

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



**Big Brothers Big Sisters.**

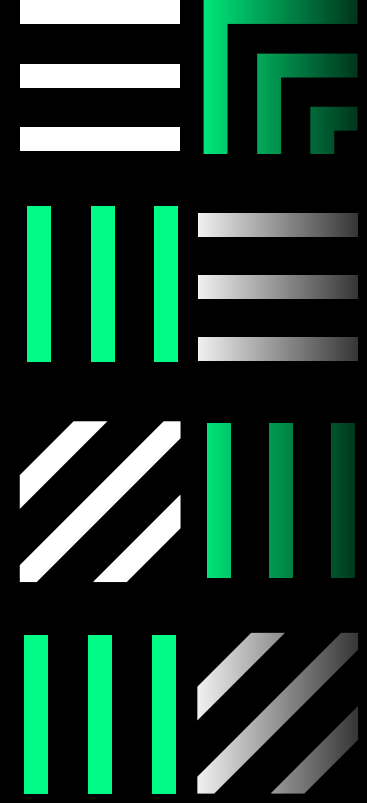
COLUMBIA NORTHWEST



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PG. 3 Mission Purpose and Recognition
- PG. 4 Letter from the CEO
- PG. 5 Black Youth Ambassador Board
- PG. 6 Getting Back to Nature
- PG. 7-8 Program Impact
  - PG. 9 Bigs Night Out
  - PG. 10 Event Highlights
  - PG. 11 Share the Season
- PG. 12 Big and Little Brother of the Year
- PG. 13 Big and Little Sister of the Year
- PG. 14 Board of Directors
- PG. 15 Ambassador Board Members
- PG. 16 Staff
- PG. 17 How to get involved - future events





# MISSION AND PURPOSE

**CREATE AND SUPPORT ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS THAT IGNITE THE POWER AND PROMISE OF YOUTH.**

**ALL YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest is a private non-profit social change organization affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Funded by local investments only, BBBS helps children realize their full potential and build their futures by providing dedicated one-to-one mentors to each child who comes through our door.

Our goal is to use the power of life changing mentoring relationships to help youth improve their academic achievement, empower them to make positive life choices, graduate from high school, have higher aspirations, greater confidence, and positive & supportive relationships.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest is proud to be recognized for its exceptional service to its community and leadership among Oregon’s social impact organizations





# LETTER FROM THE CEO BEACH PACE

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

**At Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, our focus this year is on the small actions that create big change. Amidst the complexities of our world, its easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges before us. Yet, in the face of such daunting odds, I believe it truly takes little to be big.**

Change does not always come in the form of grand gestures or sweeping reforms. Rather, it can emerge from countless small acts of kindness, compassion, and solidarity.

We see these small acts of generosity every day through the empathy of our Bigs and the trust of our Littles. Acts that feel minute in scale like a phone call, or a walk in the park, or a conversation providing some advice can grow into a mountain of self-confidence over time.

As you read through the stories and statistics from last year, you will learn that the need for Big Brothers is a demand that we struggle to fulfill. Little Brothers remain on our match waitlist five times longer than their female counterparts due to a lack of male volunteers. This is a national issue.

You'll discover that children who find matches experience significant gains in their educational accomplishments, self-esteem, and self-respect. I hope in 2024 you will help us close this gap in our waitlist.

As the philosopher Lao Tzu once said, **"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."** And in the case of mentoring, the ripple effects of these small yet meaningful gestures extend far beyond the individual and help shape the fabric of our communities for generations to come. As you read through our report, consider two things, making the commitment to become a Big (mentor) and encourage a friend to join you. I promise that not only will a child grow under your mentorship but you too will grow from their friendship. You will find yourself in service to another.

**Beach Pace,**

Chief Executive Officer

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest

# BLACK YOUTH AMBASSADOR GROUP

Our Black Youth Ambassador Group partnered with Nike volunteers during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to create an "I AM Tree" to form one piece of art that expressed both the strength and significance of individuality and the necessity of community and unity.

