of 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, a Big Futures 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 national Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring success to build on (combined with 57 years of Connecticut 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 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut is considered the state's premier youth mentoring organization.



Serving all of
Connecticut!

Little Sister Emelia
age 11



FOR THE MORE THAN 100,000 KIDS WE'VE SERVED SINCE OUR FOUNDING, WE'VE IGNITED GREAT POTENTIAL.

During 2021 - 2022:

Our Community-Based Program served 444 children.

Our School-Based Program operated at 12 sites and served 219 children.

Our Foster Grandparent Program operated at 22 sites and served 216 children.

Our Big Futures Program served 26 teens and young adults.

Our volunteer mentors devoted more than 31,804 hours to inspiring, teaching and bonding with their "Littles".

Volunteer mentors' time spent with "Littles" this past year was worth over \$952,530 – a huge value that your support made possible.

Our staff spent more than 30,176 hours creating and supporting life-changing matches between children in need and caring Big Brothers and Big Sisters.



Little Brother Daymian age 14

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 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut celebrates its 57th year of helping children facing adversity succeed, we've grown our service area to include **all** of Connecticut's 8 counties.

OUR NEWEST PROGRAM: BIG FUTURES!

As youth in Community-Based Mentoring like Daymian enter high school, they transition to **Big Futures**, programming for young adults up to age 26. **Big Futures** gives participants the experiences, opportunities and networks they need to reach their post-secondary goals. In addition to mentoring, it includes partnerships with universities, workforce development organizations, regional employers, and experts in job readiness. **Big Futures** helps youth gain the skills they need to achieve a living wage, community connections and a sense of success by their mid-20's. Learn more at www.ctbigs.org.

94%

consider their "Bigs" to be Very Important Adults in their lives

91%

have experienced an increase in feelings of happiness

52%

reduction in instances of school discipline

38%

reduction in substance abuse

28%

reduction in antisocial behaviors

20%

increase in academic performance

16%

decrease in feelings of hopelessness



Big Brother Olu Olapinsin and his Little Brother Julian age 14

IGNITING POTENTIAL

Olu Olapinsin from Bloomfield, a Physical Therapist and Regional Director at **Access Physical Therapy & Wellness**, has mentored Little Brother Julian for the past 2 1/2 years and is **helping to ignite his potential.**

Julian's mom **ignited his potential** by enrolling him in our program and continuing to support him in our program.

Because generous individuals and organizations like **the Liberty Bank Foundation**, represented by Executive Director Toral Maher, continue to support our program, **potential is being ignited** for Little Brother Julian.



Toral Maher



Big Brother Drake Peña and
his Little Brother Darius
age 10

IGNITING POTENTIAL

Drake Peña from West Hartford, an Associate Producer at ESPN, has been matched with Little Brother Darius for about a year and is **helping to ignite his potential.**

Darius's mom **ignited his potential** by enrolling him in our program and continuing to support him in our program.

Because generous individuals and organizations like **the Petit Family Foundation**, represented by its President Bill Petit, continue to support our program, **potential is being ignited** for Darius.



Dr. William A. Petit, Jr.



