



# BIG IMPACTS

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## MENTORSHIP BUILT ON ICE

"He's the absolute perfect match. He checks off every box of what an ideal match is," says Blair about his Little Brother. Ten-year-old Jack is equally enthusiastic. He calls his Big Brother his "fun friend," saying, "He's a great fit."

Matched for 18 months, the two clicked immediately. Both thrive on being active and enjoy that they share this in common. Each week, Blair and Jack have two outings. Blair is teaching Jack how to skate one evening a week, and they spend their other outing curling, which has become one of their favourite shared activities. Blair says time spent with Jack is one of his weekly highlights.

As a curling enthusiast of 20 years and certified coach in the sport, Blair suggested curling as an "ice-breaker" activity soon after he and Jack were first paired in the Big Brother Program. At the time, Jack says, "I didn't know anything about curling." Though this may be the case, Blair says Jack had great potential from the very beginning. "From his very first throw of a stone - his form, his delivery, all that was bang on. When we saw that, we thought 'this kid is going to be a curler.' He got it on his first shot."

The match has bonded through curling since. Jack enjoys curling because "It's difficult and I like things that make me work harder because I can build a strategy," he says.

Each week curling is followed by hot chocolate and conversation. Sometimes they talk about problems or issues, says Jack.

Blair says the most noticeable change in Jack through the Big Brother program is that he has come out of his shell and now openly engages with others. Over the course of their match, Blair says Jack's confidence has improved. He attributes this confidence boost in part to curling and equally to the time they spend together. "We have a lot of talking time as well as on-ice time," says Blair.

"One of the big things I noticed when we were first matched was that if people complimented him, he would just look down, and wouldn't respond. And now, if people compliment him, it's an instant thing, he makes eye contact and thanks them." Blair says he spoke with Jack, encouraging this behaviour and explaining manners. Jack says Blair is a good role model. "He cares about me; I care about him. I look up to him," he says.

If Jack was describing his Big Brother to a stranger, he'd say Blair's top qualities are: "He's funny, humorous and active."

This summer, Blair plans to teach Jack to golf. They also plan to spend lots of time outdoors hiking or feeding chipmunks. Blair says, "Every chance we get, we're doing something outside - even if it's just sitting on a bench by the lake."

Thank you Blair for being an incredible mentor to Jack.



# SANDRA'S PICK

“To our cherished supporters — please accept my heartfelt thanks for all the big and little things you do for children and families.”

SANDRA BAKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | 905.339.2355 x235  
SANDRA.BAKER@BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA

## GIVING WHAT YOU CAN

One of the traditions of Chinese New Year is to bestow a gift of cash as a show of support and to provide a blessing of longevity and good fortune.

Imagine how touching it was for Big Brothers Big Sisters to receive a donation of a crisp \$10 bill as a Chinese New Year gift from a young volunteer who was showing his respect and wishing the charity good luck and prosperity. It was a powerful, moving gift of support.

Let's celebrate these small gifts. They come from the heart, and represent what that person can give today.

Every gift you share — whether time, treasure or talent — means a child spends time with a wonderful mentor. Thank you for playing a part in that.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## CATHERINE LEWIS

- BOARD DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, BBBSHH
- INVOLVED WITH THE CHARITY FOR 6 YEARS
- DAY JOB: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
- FAVOURITE ANNUAL EVENT: "THE ANNUAL DECEMBER ONLINE AUCTION!"
- "PROBABLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON IN MY LIFE WAS MY FATHER. UNABLE TO COMPLETE HIGH-SCHOOL AT 16, HE DEMONSTRATED HIS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION BY COMPLETING HIS DEGREE AT THE AGE OF 51."

*"Often we become so insulated in our lives, we forget (or choose to forget) that many are not as fortunate. I was encouraged to attend a BBBS Program. I chose to attend Homework Club, which was staffed entirely by adult mentors. Watching the children interact with their mentor to do homework, play a board game or make a craft absolutely sold me on supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters financially, and further, as a Board Member."*

- Catherine

# PARTNER'S CIRCLE

“BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS HELPED SHAPE MY LIFE.”

- JAY GREEN  
FORMER LITTLE BROTHER, CURRENT MONTHLY DONOR



## A LIFE OF GIVING INSPIRED BY MENTORSHIP

“Big Brothers Big Sisters is my number one,” says Jay Green, a former Little Brother, alumni volunteer, past board member and current monthly donor.

It all started in 1983. *Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi* was just released in theatres; Green was 12 years old. “I remember standing in line and sharing what secrets I knew about the movie. It was at a little theatre that used to be in Hamilton. I remember that pretty clearly even though it was 36 years ago,” Green says, as he recounts his first outing with his Big Brother Jack.