Conversations about positive affirmations and speaking your goals into existence through art and visualization were held throughout the group. The youth shared their current and future goals around their academics and lifestyles while our Nike volunteers offered advice and learned lessons from their past experiences. We want to thank the Oregon Department of Education, Youth Development Division, for funding our Black Youth Ambassador Group.

We believe in the importance of representation within our Bigs and Littles and the importance of being able to bond over shared, lived experiences.





# GETTING BACK TO NATURE

**2023 brought many unique partnerships that took us outside and let us enjoy all the Pacific NW has to offer!**

Our Outdoor Explorers Mentoring Program (OEMP) is more than just exploring the outdoors, it is the healing and bonding that nature can bring between people. During our OEMP outings, matches connect in a meaningful way by learning new skills together and by exploring the magnificent natural habitats of Oregon and Washington.

Studies have shown that youth are spending less time outdoors. This is especially true for underserved youth and youth of color who have less access to outdoor spaces and experiences. The health benefits of introducing kids to the outdoors are vast, showing positive impacts on their social behavior, mental health, and well-being. We want to thank our sponsors in nature at Oregon Metro, Urban Nature Partners PDX, and the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, for bringing these amazing experiences to our Bigs and Littles throughout the year!



# PROGRAM IMPACT

## WHO AND WHERE WE SERVE



**459** LITTLES SERVED



**97%**  
GRADUATION RATE



**3.3 YEARS**  
AVERAGE MATCH LENGTH

### 2023 POSITIVE IMPACT

**97.5%**



of Littles who maintained or improved avoidance of risky behaviors

**90%**



of Littles who maintained or improved academic performance

**95%**



of Littles who maintained or improved emotional regulation skills

### LITTLES & BIGS: AGE, GENDER & GEOGRAPHY

**14**

LITTLES AVERAGE AGE

**56%**  
Cisgender Male

**46.5%**  
Cisgender Female

**3.5%**  
Transgender, Genderqueer & Non-Binary

**40**

BIGS AVERAGE AGE

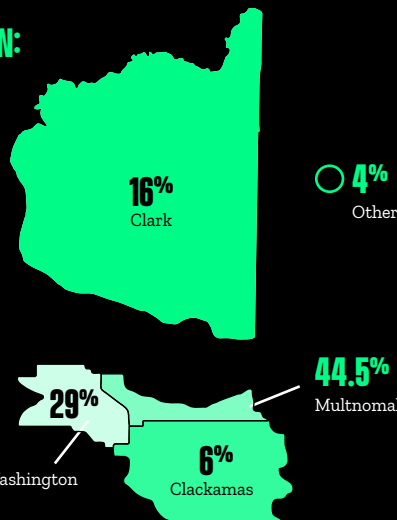
**49%**  
Cisgender Male

**48%**  
Cisgender Female

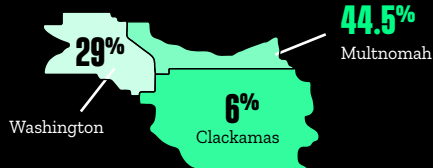
**3%**  
Transgender, Genderqueer & Non-Binary

#### LITTLES BY COUNTY

##### WASHINGTON:



##### OREGON:



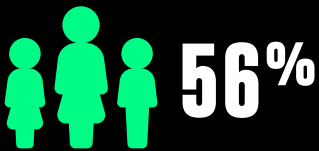
# PROGRAM IMPACT

## WHO AND WHERE WE SERVE

### LITTLES & BIGS: ETHNICITY

LITTLES	BIGS
29% NON-POC OR WHITE	69% NON-POC OR WHITE
71% POC:	31% POC:
36% HISPANIC OR LATINO	13% HISPANIC OR LATINO
28% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	8% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
6% NATIVE AMERICAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	1% NATIVE AMERICAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
5% ASIAN	7% ASIAN
<1% MIDDLE EASTERN OR NORTH AFRICAN	3% SOMETHING ELSE
<1% SOMETHING ELSE	