Big Sister Delia Monahan
and Little Sister Mya
age 14

IGNITING POTENTIAL

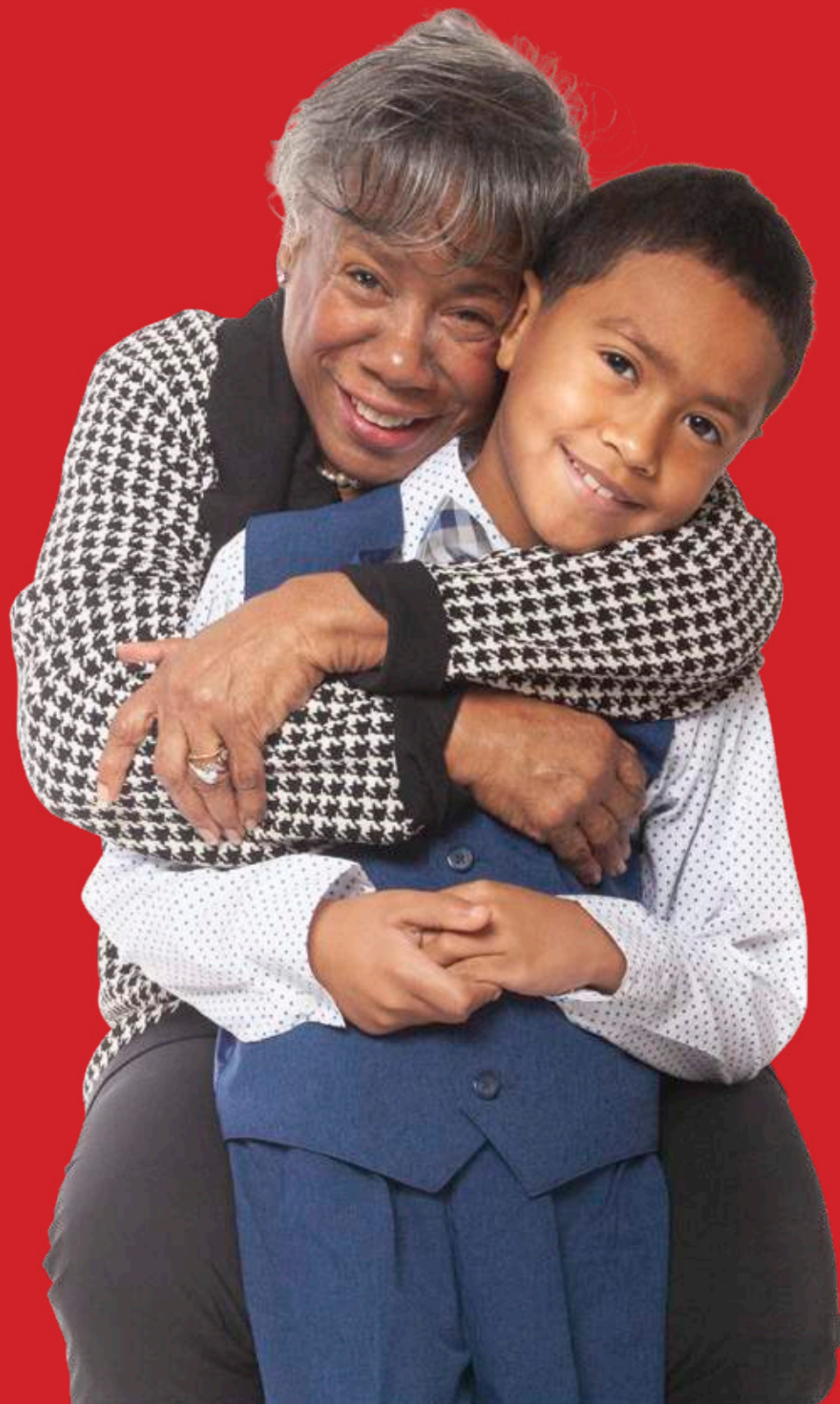
Delia Monahan lives in Torrington and works at Roost Powersports in Thomaston. She's mentored Little Sister Mya for the past two years and is **helping to ignite her potential.**

Mya's mom **ignited her potential** by enrolling her in our program and continues to support her in our program.

Because generous individuals and organizations like the **United Way of West Central Connecticut**, represented by Manny Martinez, President and Chief Professional Officer, continue to support our program, **potential is being ignited** for Little Sister Mya.



Manny Martinez



Classie Sanders and 8-year-old Jayden.
Classie Sanders is our current Foster
Grandparent of the Year

IGNITING POTENTIAL

Classie Sanders from Hartford, a Foster Grandparent (senior mentor) at the M.D. Fox Elementary School in Hartford, has mentored second grade students at the school for the past four years and is helping to **ignite their potential.**

Administrators at the Fox Elementary School **ignited the potential** of their students when they determined the facility would take part in and support our Foster Grandparent Program.

