



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters

OF SOUTH CENTRAL NIAGARA

# 2022 Annual Report



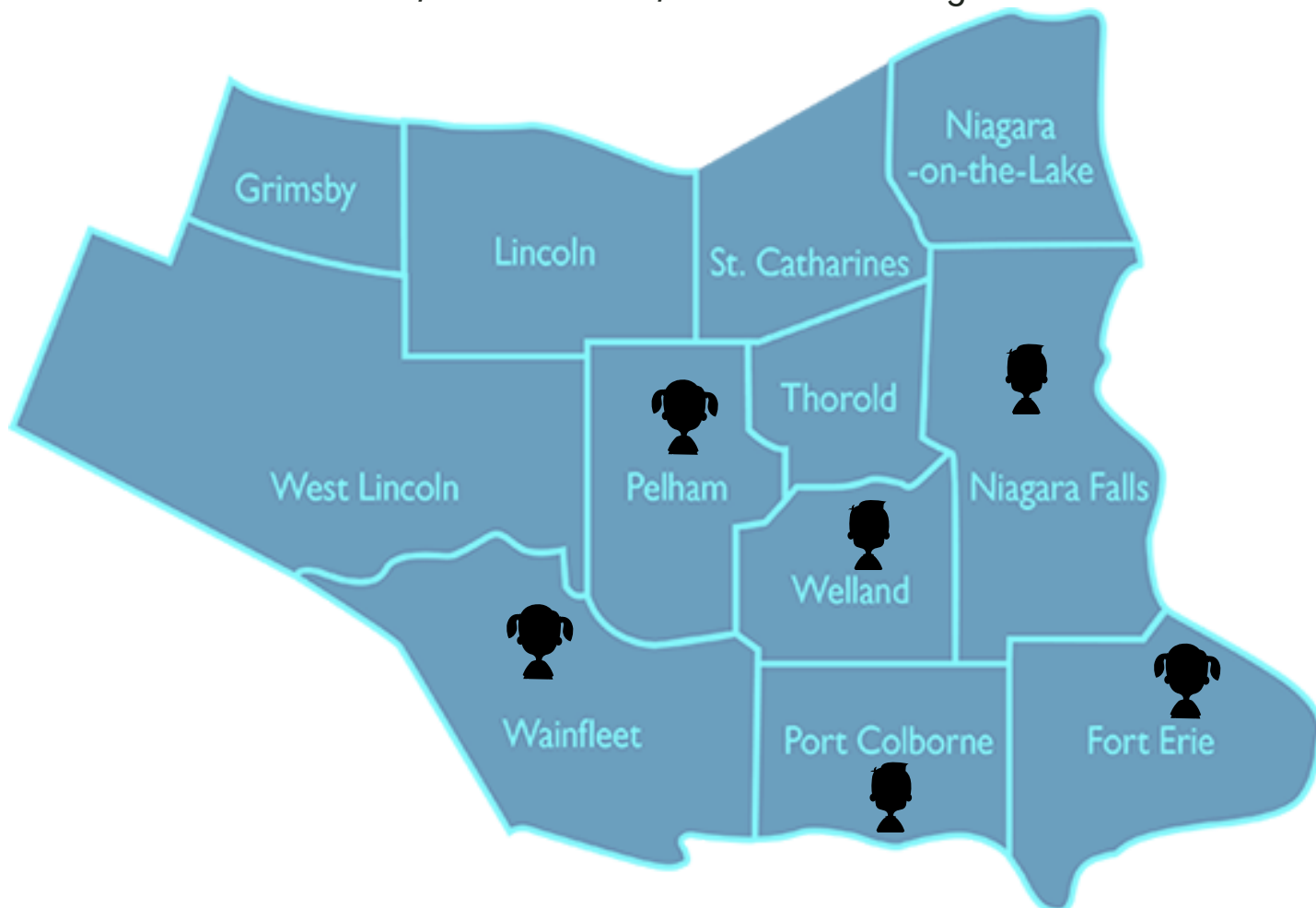
*IGNITING THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PAGE 3</b>	<b>Service Area &amp; Impact</b>
<b>PAGE 4</b>	<b>Testimonials &amp; Match Highlights</b>
<b>PAGE 6</b>	<b>Donor Thank You</b>
<b>PAGE 8</b>	<b>Funders &amp; Granters</b>
<b>PAGE 9</b>	<b>Fundraiser &amp; Event Highlights</b>
<b>PAGE 11</b>	<b>Board President Report</b>
<b>PAGE 12</b>	<b>Executive Director Message</b>
<b>PAGE 13</b>	<b>Senior Director of People &amp; Programs Message</b>
<b>PAGE 14</b>	<b>Board of Directors &amp; Staff</b>
<b>PAGE 15</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>

# Service Area & Impact

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara proudly serves Welland, Pelham, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls.



