

FAQ's

What is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Barrie & District (BBBS)?

Our vision is simple. We believe that every child who needs a mentor has a mentor. Through our seven different children's mentoring programs, we provide deserving community children with the opportunity to have a lasting, positive friendship with a caring adult mentor. Mentoring provides children with the support and guidance they need to succeed in life.

BBBS of Barrie & District is a not-for-profit organization that relies solely on community support to provide mentoring programs to children in our community. We are not government funded and receive no United Way support to provide these programs free of charge to the families who need them.

Who are *Littles*?

Littles are the boys and girls, aged 6 to 16, who benefit from having a positive role model in their life when matched with a caring adult mentor. They are great kids waiting to have fun with a mentor.

Who are *BIGs*?

BIGs are our priceless adult mentors who take a *Little* time out from their life and share it with a child.

What are *matches* and how are they made?

A "match" is a term we use to describe the mentoring friendship between a Little and their BIG. Both children and adult mentors complete the enrollment process. We provide training to both and then the match is made between a Big and Little who share similar interests. It's about spending time together – as little as an hour a week!

Does my sponsorship contribution go directly to one Little?

No. Sponsorship contributions are merged centrally into various mentoring programs benefitting sponsored Littles from the initial application to being matched with their BIG. Children who spend time with a mentor gain confidence, acquire new skills, and develop an enhanced capacity to care for others.

May I choose, meet, communicate with or send gifts to the Little I sponsor?

We protect the privacy of the children who are members of our organization and therefore do not release any personal information about our Littles. However, all of our CSP Sponsors will be invited to meet some of our matches at an event in September during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month.

If I sponsor a Little, how long a commitment do I need to make?

The Child Sponsorship Program involves a year-long commitment. If at some point during this year problems arise, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will do what we can to accommodate your needs.

How long do Littles remain sponsored through CSP?

At age 18, Littles graduate from the Child Mentoring program in which they're enrolled. In many cases, graduated matches continue their friendship, but they're no longer involved directly in the program.

How is BBBS CSP different from other child sponsorship programs?

All child sponsorship programs fundamentally have the same core value – helping children. The difference between the BBBS CSP from the vast majority of others is that you will be sponsoring a child within your own community. You will feel the effects and see the results of this program without having to travel to another country. It's that old adage - think globally, act locally.

As a CSP Sponsor, what will I be receiving from BBBS?

As a sponsor of our CSP, you or your company will receive a charitable donation receipt, recognition on our website and in our quarterly newsletter, as well as a token of our appreciation.

Can I share my involvement with CSP through my personal and/or organization's website?

Yes, we absolutely encourage links to our website to spread awareness of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Barrie & District Mentoring programs and the Child Sponsorship Program.

Why \$500?

Generally, the cost to match a Little with a BIG is approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500 (depending on the Mentoring Program they are involved with). The \$500 sponsorship contribution provides us with enough resources to get one BIG volunteer through the enrollment process to be matched to a Little.

When will I receive my charitable donation receipt?

There are scenarios for receiving your charitable donation receipt. We will send your charitable donation receipt upon full payment of your sponsorship. If you choose to pay upfront, you will receive it in the mail shortly after the transaction is completed. If you are paying in installments, your donation will likely be split in two – one receipt will be issued for the months you've paid leading up to December and another issued for the remainder of the balance when your sponsorship is paid in full.

How do I update my contact or payment information?

To update your contact or payment information, visit www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/Barrie and download the Registration Form under "Child Sponsorship Program". Fill this out and send it to us.

How else can my company get involved with BBBS of Barrie & District?

We provide plenty of unique opportunities for companies of any size, and individuals to become involved in our various fundraising initiatives or Mentoring Programs. For each event, we have a multitude of opportunities ranging from prize donations to major sponsorships. Our annual events include:

- Bowl for Kids Sake
- Golf for Kids Sake
- *Showcase of Homes tour*
- Curl for Kids Sake

A company could also try Employer Supported Volunteerism by profiling a company as a Corporate Sponsor. Encourage employee participation, promote our programs in the office and develop flexible work schedules. All it takes is one hour per week and the corporate benefits are undeniable!