### LITTLES LIVING SITUATION:



SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLD:  
54% SINGLE MOTHER, 2% SINGLE FATHER



INCARCERATED PARENT OR FAMILY MEMBER



OF THE KIDS WE SERVE RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH



TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLD



GRANDPARENTS, SIBLING GUARDIAN, OTHER RELATIVE, FOSTER HOME, INSTITUTION, OR OTHER



# BIGS NIGHT OUT

2023 was all about making connections and that didn't stop at our matches. Our community of Bigs came together throughout the year to connect with other Bigs at our Bigs Night Out events. Bigs Night Out is an opportunity for current and potential mentors to come together, share a story, a laugh, and connect over the special experience of having a Little.



We were excited to be chosen by Deschutes Brewery for their monthly fundraiser, Community Pints. In the month of May every dollar of a pint of beer sold on Tuesdays was donated to us!

30 Bigs and several prospective Bigs drank, ate and talked about the joys of being a mentor.



We hosted a Bigs Night Out at Cascadia Taphouse in SW Portland. Current Bigs, those waiting for a match, and people curious about becoming a Big enjoyed beer and games while connecting over the unique experience of having a Little.

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**TOP GOLF  
FOR KID'S SAKE**

The BBBS community came together to celebrate the second annual Topgolf for Kids' Sake event at Topgolf Hillsboro. We had 14 amazing teams, and 100 attendees, rally together to raise over \$33,000 in support of mentorship. This community fundraising event brought together our Bigs, Littles, Board of Directors, Ambassador Board, and community partners for an afternoon of friendly competition, food, fun, and networking.

A special thanks to the wonderful community partners and companies who sponsored bays including Andersen Construction, Barran Liebman LLP, Cambia Health Foundation, Flowbird America, M Financial, Moss Adams LLP, and Pacific West Bank.



**2023 GALA  
BUILD BRIDGES  
TOGETHER**

We were so pleased to see over 350 guests come out to build bridges together and ignite the potential of youth through mentorship at the 2023 BBBS Annual Gala. These donors, sponsors, friends, and community leaders raised \$460,000 in support of our one-to-one mentoring programs here in Portland and SW Washington.

These generous donations mean more matches, more enriching experiences for our Bigs and Littles, more laughs, better grades, higher self-esteem, and more children with positive and supportive relationships to help them plan for their future.

**Thank you to our sponsors** M Financial, OnPoint Community Credit Union, Nike, Moss Adams, Andersen Construction, Cambia, Flowbird, KPMG, Hillsboro Hops, Advantis Credit Union, Sheldon & Janel Warmington, M Science, Hedinger Family, Barran Liebman LLP, Portland Business Journal

# SHARE THE SEASON

Our holiday "Share the Season" campaign was one to remember this year! We started the season out with our CEO, Beach Pace, joining the cast of KGW's Hello, Rose City! to share our mission and announce our participation in the KGW Great Toy Drive!

Our staff then met with Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon for an all-out shopping spree at Fred Meyer. Our team brought the personal wish lists from over 70 children and shopped for that special something each child had asked for under the tree. It was a magical experience that will be remembered by everyone. But the giving didn't stop there!

M Financial, our long-time Share the Season partner, also donated hundreds of toys donated by their employees, helping us complete wish lists that we couldn't have fulfilled otherwise. We ended the sharing season with a weekend of families stopping by the office for cookie decorating, gift wrapping and taking the magic of the season home with them.







# BIG & LITTLE BROTHER OF THE YEAR



**BIGS & LITTLES  
OF THE YEAR**

## WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE BIG BROTHER ANTHONY AND LITTLE BROTHER JAMAREA, OUR 2023 BIG AND LITTLE BROTHER OF THE YEAR!

