



# BIG IMPACTS

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## A LITTLE, A MENTOR MEET BIG BROTHER ERIK

"HE'S MY GUY!" - This is how Erik describes his mentor and friend of 14 years, his Big Brother Brian. We met with Erik recently, and he smiled as he reminisced about the day he met Brian: "I didn't know his name yet, but I knew he was coming in a gold Jeep. I saw the gold Jeep parked in front of the house and I just sprinted to the door. I was so excited. I didn't know who I was meeting, or what to expect, but I was so excited about the entire interaction."

Erik says that having a mentor growing up was exactly what he needed. Brian was always there to celebrate his big moments and give accolades. "I couldn't imagine how life would have been without Brian," he says.

When Erik was nine years old, his father passed away. "I never had that 'Dad-figure' to step in when I needed him to," says Erik. "Then I met my Big Brother Brian. He filled those shoes happily. I wouldn't say that he replaced my Dad, but he was there in every facet of my life," says Erik, adding, "and he continues to be there now that I'm 26-years-old. He's my guy!" To date, Erik carries many of the life lessons Brian taught him into his personal and professional life.

When Erik was 18 years old, he began volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters so that he could make an impact in the lives of youth, just as Brian did for him.

For nearly two years, Erik has been matched with 16-year-old Little Brother Andre.

Erik did not realize the impact he was making as a mentor until his Little Brother called on him when he needed advice from a trusted friend. Erik explained, "That was the big moment for me, when I realized what I'm doing is making a big impact on him. Before it was not measurable, but now it is. He trusts me, he believes in me, he listens to what I'm saying. I know what I'm doing as a mentor is making a difference."

At 18 years old, Erik's match with Brian officially closed with Big Brothers Big Sisters, but he says, "By no means was the match over." Brian continues to be a friend and mentor to Erik, even though they now live in different cities. Erik imagines this will be the same case for him and Little Brother Andre. He foresees their friendship lasting long into the future.

“  
NOBODY CAN GO BACK AND  
START A NEW BEGINNING,  
BUT ANYONE CAN START TODAY  
AND MAKE A NEW ENDING.  
”

- JOSH SHIPP



# SANDRA'S PICK

“ You make our work at Big Brothers Big Sisters possible — thank you, generous volunteers, supporters, partners and community. ”

SANDRA BAKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | 905.339.2355 x235

## CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY

**There are many kinds of philanthropy.** The gift of time is such a precious commodity. To you who share their time with Big Brothers Big Sister as mentors to our 2,700 youth and children, your deep personal commitment is a remarkable act of giving. Our mentors are like the wheels on a car — you ensure that children move forward in their lives, with resilience, optimism and confidence.

If mentors are the rubber on the road, those of you who support us financially are our engine. The more powerful the engine, the more boldly we can move towards both serving those children enrolled in our programs and address the many children who today are waiting for a mentor.

One such engine is the recent SMILE Cookie campaign, held in Georgetown's three Tim Horton's stores. Every cookie sold raised one dollar for BBBS, and we are awaiting the news of just how many cookies were sold in this second year campaign.

What we don't perhaps think about is the remarkable

engine required to bake and ice all those cookies. We were excited to learn that one store alone increased its SMILE Cookie production to meet demand from 185 per day in 2017 to 500 in 2018 - *that's 3,500 cookies in ONE WEEK!* Behind the scenes, staff and friends of the charity were literally working as cookie baking volunteers, to support Tims staff. They made sure that there was a cookie for every customer who wanted to support us through SMILE.

There are so many ways that you can be part of our 'engine,' from running fundraising events on our behalf (think sports tournaments, lemonade stands, and bake sales), to garnering corporate support, making direct donations to the charity. Every one of you is making a difference when you share your resources with us.

Our pledge to you is that we will use your resources with care and wisdom, ensuring that your time and gifts are used efficiently in bringing a mentor into the life of child.



