



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of South Shore

2018
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

APRIL 30, 2019

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1. Mission Statement and Programs

Mission Statement

To provide friendships that are personally, socially, and psychologically adequate to children and youth and to aid in their development through the provision of professional and volunteer services.

Programs

Big Brother and Big Sister Matching

Adults are enrolled and matched with a young person who has similar interests. For two to four hours a week, the Bigs and the Littles have fun playing games, riding bikes, going fishing, cooking a meal, or just simply hanging out. Being a Big is simply about being a friend to a Little.

Couples for Kids

This program is just as easy as the Big Brother and Big Sister matching program; the great part is that couples are volunteering together and sharing an experience that will enhance the life of a child. Couples for Kids is a flexible program that gives couples the opportunity to have fun together while bringing magic into the life of a child. Couples are always surprised by what a difference a few hours a week makes in their lives and in the life of a child.

In-School Mentoring

In-School Mentoring is a fun and rewarding program that matches a screened adult or youth with a child in a school setting. Mentors experience the adventure of childhood all over again! With the Mentee for one hour a week, they play games, shoot hoops, draw, paint, read, or simply spend time together. In-School Mentoring: the hour a week that makes the volunteer feel like a child all week long!

Kids n' Kops

The Kids n' Kops program is designed for children ages 6-16 who are on the waiting list for a Big Brother or a Big Sister. Kids n' Kops is based on a partnership between the Bridgewater Police Services, the RCMP, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Shore, and is funded by United Way of Lunenburg County. The week is comprised of a mini police academy with a recreational component. The morning includes activities with police officers and police partners such as crime scene investigations, K-9 scenarios, fire safety demonstrations and fingerprinting. The afternoon includes physical activities such as swimming, sports, and beach fun. The Kids n' Kops program is supervised by volunteers and staff of the Bridgewater Police Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Shore.

Group Activities

Periodically throughout the year, we plan group activities where our matched and unmatched Littles get together with a group of screened adult volunteers and have fun in activities ranging from bowling, fishing, hockey games, and more. We are always looking for new and exciting activities for our Littles to participate in.

Go Girls! Healthy Mind Healthy Bodies Program

This program is designed to address the physical activity, balanced eating, and positive self-image needs of young women ages 12-14 based on a group-mentoring model. The program consists of eight mentoring sessions conducted over a seven- to ten-week period. Each session is 1.5-2 hours in length and is held after school or during school hours. The main goal of the Go Girls! program is to develop an appreciation of the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle among girls aged 12 to 14. In addition, the program strives to achieve the following key objectives: 1. To support girls and young women in choosing to maintain a healthy active lifestyle; 2. To provide girls and young women with the tools and information they need to choose to lead and maintain a healthy lifestyle; 3. To enhance the competence, confidence,

and self-esteem of girls and young women regarding healthy, active living; and 4. To build the leadership and life skills of all program participants.

2. Board of Directors

President	Shawn O'Hara
Vice-President	Debbie Murray
Treasurer	Sandra Mailman
Secretary	Ashwin Khedkar
Director	Wade Langille
Director	Kimberly Muir
Director	Jamie Irving

3. Staff

(Acting) Executive Director/ Mentoring Coordinator	Jennifer Meister (2018)
Events Coordinator	Danielle Wile (2018)
Executive Director	Vanessa Mossop (on parental leave)

4. President's Report 2018

I am pleased to submit the President's Report for the South Shore BBBS Annual AGM. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and staff for overcoming another challenging year (2018). Many strides forward have been made and the organization is in a much more solid position.

2018 saw continued staffing challenges, changes and board changes. Jenn Meister and Danielle Wile have joined the team. We are pleased to welcome a new Director, Kim Muir.

2018 continued to provide many challenges for the organization. In addition to the significant staffing challenges the organization has attempted its best to service kids and families in Lunenburg and Queens Counties with continued and improved but limited resources. Meeting budget on fund-raising events continues to be a challenge and efforts to solidify existing fund-raising activities along with identifying new or improved fund-raising efforts continue to be important for the organization.

2018 saw the return to financial and staffing stability; however, the challenges remain. It cannot be emphasized how important maintaining and stabilizing fundraising and initiatives are to this organization while at the same time stabilizing and enhancing services. The balance is an ongoing and difficult one.

BBBS continues to receive support from the United Way of Lunenburg County in funding programs and in particular the Kids N' Kops Program. BBBS continued with its in school mentoring program and great efforts were achieved in increasing the number of mentors and improving the program moving forward.

Challenges for the current and future years will include building a larger and stronger board, continuing to build sustainable and new fund-raising events and retire old non-performing ones, to address staffing levels and continuity, and continue with best efforts to make a positive difference in the youth and families BBBS touches.

Special thanks go to Jenn Meister and Danielle Wile our new staffing team. A huge learning curve was successfully climbed and their hard work and dedication to the organization is greatly appreciated!

I would like to once again thank everyone associated with the organization for your past, current and continued support.

Shawn O'Hara

5. Executive Director's Report 2018

2018 was a year of challenges, opportunities, and lots of learning. We had several hugely successful fundraising events, a few less successful events, and unexpected staff turnover that resulted in a brand new team. It could have gone badly, but the year surprised us: We're in better shape financially than we've been in years; our mentor numbers are growing; and as time goes on we are consistently supporting a higher number of children and youth. The future is bright, and we are thankful for the opportunity to make a positive difference for youth in our community.