Jamarea's grandma, Alicia, reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest shortly after being awarded guardianship of Jamarea. "It was just the two of us and I wanted Jamarea to have a strong male role model in his life that could share his interests." Enter Big Brother Anthony. Anthony became a Big believing that a life that does not serve others, serves no purpose. "Growing up without a father and a lack of positive male role models has motivated me to help young people who are facing similar upbringings."

Over the past three years, Anthony and Jamarea have bonded over their love of basketball, sports, and their mutual admiration for each other. Anthony attends all of Jamarea's basketball games. "It feels good to have Anthony at my games and makes me proud to have my team members meet him. He always has a big smile when he comes to see me." Anthony has been a constant presence in Jamarea's life, supporting him through emotional difficulties and cheering him on from the sidelines along the way. "When I grow up, I am going to be a professional basketball player and invite Anthony to all my games, he will have a special seat reserved just for him."

Since their announcement as Big and Little Brother of the Year Jamarea and Anthony's story has been shared on KGW during the Great Toy Drive and they have been featured on Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's social media as an example of Black male mentorship for Black History Month. We are so proud their match has been honored not only locally, but nationally as well.



# BIG & LITTLE SISTER OF THE YEAR



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters.

BIGS & LITTLES  
OF THE YEAR

## WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE BIG SISTER HAILEY AND LITTLE SISTER ANJANAE AS THE 2023 BIG AND LITTLE SISTER OF THE YEAR!

When Hailey matched with Anjanae in 2013, Anjanae was only 8 years old. Now, 10 years later, Hailey and Anjanae have been together through some of the most formative years of both their lives. Hailey has gotten to experience Anjanae grow from a shy girl to a confident, young woman with clear goals and aspirations; and Anjanae has gotten to have a permanent presence in her life through fun times, sickness, lockdowns, and long distances. "One of the greatest things about the relationship I have with Anjanae is both of us are usually game to do most anything." They both agree their outings have been the most memorable parts of their friendship. From mini cooking classes to Anjanae's first time rowing a boat, they meet every task with excitement and a good amount of laughter. "Unfortunately, there has not been a word curated to describe how special Hailey is to me" gushes Little Anjanae. "Imagine meeting someone, during a time when the world meant so little to you, who showed you everything the world has to offer."

This year, Anjanae will be graduating from High School with the hopes of attending college to become an attorney. She's also taken full advantage of all Big Brothers Big Sisters has to offer, such as working with Ninfa, our College & Career Zone Manager, to help create a career plan. Anjanae is also a core member of the Black Youth Ambassador Group, a team of high-school-aged Littles who actively create space to celebrate Black youth empowerment. "I have no idea what the world has in store for Anjanae's future," smiles Big Sister Hailey, "but whatever it is, I know she will conquer it head-on and laugh all the way through it."

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Korede Alabi - Board Chair**