Jack, Green’s third Big Brother, would eventually become a life-long family friend. “He’s one of the most selfless people I’ve ever met in my life,” says Green.

Now, a father of two and a successful senior executive at a global healthcare company, Green credits Big Brothers Big Sisters as one of the reasons he is where he is today: “There’s no gray area, it’s made a huge impact. I don’t think I would have got to where I am now.”

Green was enrolled with Big Brothers Big Sisters when he was 8 years old. At the time, his parents had recently divorced. Afterwards, his father cut off contact with his family. “I consider Big Brothers Big Sisters the silver-lining of not having a father around,” Green says, remembering his childhood.

Having a mentor was a game-changer in his formative years, Green explains: “You come out of a divorced family very insecure, very challenged ... I can’t say that a Big Brother solved everything, but it had a big impact on making me the person

I am,” he adds, “Being with the organization gave me a much better opportunity to get through all that successfully.”

Over their years together, Green and Jack developed a strong bond. Green’s fondest memory: “Jack’s family cottage was one of my favourite places in the world - I just loved it up there!” Cottage traditions continued for many years after their Big Brother match. “We stayed in very close contact at least until my mid-30s when we moved internationally,” Green says.

While contact is rare nowadays with a six-hour time difference between them, Green hopes to reunite soon. They last met a couple years ago. Green says, “We’re overdue!”

“As a result of Big Brothers Big Sisters, I became a real believer that organizations can really make a big difference in people’s lives. I’ve tried to stay involved ever since,” says Green.

Over the years Green has been involved with the charity in various capacities: as a volunteer mentor in his 20s; a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ontario Board of Directors in his 30s; and, a current monthly donor. Green believes that everyone is capable of giving back in their own way at different points in their lives. Currently living in Belgium, Green says, “the only thing I really can do from afar is give financially.” Green has been a monthly donor since he moved internationally 11 years ago.

Why does he continue to give? “The short answer — Big Brothers Big Sisters helped shape my life,” Green says.

We are so grateful for Jay and our many donors — you are making mentoring happen! To learn more about monthly giving, call Natalie at 905.525.3860 x310 or visit [MentorsForKids.ca](https://mentorsforkids.ca)



# MARIANNE'S MENTION

“ I absolutely believe in the life-changing power of mentoring. I have seen it firsthand. Mentoring is all around us. ”

*Marianne*

## MENTORING IS ALIVE & WELL

MARIANNE NOAKES, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | 905.525.3860 x312  
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I have the pleasure, every second week, by telephone, to meet with colleagues from across Canada and throughout the USA to discuss issues relevant to the not for profit sector. The meetings last an hour and are usually consumed by someone asking a question about the particular set of circumstances at their charity and fielding responses.

I am often awestruck to hear, from every corner of two nations, the support my colleagues give one another. Offers to help off line, offers to share written resources and perhaps most importantly kind, sincere encouragement for those within the group. On my most recent call, it occurred to me yet again that mentoring comes in many different forms.

It also struck me, in particular this last week - that despite the headlines in each of the two nations in which the conference call participants reside and work, kindness and goodwill are alive and well. So let's keep up the important work of mentoring. I believe we need mentoring now, more than any other time in our history.

Perhaps a recent quote I heard says it best. Whether you are in the company of others or not ..."tip the server, hold the door, return your shopping cart, pick up the piece of trash and dispose of it properly, teach our kids that small acts can have a ripple effect. Our choice, our actions, our future".

Thanks for the role you are playing in this important work.

# LIFE AT OUR TIM HORTONS



Tim Hortons Franchisee, Geoff Shore, shows off his wall of fame, including 11 years of Bowl for Kids Sake memories and team pictures, at his Cross Ave., Oakville, location.

Everyone has their own reason to lace up for Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake (BFKS). For Geoff and Anne-Marie Shore, their reasons are twofold: "It's a great team-building event and it's a great cause."

Geoff and Anne-Marie have been supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2008, when they began franchising Tim Hortons restaurants in Oakville. For 11 years, they have generously given their time, talent and treasure to Big Brothers Big Sisters, including sending kids to camp and providing bikes to clients, as well as donating food and prizes for special events. Their participation in BFKS has also evolved into a long-standing tradition. "Every single year we Bowl for Kids Sake – we're one of the major sponsors for the event," says Geoff. Locally, Tim Hortons has been the title sponsor of the event for over 10 years.