432

Mentoring Opportunities

191

Mentoring Volunteers

24

Partnering Schools

365

Unique Children & Youth  
Mentored

148

Waitlisted Children & Youth  
as of Dec. 31st, 2022



# Testimonials & Match Highlights



## Question: Did you like participating in the Go Girls! program?

"I did! I was waiting all week just to go because I had so much fun each time"

"Yes I did because we did a lot of fun activities – it was really fun!"

"Yes I did since I got to miss class and hangout with friends. We also got to play fun games and move our bodies and get energetic."

-Go Girls! Mentee Testimonials



"He explained one of the students in group had a stutter and it would take him longer than others to verbalize his ideas and thoughts. Jesse shared that at the beginning of group the rest of the boys would often try to speak over him, or finish his thought for him, before he was finished speaking. He explained that as the weeks went on, the boys in group were more patient when this mentee was speaking and were more engaged and attentive while he was speaking. Jesse stated it was great to see that progression each week."

- Game On! Mentor Testimonial from Caseworker



"Match has been together for 2.5 years. Little Brother feels like his Big Brother is someone he can count on, because he never goes back on his promises and listens to him when he talks. Little Brother has been consistent throughout match monitoring about appreciating that he has someone who listens to him and always shows up. 2.5 years later they still meet every week and guardian states that Big Brother is a "stable role model" for him. "

-Big Brother Testimonial from Caseworker





**Alex and Joseline  
enjoying some flower  
pot painting during  
our Match Summer  
Picnic!**

**Mentors Des and Stuart  
completing the mummy  
wrap challenge with their  
Mentee Damon at our  
Halloween Match Party!**



**Mentor Curtis and  
Mentee Carter had a  
spectacular time at a  
Toronto Maple Leafs  
game - they even got to  
appear on the Megatron!**

# A BIG Thank You to Our Donors, Sponsors and Community Partners

## Trailblazers (\$5,000+)

Cathy and Tom Hopkins & Tim Hortons Store #30, Billyard Insurance Group, Allstate Insurance, Intact Financial Group, Tim Hortons Advertising & Promotion Fund (Canada), Travelers Insurance, ProCon Constructors, BIG Insurance, Ken Sawatzky

## Champions (\$1,500-\$4,999)

Insurance Brokers Association of Niagara Falls Inc., OxyVinyls Canada, Youngs Insurance Brokers, Cotton Inc., Fidelity Investments Canada ULC, Bosch Rexroth Canada, Emily Barry, Sullivan Mahoney, Economical Insurance, Aviva Insurance, Intact Insurance, CAA, The Rotary Club of Fonthill

## Leaders (\$500-\$1,499)

Brock Ford Sales, Giant Tiger Stores Limited, Crackerjack Stadium, F.E. Coyne Insurance Brokers, Kings Wednesday Night Hockey League Welland, Canoe Financial, Debbie Wilson, Tom & Janet Thornton, Karen Trebilcock, Judith Chimenti, The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance, Pembroke Insurance, Boggio Pharmacy, Chippawa Lions Club, Fort Erie Royal Canadian Legion, David Ludberg, Mackenzie Investments, Witing, Revel Realty, Canoe Financial, Louella Hilko

## Partners/Other Community Supporters & Foundations

Knights of Columbus Niagara Falls, Fonthill Legion, Doc Magilligan's Restaurant & Irish Pub, South Street Burger, Seaway Mall, Canadian Online Giving Foundation, Boston Pizza Foundation