Andersen Construction, CFO

**Brian Boehne**

OnPoint Community Credit Union  
Commercial Relationship Manager

**Brit Redline - Board Secretary**

C.H. Robinson, Director, Strategic Accounts

**John Donohue - Board Treasurer**

Moss Adams, Partner

**Hope Alabi**

Community Volunteer

**Suzy Alexander**

ACME, VP Sales & Marketing, Owner

**John Attey**

Cambia Health, Chief Legal Officer

**Kenneth Beattie**

Flowbird, Contoller

**Joan Bundschuh**

Community Volunteer

**Mizael Buron**

Chase, Business Relationship Manager

**Natasha Elhaj-Hedinger**

Hedinger Family Foundation

**Grant Engrav**

Engrav Law Office LLP

**Justin Fox**

KPMG LLP, Director

**Elizabeth Lloyd**

North Highland Consulting, Manager

**Kate Lyons**

M Science, Deputy Director of Research

**Manish Mehta**

Falcon 5 Capital, Managing Partner

**Angela Perkins**

Xenium HR, VP Sales & Marketing

**Caitlin Sargent**

Nike inc, Chief Marketing Officer, Jordan Brand

**Chris Simons**

Community Volunteer

**Sheldon Warmington**

Nike, Inc., Director IT Audit

**Nick Warren**

Parker, Smith & Feek, Principal

**Michael Weiss**

Ankrom Moisan, SR HR Business Partner



# AMBASSADOR BOARD MEMBERS



**Liz Ficken - Board Chair**

Senior Strategy Consultant, John Hancock

**Keenan Ordon-Bakalian**

Attorney, Schwabe

**David Buerge**

Owner, The Best Goose Bar & Rex  
Prehistoric Patties

**Francis Bruni**

Associate Attorney, Stoel Rives LLP

**Sergio Campos-Ramirez**

Commercial Relationship  
Manager, KeyBank

**Stacie Damazo**

Attorney, Barran Liebman, LLC

**Ebony Foreman**

Inclusion and Engagement Liason,  
Metropolitan Family Services

**Karen D. Foster**

Founder & Event Producer, KF Curates

**Charles Gilmur**

Practice Director, Robert Half  
Permanent Placement

**Josh Henry**

Structural Project Engineer, TM Rippey Consulting Engineers

**Hillarie Hunt**

Director, Global Learning & Development, KEEN

**Brandon Jones**

Sales Director, Pacific Energy Concepts

**Jeffrey Martin**

Co-Founder, Clarity Content

**Alexa Miles**

Community Relations, Onpoint Community Credit Union

**Toby Morus**

Account Executive, Accela

**Brendan Murphy**

Vice President, Kidder Matthews

**Richard Reynolds**

Managing Director, Silverpine Group

**Mollie Wackler**

Business Development Executive, Portland Business Journal

**André Walcott, PhD**

AVP of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Advantis Credit Union

# STAFF

**Aaron Shilkaitis**

Individual Giving Director

**Amelia Spatz**

Program Manager –  
Enrollment and Matching

**April Spain**

Finance Associate

**Beach Pace**

Chief Executive Officer

**Briana Perdasofpy**

Community Outreach Manager

**Carley LaPlaca**

Enrollment & Matching Specialist

**Chanel Kim**

Match Success Specialist

**Christina Muñoz**

Match Success Specialist

**Cynthia Thompson**

Chief Development Officer

**Ellie Simon Goldman**

Program Manager – Data & Impact

**Elizabeth Osbourn**

Staff Accountant

**Erin Coffin**

Program Director

**Erin Russell Smith**

Director of Operations

**Jaasyel Monroy**

Program Manager - Community Based

**Jessica Hunt**

Chief Finance Officer

**Kari Scott**

HR Generalist (Xenium)

**Kati Rodriguez Perez**

Match Success Specialist

**Katie MacDonald**

Corporate Relations Manager

**Lucia Davila**

Enrollment and Matching Specialist

**Lysania Thomas**

Director of Community Engagement

**Wendy Palafox-Arceo**

Match Success Specialist

# IT TAKES™ LITTLE TO BE BIG



## CONTACT US

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## ITSBIGTIME.ORG

- [@bbbsnw](#)
- [@bbbsnorthwest](#)
- [@Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest](#)
- [@bigbrothersbigisterspdx1339](#)

## BECOME A BIG

We serve youth in the Portland Metro and SW Washington communities. Bigs volunteer two to four times a month as mentors to Littles who need a caring adult to ignite their potential.

## DONATE

Every dollar donated is an investment in our matches, providing academic support, conducting culturally responsive training, and igniting the accomplishments of youth in our community.

## BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

We have numerous events and opportunities that showcase our supporters, engage employees, and connect people with the power of mentoring.

## BECOME A BIG FUTURES PARTNER

Employee mentors help mentees explore career options, build skills and develop plans for their future. Companies invest in youth and contribute to a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce.