The Shore's primary reason for participating in BFKS is to support local youth. Equally, Geoff believes it is important for staff to participate in extracurricular activities outside of work: "Co-workers have time to friend-build when they're outside the work environment."

To encourage as much staff participation as possible, Geoff and Anne-Marie sponsor lanes for their employees in lieu of staff fundraising. Geoff explained that it started with one team, then, "As years go on, more and more people were signing up on the list." Between staff from their four current franchises, they hope to fill five lanes this year – that's a \$2,500 donation!

"For us to be able to take our team to an event like Bowl for Kids Sake and have that fun comradery, while supporting a really great cause, is a double-win," Geoff says.

Thank you to the Shores and Tim Hortons for supporting mentoring!



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



“THE GIRLS TELL US GLOW WAS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THEM AT SCHOOL THIS YEAR.”

- LISA HASSALL  
ESL TEACHER, HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



## GLOW PROGRAM ENCOURAGES CONFIDENCE IN GIRLS

ANJELIKA CUEVAS, SENIOR CASE MANAGER | 905.339.2355 x220  
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In one Girls Linking Our World Program (GLOW), we worked with a mentee who was described by the school liaison as a selective mute. Teesha was very quiet and shy during the first two weeks of the program. When we would ask her questions, we received very short replies from her and had a hard time making a connection with her.

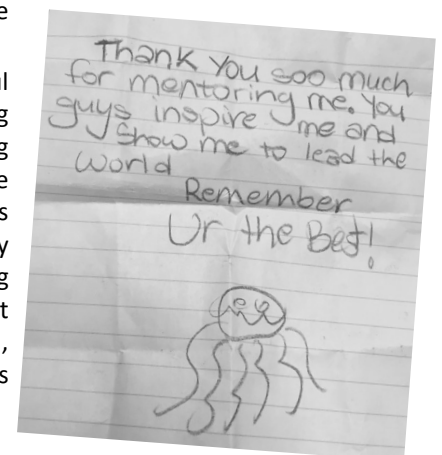
As the program progressed, Teesha slowly began to speak to the mentors and was such a delight to talk to. During the anti-bullying session of the GLOW program, Teesha opened up about the bullying that she was facing from her peers and passionately spoke about rising above her classmates' negative actions. We quickly learned that Teesha struggled to open up about her thoughts and opinions as a result of the bullying that she was facing.

During their time together, the mentors helped Teesha find her voice and were able to work alongside the school in order to ensure that she felt safe in her school environment.

By the end of the program, Teesha's leadership skills began to blossom.

She partnered with another mentee to lead a self-care activity - they chose to do a karaoke. Within her karaoke group, one mentee wanted to sing a specific song and Teesha found the confidence to voice her concern. She expressed that she was not comfortable singing the song because she did not know the words. She then selected a song and ensured that all the mentees in her group were happy to sing it.

It was such a wonderful sight to see Teesha coming out of her shell and feeling comfortable being within the group of mentees. It was especially inspiring to literally experience Teesha gaining her confidence and voice. At the end of the program, Teesha left the mentors this note:



GLOW IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED THROUGH THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

# BIG MOMENTS



**(1)** Big Brothers Big Sisters' staff wear pink in support of anti-bullying on Pink Shirt Day. **(2)** The 31st annual RBC Curl for Kids Sake bonspiel took place on February 23rd, raising \$37,518 for local mentoring programs. Pictured are John Nunnikhoven of Glenn Graydon Wright LLP, Peter Choma, VP Commercial Banking, RBC, Pam Damoff, MP, George Mitrovski, Branch Manager, RBC, Michelle Cisecki, Regional Vice President, RBC, and Sandra Baker, CEO, BBBSHH. **(3)** Oakville Fire Department (OFD) Chief Brian Durdin and colleagues along with Oakville Mayor Rob Burton present a \$10,000 cheque to BBBSHH CEO, Sandra Baker. This donation was made in memory of the late Wes Miller (OFD Chief 76-91), from the estate of his wife Lois who willed the funds for charitable groups. **(4)** A BIG thanks to the Rotary Club of Oakville for your generous donation of \$3,200! Pictured, from BBBSHH, Susan Coyne, Resource Development Manager and Sandra Baker, CEO. From Rotary Club of Oakville, Frank Moorewood, Treasurer, and Mike Henry, Chair, Community Affairs. **(5)** A BIG thanks to Carmeuse Lime and Stone, Dundas, who continue to generously support BBBSHH's mentoring programs year after year! Jon Tennant, Site Operations Manager, presents a cheque to charity staff, Rebecca Hart (back), Program Director, and Natalie Michlewicz, Manager of Communications.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR LEADERS

The Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton is a compassionate and dedicated team making up the volunteer leadership of our organization. Experience with strategy, governance, leadership and fundraising in organizations that serve children from diverse communities would be of value.

