Big Brother Big Sister Eastern Massachusetts

Briefing Document

Overview

Big Brother Big Sister is a nonprofit organization that provides mentoring programs for youth in communities across the United States. The organization was founded in 1904 and is headquartered in Tampa, Florida. Big Brother Big Sister operates on the belief that caring adult mentors can have a powerful and lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Big Brother Big Sister facilitates mentoring relationships between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ages 6 through 18 ("Littles"). The adult mentors commit to spending time with their Little on a regular basis, providing guidance, support, and encouragement to help the child succeed in school and life. Matches meet for at least a couple hours each week doing activities together in the community like going to the park, museum, or playing sports. Big Brothers Big Sisters requires a minimum 12-month commitment from volunteers.

By the Numbers

* 235+ agencies across the US
* > 2 million children served in last 10 years
* 400,000 volunteer mentors and families currently engaged

Programs

The core mentoring programs that Big Brother Big Sister provides include:

- Community Based: matches meet in the community typically 2-4 times per month for 3-5 hours each visit. This is the most traditional mentoring model.

- Site Based: matches meet at the child's school weekly for the duration of the school year. Meetings occur on school grounds during or right after school hours.

- Bigs in Blue: police officer mentors are matched with youth ages 12-16 to form relationships and provide guidance.

- College Bigs: college student mentors are matched with younger students to offer motivation and support. Matches meet weekly on the college campus.

- Workplace Mentoring: employee volunteers are partnered with youth ages 12-18 to help develop career-readiness skills. Partnerships take place at corporate sites.

Agency Support

* Set Standards of Excellence
  + Nationally adopted standards for best practices ensures that all agencies are acting properly
* Drive Growth and Quality
  + Corporate, Private, Govt partnerships for funding
  + Nationwide marketing for expanded brand recognition
* Innovation
  + Work with experts in mentoring for best practice and mentoring
* Support
  + Help agencies manage and use proprietary database for child tracking (Not sure what this really means)

Impact

Research shows that Big Brother Big Sister programs have measurable positive impacts on the lives of young people:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs

- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol

- 52% less likely to skip school

- 37% less likely to skip class

- 33% less likely to hit someone

- Improved academic performance and family relationships

**About** [**BBBS Eastern Mass**](https://emassbigs.org/) **Specifically**

Area Served by BBBS Eastern Mass:

A map of the state of massachusetts

Description automatically generated

* Serving 5000 youth annually as of 2022
* 20,000 matches made in 7 decades
* Launched an innovative, tech-enhanced Mentor 2.0 Program in Fall of 2016 and various Boston schools served (3 as of 2020, it will be interesting to see if they have added any more)

Impact

As an established affiliate, BBBSMA has served thousands of youth over 50+ years of operation. The organization cites the following program outcomes:

* 82% of Littles report improved confidence and better grades
* 76% feel more supported by family and friends
* 79% of Littles less likely to initiate drug use after being matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister

BBBSMA follows the national organization's evidence-based approach focused on improving children's lives and building stronger communities through mentorship.