Because generous individuals and municipalities like the **City of Hartford**, represented by Kristina Baldwin, Director of **Hartford's Department of Family, Children, Youth and Recreation**, continue to support our program, **potential is being ignited** for many Little Brothers and Little Sisters in the Foster Grandparent Program.



Kristina Baldwin



In the foreground is Little Brother Damarrius, age 10. On the right is his Big Sister Julie Haring. On the left is Lenay Rogers, Damarrius's mom. Lenay is our Parent Partner of the Year.

IGNITING POTENTIAL

Potential has been ignited for Damarrius

because a Match Support Coordinator like Sorceres Rivera-Tamarez (left) maintains ongoing contact with Damarrius, his mother and his Big Sister Julie to make certain the match is progressing smoothly and adhering to the always-evolving guidelines of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Service Delivery Model.

Potential has been ignited for Damarrius

because an Enrollment Coordinator like John Coloma (right), drawing on 117 years of Big Brothers Big Sisters history and his own youth services experience, worked with Damarrius, his mother and Big Sister Julie to carefully create a match that is having a significant life-enhancing impact on all participants.

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



Sorceres Rivera-Tamarez, John Coloma and Cirylei, age 10

This has been a big year for Big Brothers Big Sisters. In February, we effectuated a merger to become Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut. And a matter of weeks later, we launched Big Futures, our new program providing support to young adults past high school up through their mid-20's.

Thanks to dedicated staff from the former Nutmeg and Southwestern CT BBBS teams, our new, statewide team is already showing the wisdom of merging. The number of children we're serving in all our programs has increased.

Big Future's launch has also been a great success. More young people jumped at the opportunity to participate

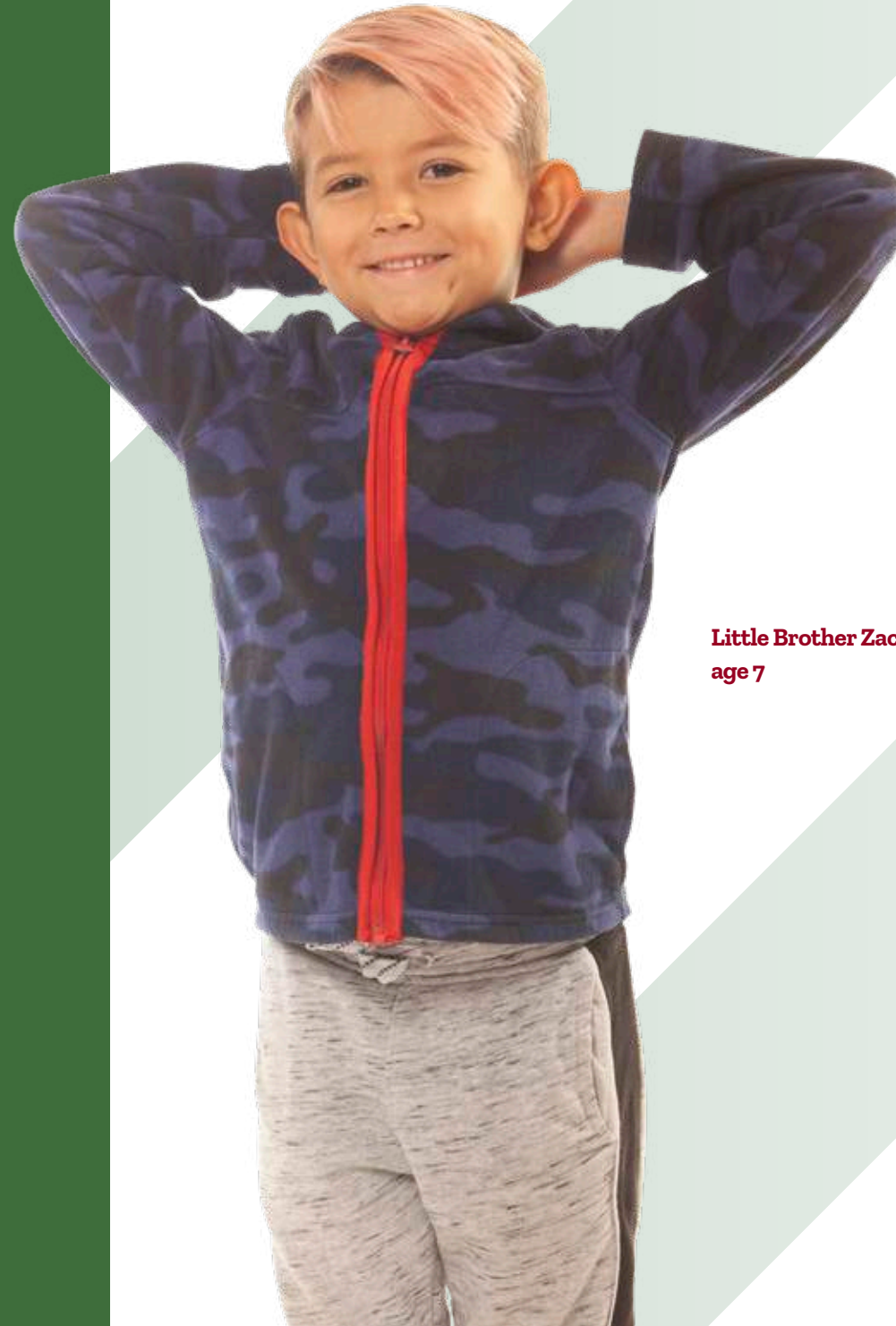
than we'd anticipated, with 98% of those who heard about the program coming aboard. Partnerships with employers, universities and other community organizations have allowed us to roll out programming that includes test prep, campus tours, wellness programs, career workshops, and social outings – not bad for year one!