The year started with some uncertainty that resulted in a few changes in staff. Facing a difficult pregnancy, Executive Director Vanessa Mossop was unable to work full-time, so many projects and responsibilities, including casework and event-planning, were at a standstill. Thankfully, our wonderful Board of Directors and volunteers stepped in to make sure the planned events could continue and important tasks were complete, and in March I was hired as the agency's new Caseworker. May brought more staffing changes as we hired Danielle Wile as our part-time Events Coordinator and I took over as Acting Executive Director while Vanessa enjoyed time at home with her new baby boy, Finnegan. Since then, we have found our groove and have become a great team. It shows the wonderful things our agency is capable of, and we look forward to seeing what the future will bring!

With the staffing changes, events saw some ups and downs. A few fundraisers did very well: The Valentine's Dance, Golf for Kids Sake, and McHappy Day were all in line with expectations, which, considering our lack of experience with the events, we were quite happy with. But Touch-a-Truck, Danielle's first solo event, was a runaway hit. We exceeded expectations by over 400% and thanks to great planning, hard work, and beautiful weather, Danielle created an event that will become a mainstay in the community and will only get bigger and better in years to come. This event, and our other successful campaigns, helped bring us back to the public's mind and showed what we are capable of. On the other hand, based on lack of interest, complicated logistics, or overall event fatigue, we made the decision to cancel other existing events, including the long-running Curl for Kids Sake and relatively new Casino Night. We may bring these events back someday, but for now we would like to create more interest with something new.

Our fundraising success helped put us in a better place financially than our agency has seen in years. We paid off our Line of Credit and erased our debt; we were able to purchase much-needed supplies and equipment; and we were able to make plans knowing that our finances were comfortable and stable. Many thanks to our donors and sponsors who help make sure we can continue supporting children and youth!

The most important thing, however, is the children and youth we serve, and everything we did this year was to ensure that we could continue to provide valuable programs and mentors for them. The funds we raise and all the work we do on a daily basis is to support these kids, and we are so happy with the growth and changes we saw this year. Over the course of 2018 we saw all our numbers grow. We added new youth to our roster, made new connections in the community, and also brought on a number of new mentors. In-school mentoring saw the biggest increase, with nearly triple the number of matches this year over the previous. We've expanded to new schools and found matches in communities where mentors hadn't existed in several years, and we anticipate our numbers increasing even more in 2019-20. Our numbers are currently small but they're growing, and we need even more volunteer mentors and Bigs. This is why we're here: to find mentors and role models for every child who needs one, and we will continue to work as hard as we can to make this happen.

In programming, Danielle and our summer student, Sarah, also delivered our annual Kids n' Kops camp in collaboration with Bridgewater Police Services, funded by United Way of Lunenburg County. Although the two groups had smaller numbers this year, the kids had a good time, experienced some new activities, and got to know different community members. It also gave us a chance to know the kids more, and with one year under belts, we're ready to shake things up and try something new in 2019. We marched in the parades for both the South Shore Exhibition and the Queens County Fair, and spent several days at the Big Ex promoting our programs and selling raffle tickets. We are also looking forward to adding more events and activities for our Littles throughout the year.

For me personally, this year was full of learning. Being brand new to the role, the organization, and to the province, I had a huge learning curve that was made difficult without training or a transition. For the most part, I learned as I went, but it's thanks to our Board, our volunteers, and our friends at other agencies that I was able to survive! Thank you to everyone who helped me figure things out, and now we can work on getting bigger and better.

2018 was a great year, and a wonderful start for the new team. I want to first thank Danielle for all her hard work this year: she stepped completely out of her comfort zone to take on this new challenge, and she has blown us away with her tenacity, her dedication, and the natural talent she brings to her role. We complement each other, and I am so thankful that she is here to make the job easier and the days brighter. Thank you also to our wonderful Board of Directors who have kept the agency afloat during stressful times and who continue to be supportive and dedicated navigators. Thank you to all our Bigs, volunteers, and donors who support the youth of the South Shore in a huge variety of ways; you make it possible for us to exist and you are the champions and voices our kids need. Finally—and most importantly—thank you to all our Littles for existing! You are the reason we are here, and we are so honoured to be a part of your lives. Whether you are already in a match, are on the waitlist, or are an alumnus, you are one of us and we are committed to helping you become the very best version of yourself.

Thank you to everyone for a successful 2018, and we can't wait to see what 2019 brings!

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Meister
Acting Executive Director/Mentoring Coordinator

6. Policy and Personnel

There is no activity to report within this committee for the year 2018.

7. Group Activities

During 2018, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Shore hosted a variety of group activities for our Littles. The group activities were as follows:

- Bowl for Kids youth bowl (April)
- Fishing Derby (May) – in partnership with the South Shore Wildlife Association
- Kids n' Kops camps (2) (July & August) – in partnership with Bridgewater Police Services
- Touch-a-Truck (September)
- Christmas Party (December)

8. Fundraising Activities

Sincere thanks to all Board Members, Community Volunteers, Sponsors, and Donors for all that they do for our Fundraising Activities!

2018 fundraising activities, including our staple fundraisers, included:

- ReNew Crew (ongoing clothing collection program with pick-up and drop-off)
- Valentine's Dance
- Curl for Kids Sake
- Bowl for Kids Sake
- Golf for Kids Sake
- Touch-a-Truck
- Memorial Donations
- General Donations

Additional fundraisers in which we were offered an opportunity to participate:

- McHappy Day
- South Shore Exhibition – White Point Raffle
- Boston Pizza Dinner and Dance

Fundraising Committees in 2018:

- Curl Committee
- Golf Committee