## BRIAN PUDDINGTON

- CHAIR, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF HALTON AND HAMILTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- INVOLVED WITH BBBS FOR 11 YEARS
- BIG BROTHER TO NICHOLAS
- FAVOURITE ANNUAL EVENT: "SELLING TREES AT THE IKEA TREE LOT."
- "MY HIGHSCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER, MR. EADY, WAS A GREAT TEACHER AND A MENTOR TO ME."

## BULLETIN BOARD



**"I've literally watched my Little Brother Nick grow into the young man he is today. When we first met, Nick was nine years old; now he is 18. The first time I picked Nick up for an outing in my car, his feet didn't touch the floor of the passenger seat. Today, he has to push the seat all the way back to get into the car!"**

- Brian



# PARTNER'S CIRCLE

“YOU CAN GIVE YOUR TIME AND ENERGY, YOUR IDEAS, YOUR CONNECTIONS OR YOUR OWN FINANCIAL RESOURCES.”

- JILL DEVLIN, DONOR



## FOUR PILLARS OF PHILANTHROPY

Everyone has their own reason to give. For Jill Devlin, civic engagement and giving back to charity were important formative lessons she grew up with. In fact, both Jill and husband of 28 years, Dan, were both raised in philanthropic families and believe that everyone has the ability to give in some capacity.

Jill believes those who wish to give fall into four pillars: “You can give your time and energy, your ideas, your connections, or your own financial resources,” she says. Equally, Jill acknowledges that an individual’s capacity to give often changes over time: “I think at different points in anyone’s life, you might have more of one resource than another, but there are always those four ways, you can give back to any cause you feel passionate about.”

Over the years, Jill has found herself in various philanthropic categories herself. She compares life raising her children to now: “Fifteen years ago, I was home a lot. I didn’t have much in the way of financial resources to give, but I could give my time and energy.” At the time, Jill volunteered at her children’s school. “Now I don’t have much time to offer, but I am fortunate to have the financial resources to support,” Jill says.

Big Brothers Big Sisters became close to Jill’s heart at her first introduction to the charity in 2013. At the time, she and her family volunteered as mentors. Since then, Jill and Dan’s generosity has continued.

Most recently, Jill and Dan were two of the generous match donors behind a successful fundraising campaign for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Every dollar donated up to \$7,500 in September 2018 was matched dollar-for-dollar. Jill says, “We have always found matching campaigns extremely motivating because it’s such an

efficient way of investing your money ... to double the impact.”

Proudly the match was met, and in fact, it exceeded expectations with a fundraising total of over \$26,000! “Dan and I feel huge gratitude for anyone who participated in the matching campaign.” Jill adds, that the amount given is not what matters most. “It’s most important that donors give any amount, even a very small amount, but try to give it every year,” she says.

Understanding that she had a fortunate upbringing, Jill empathizes that many children in the community do not have the same opportunities. “A kid really has no control of so many things that go on in his or her life,” she says. And because of this, Jill thinks it’s extremely important “that matches can be made through Big Brothers Big Sisters, so that children can have that positive mentoring influence.”

Like anyone, Jill loves a good success story, and that is part of why Big Brothers Big Sisters is so special to her. “When Little Brothers or Little Sisters grow up and are speaking about the importance that the Big/Little match had in their lives, I get goosebumps and I can’t help but get tears in my eyes,” she says, adding, “That, to me, is the most powerful thing – when you see a Little Brother or Sister as an adult, speaking about the positive impact that this relationship had on him or her.”

Jill concludes, “It’s nice to have a charity of choice that’s so positive — that’s why I’m so passionate about getting other people to donate within at least one of those four pillars ... whichever one works best for them at the time.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters thanks the Devlin Family for their compassion, leadership and philanthropy.