## In-Kind Sponsorship

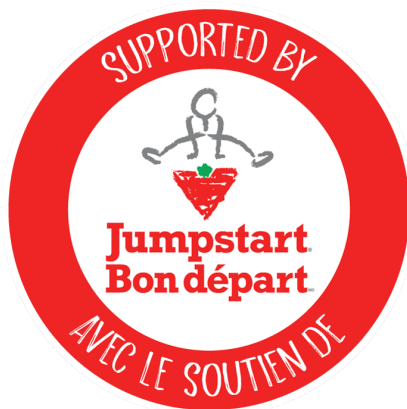
Club Richelieu, Ray and Judy Fortier, Norm Fortier, Cathy and Tom Hopkins (Tim Hortons Owners Niagara Falls), Frontier Restaurant, Big Reds Meat Market, Vermeers Garden Centre, Tim Hortons (852 Niagara Street, Welland), Scientists in School Virtual Event, Brandon McIntee, Tom Thornton, Jack Brown, McDonald's (Thorold Stone Road), Giant FM and Country 89, Natalie Mazzarelli, Sullivan Mahoney Lawyers, Robyn Stone, Sue Mariage, Olivieri Family, Jonathan Hart, First Book Canada, Rose City Pizza, Little Ceasars Pizza, Sunshine Rotary of Niagara Falls, Roots Bissonnette Walker LLP, David Elliot, Trevor Marsh, Peter Papp, Niagara Helicopters, South Street Burger, Seaway Mall, Niagara Cider, West-Jet Gifts of Flight, Antica Pizzeria & Ristorante, Niagara City Cruises, Lancaster, Chown & Welch LLP, Best Western Niagara Falls & Doc Magilligan's Restaurant & Irish Pub, A&W, Healthwise, Canadian Tire Welland, HOCO, Mr. Mikes Welland, Lapennaco Home and More, Infinity Family Jewelers, Safari Niagara, MorethanPPE, Paul Allister, Angelo Pizzi, Mike Bonomi, Doug Reilly, Carousel Players, BNR Stables, Debbie Smith, James Leventakis, Allan Roberts, Howells Farm, Natalie Pietrangelo, Jessica denHollander, BBBS North and West Niagara, Pet Value, Sheryl Johnson, Tom Johnson, Kids Up Front, Niagara Homebuilders Association



*We extend our sincerest appreciation to all of our donors, sponsors and community partners. We would also like to extend a special thank you to all of our Volunteer Mentors, Bingo and Nearly New Thrift Store volunteers!*



# Funders & Granters



We would like to thank and recognize the tremendous financial support of our many funders. Without their support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission of enabling life-changing mentoring relationships that ignite the power and potential of young people. United Way Niagara, Branscombe Family Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Niagara Community Foundation, Canadian Tire Jumpstart, Delta Monte Carlo Bingo and Gaming Centre in Niagara Falls, Delta Bingo and Gaming in Welland, and Golden Nugget Bingo in Fort Erie - we thank-you!

# Fundraiser & Event Highlights



*MOVE FOR MENTORING*



THE NEARLY NEW THRIFT STORE  
**GARAGE SALE**



## PROJECT SNOWFLAKE





# Summer Picnic



## Halloween Party at Club Richelieu



**BOTTLE DRIVE**

 Big Brothers Big Sisters

*Silent Auction*



## Holiday Party at Cataract Bowl



**GIVING TUESDAY**





# Board President Report

The 2022-2023 year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara contained a multitude of successes, completing our amalgamation between Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara Falls and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara, welcoming new staff and additional positions to our team to enhance awareness and support throughout the community. The flexibility, adaptability and resolve of the staff and volunteers through this exciting and busy time were accompanied by enthusiasm and encouragement. Still, we always worked towards our goals of ensuring mentors were available and programs were sustained as we built and expanded throughout a new catchment area. The perseverance of our Leadership team ensured that at all times the work being done was empowering and elevating the youth of our community. As 2022 came to an end Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara began the unification process with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North and West Niagara. With all the right pieces in place, and respecting the words of our donors and sponsors, this partnership accelerated quickly to combine services of our volunteers, to strengthen the work of our teams to begin to work together to service the whole of the Niagara Region as one team.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara carries the legacies of three outstanding organizations, and as we continue our journey forward with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North and West Niagara, we will remain an example of what is possible when values are aligned and when the focus is truly on what is best for our communities.

As this new year and amalgamation moves forward, we as one team and one organization will be positioned to become a stronger support for the youth of our communities. We will provide the much-needed services to sustain ourselves and to support our community through the turbulent times we are facing.

I would be remiss without formally thanking our phenomenal leadership team, our amazing staff, our dedicated board members, the many generous volunteers of our agency, and the loyal and gracious donors, sponsors and partners that make each day possible not only for us, but also for our programs for the children and youth in our communities.