Monthly meetings, coupled with a commitment to be an active member of our standing committees, we are a 12 person team, working to govern the affairs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton in our quest to provide the best quality mentoring services to children and youth throughout our regions.

In preparation for our June Annual General Meeting, we are now calling on individuals who may be interested in serving as a member of our Board of Directors. The incumbent Directors will be willing to assume the volunteer Director role for a three-year term. Careful dialogue and consideration by our Board Governance Committee and current membership is part of our process. If you are interested in learning more about this important community role, please email Chuck Conlon, Chair, Governance Committee, at [Info.Hamilton@Bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Info.Hamilton@Bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)



## COMING UP NEXT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**MARCH 22, 7-9 PM: Kevin Flynn BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Classic Bowl (3055 Dundas St. W., Mississauga)**  
 SOLD OUT!

**MARCH 29, 7-9 PM: PAM DAMOFF BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Splitsville Entertainment (830 Laurentian Dr., Burlington)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

**APRIL 5, 7-9 PM: ZEE HAMID BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Champs Family Entertainment Centre (300 Bronte St., Milton)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

**APRIL 13, 10-12:30 PM: PAINTBALL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Paintball Nation (3336 Mainway, Burlington)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

**APRIL 27, 11-1 PM: TIM HORTONS BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Splitsville Entertainment (1525 Stone Church Rd. E., Hamilton)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

## BE A MENTOR — IT'S PRICELESS

"Helping others," "Making a difference," "Finding Joy" - there are lots of great reasons to volunteer. Perhaps the most compelling; however, is hearing the joy of giving back from a volunteer themselves.

Recently, a Big Brother of three years shared how being a mentor has positively impacted him. "I feel I have benefitted from this program even more than my Little by: learning to be more thankful for the small things we take for granted; helping the community I live in to be better off as a whole; being more patient and understanding with my own family; and, most importantly, establishing a trusting relationship with a shy little guy and his lovely family."

We have many children waiting to be paired with a mentor. You can apply to volunteer today at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

## BBBS OF CANADA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Big Brothers Big Sisters is exploring the positioning of the vision, mission, strategy, and brand of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada. As part of this work, they need to hear from volunteers from across the country. A survey has been sent out to all volunteers. Your input is crucial to help us grow and evolve. Thank you.

**MAY 2, 6-8 PM: TIM HORTONS BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Splitsville Entertainment (830 Laurentian Dr., Burlington)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

**MAY 9, 6-8 PM: TIM HORTONS BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Splitsville Entertainment (1525 Stone Church Rd. E., Hamilton)**  
 More information and registration at [MentorsForKids.ca](http://MentorsForKids.ca)

**MAY 25, 5:30-12:30 PM: ROTARY LOBSTERFEST**  
**Central Arena (519 Drury Ln., Burlington)**  
 For the third consecutive year, BBBSHH is the beneficiary of Rotary Burlington's annual Lobsterfest. Purchase your tickets before April 30<sup>th</sup> for only \$65. Regular price tickets are \$75. To purchase your tickets, visit [RibAndLobsterfest.dojiggy.com](http://RibAndLobsterfest.dojiggy.com)

**JUNE 18, 11 AM - 8 PM: GOLF FOR KIDS SAKE**  
**Crosswinds Golf & Country Club (6621 Guelph Ln., Burlington)**  
 Calling all golf enthusiasts! Register early – this WILL BE a sell-out tournament. \$300 per golfer or \$1,200 per foursome. To register, please contact [Tracey.Oconnor@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:Tracey.Oconnor@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)



MENTORING IS A  
**LONG-TERM INVESTMENT**

When a vulnerable child is paired with a caring mentor,  
positive change is inevitable. You will make a lasting impact.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Yes, I'd like to invest \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month to create **lasting impact**  Yes, I'd like to make a one-time investment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in **quality mentoring**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY \_\_\_\_\_ CV \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly donations will be charged to the indicated account on the 1st of every month. An official receipt for income tax purposes will be provided for all gifts over \$30. A cumulative charitable receipt will be provided for monthly gifts in February following the tax year. Please call us with any questions you may have at 905-525-3860 x310

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MASTERCARD  CHEQUE ENCLOSED

**MAIL TO: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton**  
639 Main Street East, Hamilton, ON L8M 1J4 | 905-525-3860 | MentorsForKids.ca

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