# MARIANNE'S MENTION

“ All year long, not only in autumn, you, our volunteers give us reason to celebrate and be thankful. We value the time, compassion and commitment of our volunteers. You are the life-line of this organization. You are our reason for celebration. ”

MARIANNE NOAKES, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | 905.525.3860 x312

## CELEBRATING YOU

In September, we hosted Celebration Night, where we honoured our 2018 Community Excellence Award recipients for their ongoing commitment, generosity, support and dedication to our agency. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the children served by our organization, I thank you and ask that you join in the celebration of Big Brother Big Sisters this autumn.

I also respectfully ask that you accept the challenge of the work that is yet to be done in seeing that our mission is accomplished. Tell your friends about our long wait lists – so that more children can find their special friend. Join in on one of our resource development efforts to ensure that we can continue to provide our service.

During our Celebration Night we had the pleasure of presenting and honouring 12 scholarship recipients this year. You can meet our scholarship recipients below. They are yet another reason for our celebration and deeply felt pride.

In addition, We welcomed a new special scholarship fund for those inclined to open their wallets or connect us with their companies or friends who wish to give the gift of cash in support of our work. For more information, I would love the opportunity to chat. I can be reached at 905-525-3860 x312.

As I conclude, I wish happiness and Thanksgiving to all during the beautiful fall season.

## MENTEE MOMENT



### ALEXIA

THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Enjoys spending her time riding horses, swimming, hanging out with her friends and playing on her phone.
- Alexia is hoping to one day use this scholarship to help her become a pediatric surgeon.



### DARIUS

FULLY PROMOTED  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Enjoys playing basketball, football and video games with his friends.
- Darius plans to attend Kentucky or Duke University to study kinesiology and play basketball.
- His goal is to have a career in the NBA.



### SYDNEY

RETIRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BBBS  
OF HAMILTON AND BURLINGTON  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Animal lover who enjoys baking, arts and crafts, swimming, flag football and swimming.
- Sydney hopes to become a lawyer or a teacher.

**BRENDON**

THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Brendon has been matched to his Big Brother Michael for almost 2 years.
- Brendon has developed an interest in photography, and is working to develop that interest.

**DANIELLE**

THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Danielle loves music and art and was the lead in her school's opera production, The Magic Flute.
- Danielle has expressed an interest in becoming a social worker.

**COLE**

MURRAY LORIMER  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- At school, Cole shows a keen interest in science, math and gym.
- Cole enjoys playing video games on his computer and has hopes of coding video games in the future.

**SEBASTIEN**

THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- There are a number of fields that Sebastien is interested in, including junior hockey, mechanics and investment banking.

**WYATT**

BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Wyatt is involved in the Royal Army and enjoys competitive swimming.
- Wyatt has a long-term goal of being a neuro surgeon or an engineer.

**TRISTEN**

THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Tristen has a keen interest in cars.
- Tristen is interested in pursuing any career which involves cars or he would love to be a race car driver someday.

**ANGELINA**

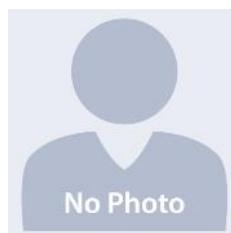
THE CO-OPERATORS  
PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

- Angelina enjoys spending time with her family, friends and Big Sister.
- Among her interests are baking cupcakes and playing video games.

**WINSTON**

PROJECT HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- Winston demonstrates strength in the subjects of science, math and English.
- Winston is interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, with future ambitions to become a radiologist.

**EREN**

PROJECT HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- Eren enjoys making survivalist equipment, origami, parachutes, rockets, quivers and mini-crossbows.
- Eren is interested in a career in woodworking, construction or blacksmithing.



# CASEWORKER CORNER



## MENTEE SUCCESS STORY | AARON MURPHY, SENIOR CASE MANAGER

Isaiah is lucky enough to have two mentors. Four years ago, he was matched with Adam and Heather, a Big Couple match. At the time, nine-year-old Isaiah was quite shy, reserved and quiet. Recently, during his annual review, it was evident how much Isaiah had changed.