With your help and partnership, we will make sure that more children than ever experience the benefits of great programs like these in years to come.



Ted Cutler
Chairman, Board of Directors
CEO, Tecton Architects

Little Sister Katalina
age 10



Little Brother Zack
age 7

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut, our focus is on impact. Over the past thirty years, multiple studies have shown that children matched with a Big Brother or Sister for more than one year experience lifelong benefits: lower likelihood of trying drugs or alcohol early, increased engagement in pro-social activities, greater educational attainment, increased lifetime earnings, and most importantly, greater life satisfaction and happiness.

For this reason, we are focused not just on reaching more children, but on ensuring we do all we can to ensure they're matched with a mentor for a year or more.

In the coming year, this means we will be looking at ways to restructure our programming with this end in mind. Colleagues in other parts of the country have been making mentoring matches that last longer by providing volunteers with additional training, support and communication. We will explore and undertake changes to move in the same direction.

As always, we have one end in mind: Changing children's lives for the better, forever. We couldn't do this work without your support, engagement and partnership – thank you!



Andy Fleischmann
President & CEO

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

THE PERCENTAGES AND NUMBERS BELOW ALL ADD UP TO IGNITED POTENTIAL FOR SO MANY KIDS ACROSS CONNECTICUT.

CHILDREN

MALE:

51%

FEMALE:

49%

AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:

33%

ASIAN:

1%

BI-RACIAL:

5%

CAUCASIAN:

21%

LAT/PUERTO RICAN:

38%

OTHER:

2%

ADULTS

MALE:

34%

FEMALE:

66%

AFRICAN AMERICAN/ WEST INDIAN:

11%

ASIAN:

5%

BI-RACIAL:

4%

CAUCASIAN:

68%

LAT/PUERTO RICAN

12%

OTHER:

0%

AUDITED FINANCES Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$2,281,011

Individual Contributions	\$ 885,117
Federal Grants	\$ 1,013,305
Other Grants	\$ 27,720
Special Events	\$ 213,721
United Way Grants	\$ 51,054
Other Revenues	\$ 58,031
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 76,215
Investment Income	\$ (44,152)

EXPENSES \$2,114,841

Program & Program Management	\$1,878,044
Fundraising	\$ 236,797

NET ASSETS

Net Assets – Beginning of Year	\$ 967,813
Change in Net Assets	\$ 452,980
Net Assets – End of Year	\$1,420,793



Little Sister Justice
age 6

OUR DONORS

Major Sponsors: \$50,000 +

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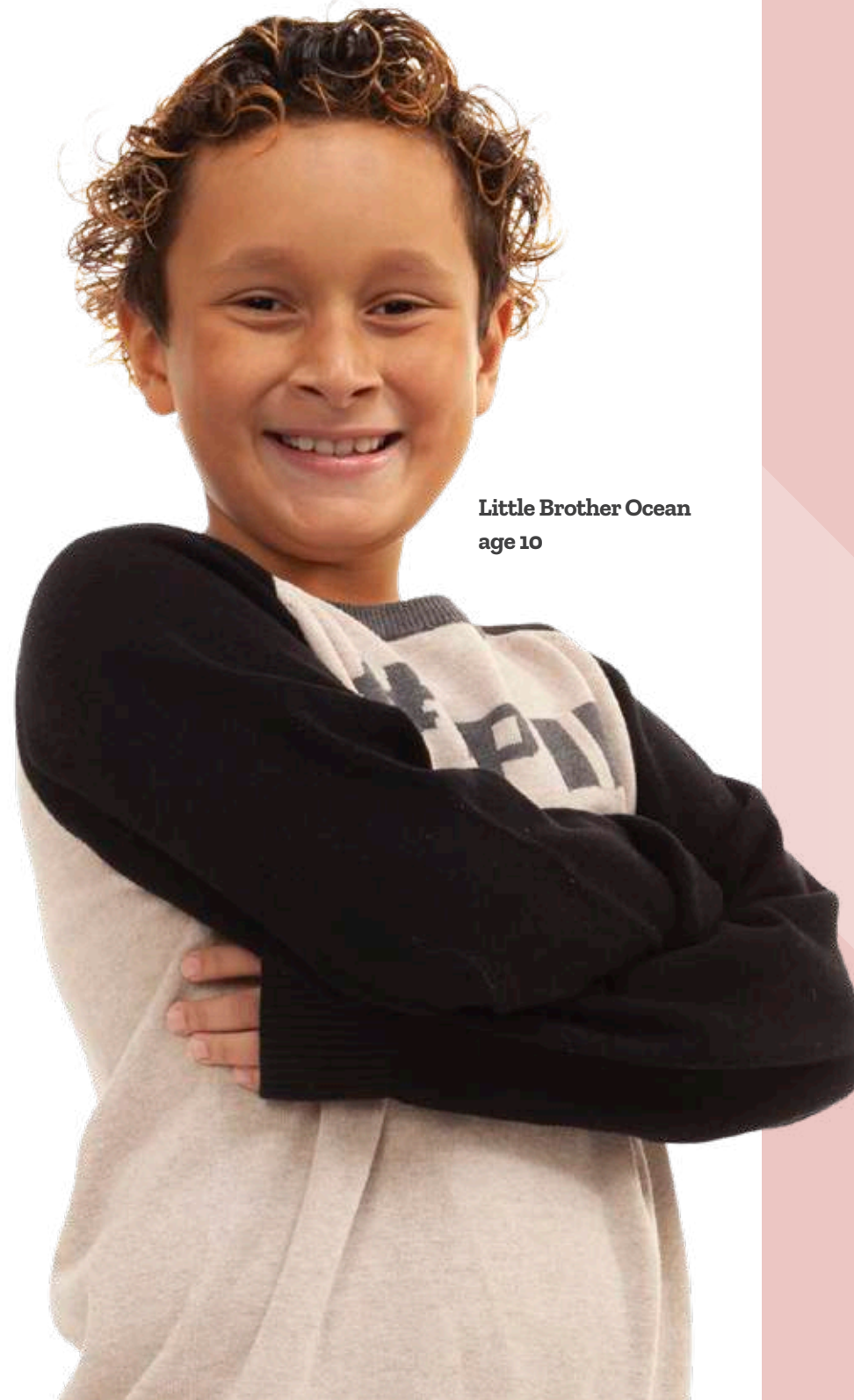
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Little Brother Ocean
age 10