Frank Ruberto  
Board President

**"What we become as we grow is the amalgamation of thoughts and beliefs, the influence of the values and cultures."**

**-Unknown Author**

# Executive Director's Message

2022 was a monumental first year for BBBS of South Central Niagara! In July 2022, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara Falls came together to form the South Central Niagara agency. An incredible amount of work from the Staff and Board went into making this amalgamation happen, while ensuring programs, services, and fundraising efforts continued.

This first amalgamation strengthened our agency and positioned it for further unification. In the fall of 2022, the decision was made to begin to amalgamate with Big Brothers Big Sisters of North and West Niagara. This amalgamation work continues, and sets the stage for Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide life-changing programs and services to children and youth across the twelve Niagara communities for future generations. This amalgamation is the last in a series of amalgamations that have enabled Big Brothers Big Sisters to move from five divided agencies to one unified Niagara-wide agency.

It is another example of how we are BIGGER together!

As pandemic recovery efforts continued, our Staff team worked diligently to make life-changing matches and offer ongoing support to everyone involved. Our Staff team may be small in size, but the volume of support, training and resources they offer to our incredible volunteers, children, youth, families, and community is enormous. Volunteer recruitment and retention efforts continue, as we know mentorship is a tangible way we can equip children and youth to overcome many of the challenges they are facing.

As the shift started back to in-person programs and services, it quickly became evident how integral in-person connections are for the formation and continuation of developmental relationships. Collaborations with other social service agencies allowed Big Brothers Big Sisters to offer families wrap-around supports, while maintaining our focus on mentoring.

Ongoing support from existing and new donors continues to be integral to maintain a strong financial position that enables service continuity. Support from businesses and individuals in the community as donors, sponsors, granters, and event participants makes it possible for Big Brothers Big Sisters to continue to ignite the power and potential of young people.

Thank you to everyone involved in supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2022! We look forward to your continued involvement for years to come!

Erin Graybiel  
Executive Director



# Senior Director of People & Programs Message

2022 was a year of growth, accomplishment and change.

On July 8th, 2022, we officially completed the legal amalgamation of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara Falls and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara to officially become Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara. On August 30th, we welcomed many of our friends and closest supporters to join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration for all that had been achieved in bringing these two agencies together to provide mentoring services and supports for the communities of Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Welland, Pelham and Wainfleet. It took the tremendous support of our staff team and dedicated Board of Directors to bring this to reality, and I am so very proud of everyone for their efforts.

Throughout 2022, as the COVID pandemic finally started to ease, we celebrated the return of many of our signature fundraising and match events to their in-person format. A sold-out Golf For Kids Sake at Lookout Point Golf and Country Club, a summer picnic at Memorial Park in Welland, and a holiday party at Cataract Bowl in Niagara Falls were just some of the highlights. We also tried some new fundraising events, such as our first ever Nearly New Thrift Store Garage Sale at Knights of Columbus Hall in Niagara Falls and a Silent Auction at Seaway Mall Welland.

Our Nearly New Store Thrift Store had an amazing year, not only recovering from the extended COVID closures of the previous couple of years, but even achieving a few months of record sales! The store runs almost exclusively by volunteers and the proceeds are directed right back to our mentoring programs! In addition, we are proud to serve both locals and newcomers in need of essential items through a new voucher program and partnership we have embarked on with the Salvation Army.

As the year came to a close, our Board of Directors publicly announced that we would be embarking on another amalgamation journey, this time amalgamating with our friends at Big Brothers Big Sisters of North and West Niagara. With this final Niagara amalgamation, there will be one unified BBBS agency to serve the region. And with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara unification already well underway, 2023 promises to be just as exciting, challenging and eventful as 2022 was. Thank-you to the amazing staff, board of directors, volunteers, families, donors, funders, partners and many more in our community who make Big Brothers Big Sisters possible. As we all take on new roles, responsibilities and continue our work together let us all remember why we are here – to fulfil our mission of “enabling life changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people.”