He is now much more talkative and outgoing, which was apparent when he and Adam joked with each other throughout the meeting. Adam and his wife Heather been a consistent presence in Isaiah's life — they have become like family to him. In addition to taking him on amazing outings, Adam and Heather are always cheering Isaiah on (especially at the sidelines of his football games). Big Brother Adam said, no matter the circumstances, they would always make time to see Isaiah because "We are family."



## NEW MENTOR HIGHLIGHT | MATTHEW PARREIRA, CASE WORKER

Good things are worth the wait. For 13-year-old Micheal, it took several years to find his perfect match. This October, Micheal and his Big Sister Stephanie are celebrating their six month match anniversary. Since being matched, Micheal and Stephanie have had many adventures — they have enjoyed bowling, hiking, fishing, swimming, watching movies, exploring Hamilton waterfalls, going to sports events and doing puzzles.

Micheal has fun with Stephanie and is always excited to spend time with her. His family have described Stephanie as being "awesome" and "very consistent." Micheal and Stephanie have a great relationship that will continue to develop as their match progresses.



## BIG/LITTLE ACTIVITY IDEAS | REBECCA HART, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Leaves are bursting with colour and the air is crisp — fall is the perfect time of year for mentors and mentees to explore hiking trails. Aside from being a no-cost physical activity, this is a great way for 'intentional one-on-one time.' Let nature inspire your conversations!

In Halton, head for Limehouse Conservation Area, Silver Creek Conservation Area or Hilton Falls. In Hamilton, check out the Devil's Punchbowl, Webster's Falls or Sassafrass Point Trail. If you want a hike with a sweet reward at the end, park at Baskin Robbins in West Hamilton and enter the Dundas Valley Trail System located behind the plaza. Spend some time biking, hiking or rollerblading, then finish the day with one of Baskin Robbins 31 flavours!

Fall is also perfect for apple lovers! Pick your own apples at one of the many local orchards. If you're looking for suggestions, try Frootogo Orchards, 573 Parkside Drive in Waterdown; aside from 16 varieties of apples, they also offer a play area and homemade lunch selections. In Halton, check out Andrew's Scenic Acres, 9365 10 Sideroad in Milton. They offer wagon rides, a haunted forest and an animal corral. Once you have your apples, work together to prepare them in a new way. Some of my favourites: apple sauce, apple crisp and apple cake.



## MATCH SAFETY REMINDERS | KATIE DIGBY, PROGRAM MANAGER

- It's a new school year, which comes with a new set of group programs. Please remember to stretch before and after physical activities.
- Fall is a great time for baking treats! When baking, be sure to supervise your mentee while using sharp utensils, or operating a stove/oven. (PS. Don't forget to use proper handwashing techniques when preparing food together.)
- Halloween may just be one of the best parts of the fall! Embrace Halloween with your mentee by carving pumpkins or making costumes and crafts, but please remember careful supervision when using knives or other cutting utensils.
- Fall is a common time for kids to start hibernating, which usually means more tech usage. Talk to your mentee about online safety for both social media and online gaming.
- Only 'friend' people you know, do not share personal information online and 'tweet others as you wish to be tweeted.'



# BIG MOMENTS



1. This summer Big Brothers Big Sisters ran its first ever Camp Ignite Program in partnership with the Burlington Fire Department. Chief Dave Lazenby was able to fulfill his vision of running a camp that demonstrates the importance of structure, discipline, trust, respect and passion, something that all of his firefighters embody on a daily basis. Pictured are our first-ever Camp Ignite Program Graduates. 2. Mark Kent of The Co-operators presents a \$10,000 cheque to Big Brothers Big Sisters in September. The Co-operators funding was in support of five scholarships as well as financially assisting our In-School mentoring program during the 2018/19 school year. 3. The annual Brian Knox Memorial Hockey Tournament has graciously selected Big Brothers Big Sisters as their tournament beneficiary. Pictured, \$2,600 of 2018 tournament proceeds are presented. 4. Little Brother Aidan helps fly a plane during Big Brothers Big Sisters Airlift hosted by COPA Flight 28. 5. Freshly baked SMILE Cookies at Tim Hortons, Georgetown, benefiting BBBS.