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Little Sister Mya
age 14

Little Sister Mya
age 14

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Little Brother Nehemiah
age 9

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



In early September, we held our annual Back-to-School Picnic at Riverside Park in Portland. Close to 200 "Bigs" and "Littles" and family members gathered to enjoy an afternoon of food, activities and happy bonding under the late summer sun. After sampling some ice cream, Big Sister Amy Borg, from Farmington, and her Little Sister Heaven, from Hartford, posed for a photo. Amy and Heaven are in our Community-Based Program.

Our Beyond School Walls Site-Based Program is now in its 14th successful year! It's sponsored by Comcast and is held at the cable giant's Berlin facility with Comcast employees – like Big Brother Zach Averill, left, - serving as mentors to children in the program like Little Brother Wilfredy, right, from New Britain's Lincoln Elementary School. The program, managed by Big Brothers Big Sisters of CT, has happily returned to in-person sessions after pivoting to virtual get-together meetings during the recent COVID-19 health crisis.



Four days each week, for four years now, Classie Sanders has been passing along her wisdom and love to second-grade students like A'Meire, left, and Jeniffer, right, at the M.D. Fox Elementary School in Hartford. Classie is a strong supporter of our Foster Grandparent Site-Based Program, an inspiration to the students she interacts with every day and hugely appreciated by teachers and administrators at M.D. Fox. Classie's also the recipient of the Orelia Barnaby Memorial Award, making her our Foster Grandparent of the Year.

7-year-old Zack from Middletown is a Little Brother in our Community-Based Program. His Big Brother is Aaron Grover from Portland. One of their highlight activities this year was a visit to the XL Center in Hartford to check out a Hartford Wolf Pack hockey game. "Zack had a blast," Aaron said. "And I haven't had that much fun in a long time." Thanks to a generous ticket donation many lucky "Bigs" and "Littles" like Zack and Aaron got to take in lots of world-class hockey action this past season. Go Wolf Pack!



Thanks to the generosity of The Bushnell, forty matches from the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut Community-Based Program got to see the touring stage production of Aladdin during its fun-filled stop in Hartford this past season. One of the Big Sisters attending was Elizabeth Florian, left, from Granby, who came with her Little Sister Skiilyn, right, from Hartford. The two Aladdin fans were matched in 2022.



At a recent session of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Site-Based Mentoring Program at the W.B. Sweeney Elementary School in Willimantic, Big Brother Jerry Lin, left, and his Little Brother Jusiah, right, had fun building a marshmallow tower. Jerry, a UConn undergrad, and Jusiah, a Sweeney student, also learned a valuable STEM lesson: how math and physics can help determine the optimum configuration of a structure.

At our most recent Gala, Big Brother Mike Isko, right, and his Little Brother Trey, left, were the keynote speakers. They completely engaged the audience when they told the story of their six-year-old match relationship, talked about mentoring, and how others should support the Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based Program. Mike received a tremendous round of applause when it was announced he was recently named Connecticut's Big Brother of the Year.



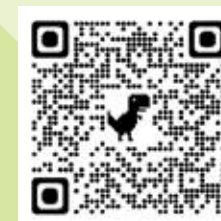
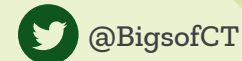
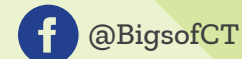
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Little Sister Katalina
age 10

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