

60th Anniversary GALA

2026 GALA HONOREE

WAYNE "BEAR" HOLCOMBE

Retired Owner/President
Signal Service, Inc.



Professionally, Bear was involved in the traffic control industry throughout his career starting as a technician for the CT DOT, transitioning to the private sector as a sales engineer for a regional traffic company and then forming Signal Service, Inc. in 1991 providing traffic control technology in CT and southern New England. He served as president until his retirement in 2018.

Bear was initially enticed to join Nutmeg BBBS in 1996 by a board member asking “how’d you like to do something to help kids?” He was elected as board chairman in 1997 and remained in that position through 2002. During his tenure, the agency absorbed the operations of three other smaller organizations in the state to broaden our footprint to 106 cities and towns in CT.

During 1997 Bear was a founding board member of the Hartsprings Foundation, a fundraising collaboration with the Springfield BBBS agency, that continues to provide funding to BBBS of CT through clothing donations to local Savers stores.

In 1999, he became a member of the National Leadership Council, a group formed by the National agency to represent local agencies in policy and protocol discussions. That involvement led to a seat on the national board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America from 2002-05.

In March of 2006, Bear and his wife Bobi were matched with 8 year old Angel as a ‘Big Couple’. Angel remains a fixture in their lives, as mentoring never stops. He now resides in Putney, VT where he is a Resident Dean in the freshman dorms and Assistant Director of the ‘Transition at College’ program at his alma mater, Landmark College.

Bear remained involved as a board member and Trustee until around 2013 and continues to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut in his semi-retirement in Old Saybrook.