# COMING UP NEXT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, HERE ARE UPCOMING EVENTS ...

## OCTOBER 24: THE RETURN - LIVE PROFESSIONAL BOXING

**Hamilton Convention Centre, 7 - 11:30 PM**

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been selected as the beneficiary of this exciting upcoming event. The main event will feature Canadian heavyweight prospects Ryan Rozicki (7-0) vs. Abokan Bokpe. For more information contact, Dan@ThreeLionsPromotions.com

## OCTOBER 25: VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION (HALTON)

**Halton Regional Police Service, 95 Oak Walk Drive, Oakville, 6-9 PM**

Been thinking about becoming a volunteer mentor? You can listen and learn at an upcoming Volunteer Orientation. For more details or to RSVP contact Sara.Douglas@bigbrothersbigsistars.ca

## OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 1: SPORT CLIPS FREE SHAVE OFF

**Visit a Sport Clips location near you, 9 AM – 8 PM**

Get ready for Movember! Sport Clips is offering a free beard shave off to any Big/Little Brothers who are participating in Movember.

## NOVEMBER 5 & 21: VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION (HAMILTON)

**639 Main Street East, Hamilton, 6 - 8 PM**

Been thinking about becoming a volunteer mentor? You can listen and learn at an upcoming Volunteer Orientation. For more details or to RSVP contact Marika.Mennaman@bigbrothersbigsistars.ca

## NOVEMBER 10: OAKVILLE FATHER DAUGHTER BALL

**Le Dome Banquet Hall, Oakville, 4:30 - 10 PM**

This is an exciting evening of music and dance, entertainment, raffles and prizes for fathers and daughters benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton. For tickets and more information, visit: [www.oakvillefatherdaughterball.ca](http://www.oakvillefatherdaughterball.ca)

## NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22: IKEA TREE LOT

**IKEA Burlington, 1065 Plains Road East, open-close each day**

A portion of each Christmas tree sold, and full proceeds of tree bag sales will be donated back to Big Brothers Big Sisters. We're looking for seasonal volunteers to lend a hand for 3+ hour shifts during the holiday season. To volunteer or for more information, contact: Natalie.Michlewicz@bigbrothersbigsistars.ca

## DECEMBER 3 - 9: SHOP FOR KIDS SAKE ONLINE AUCTION

**Online, Bidding starts Monday December 3, 9 a.m. Bidding closes Sunday December 9, 9 a.m. | Let the bidding fun begin! We have over 200 amazing items, thanks to our awesome donors. Items include sporting and entertainment tickets, gift cards, gift baskets, electronics, fashion and much more. Visit [www.BBBSHalton.ca](http://www.BBBSHalton.ca)**

## DECEMBER 31: LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS FOR 2018 TAX YEAR

 **MAKE A DONATION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL MENTORING TODAY**  
MentorsForKids.ca



Yes, I'd like to **invest in a child's future**

**MAIL TO:**

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF HALTON AND HAMILTON  
639 MAIN STREET EAST, HAMILTON, ON L8M 1J4

**Start Something (\$25)**

A \$25 donation will help start a new friendship by providing the necessary training to a new mentor.

**Grow Something (\$50)**

A \$50 donation will help grow our school-based programs, by helping to provide activities and healthy snacks.

**Build Something (\$100)**

A \$100 donation will fill an In-School Mentoring bin with games, supplies and crafts for one school year.

**Give Something \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Your donation will be invested in a program that is currently most in need of support.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY \_\_\_\_\_  MC  VISA  CHEQUE ENCLOSED

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_