Sarah Ludberg  
Senior Director of People & Programs





# Board of Directors and Staff

## 2022 Board of Directors

**Frank Ruberto, President**

**Victoria Brzozowski, Vice President**

**Mike Leone, Treasurer**

**Sheryl Johnson, Secretary**

**Virginia Workman, Director**

**Bruce Smith, Director**

**Tom Kubisewsky, Director**

**Trevor Marsh, Director**

**Keri Harrison, Director**

**Ellen Schonewille, Director**



**Staff Members & Placement Students  
Pink Shirt Day**

## Staff

**Erin Graybiel, Executive Director**

**Sarah Ludberg, Senior Director of People & Programs**

**Melissa Lodba, Casework Supervisor**

**Melissa Pelletier, Fundraising & Events Coordinator**

**Christina Lajeunesse, Community Engagement Coordinator**

**Drew Comerford, Marketing & Communications Coordinator**

**Madison Judson, Marketing & Communications Coordinator**

**Anna Mae Vaccaro, Intake Coordinator**

**Hannah Katzman, Caseworker**

**Hailey denHollander, Caseworker**

**Celine Beyer, Caseworker**

**Amy Alderson, Caseworker**

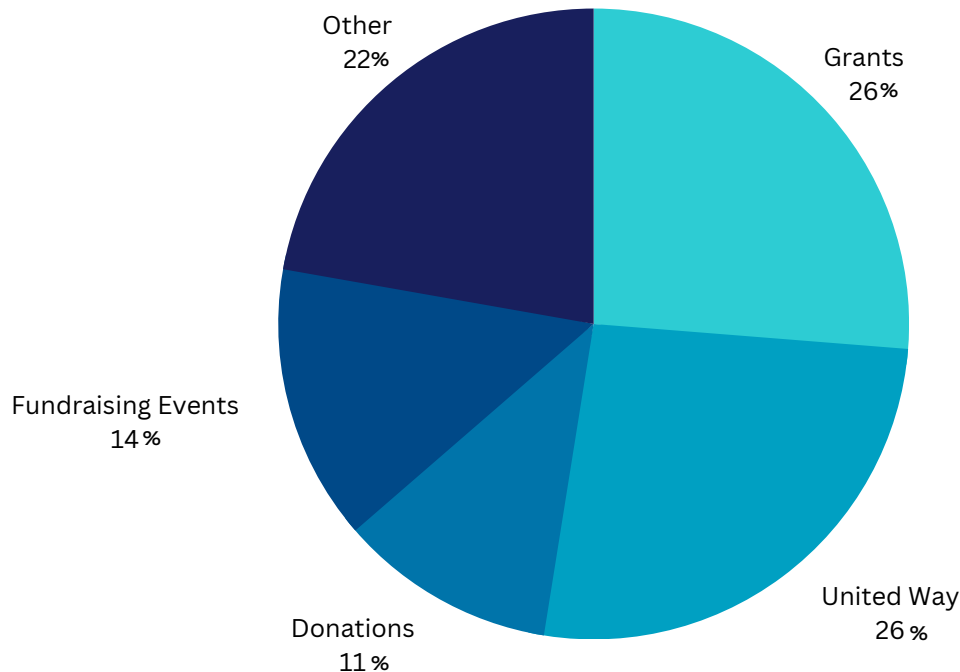
**Courtney Neilson, Caseworker**

**Chelsea Robinson, Caseworker**

**Kaila Lachan, Caseworker**

**Ashley Dunbabin, Casework Supervisor**

# Financial Report



## Sources of Revenue

- Grants
- United Way
- Donations
- Fundraising Events
- Other

## Social Return on Investment \$23:\$1

Every \$1 invested in mentoring returns \$23 to society

### Mentored Youth See Positive Results

#### IN LIFE

81% REPORT FINANCIAL LITERACY  
98% BELIEVE THEY MAKE GOOD LIFE CHOICES  
80% PURSUE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

#### IN COMMUNITY

87% HAVE STRONG SOCIAL NETWORKS  
50% MORE LIKELY TO VOLUNTEER  
(AND GIVE 30% MORE TIME)  
13% MORE LIKELY TO DONATE  
(AND GIVE 20% MORE)

#### IN WORK

47% HOLD SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS  
17% MORE LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED  
13% HIGHER EARNINGS  
(\$315,000 HIGHER LIFETIME INCOME)

# WE ARE #BIGGERTOGETHER



800 Niagara St, Seaway Mall, Upper Level  
JJ 2/3/4 Welland ON Canada L3C 5Z4



(905) 735-0570



[www.bbbsniagara.ca](http://www.bbbsniagara.ca)



## Big Brothers Big Sisters

OF SOUTH CENTRAL NIAGARA

Charitable Business Number: 107449571 RR0001



**United Way**  
Niagara

@Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Niagara