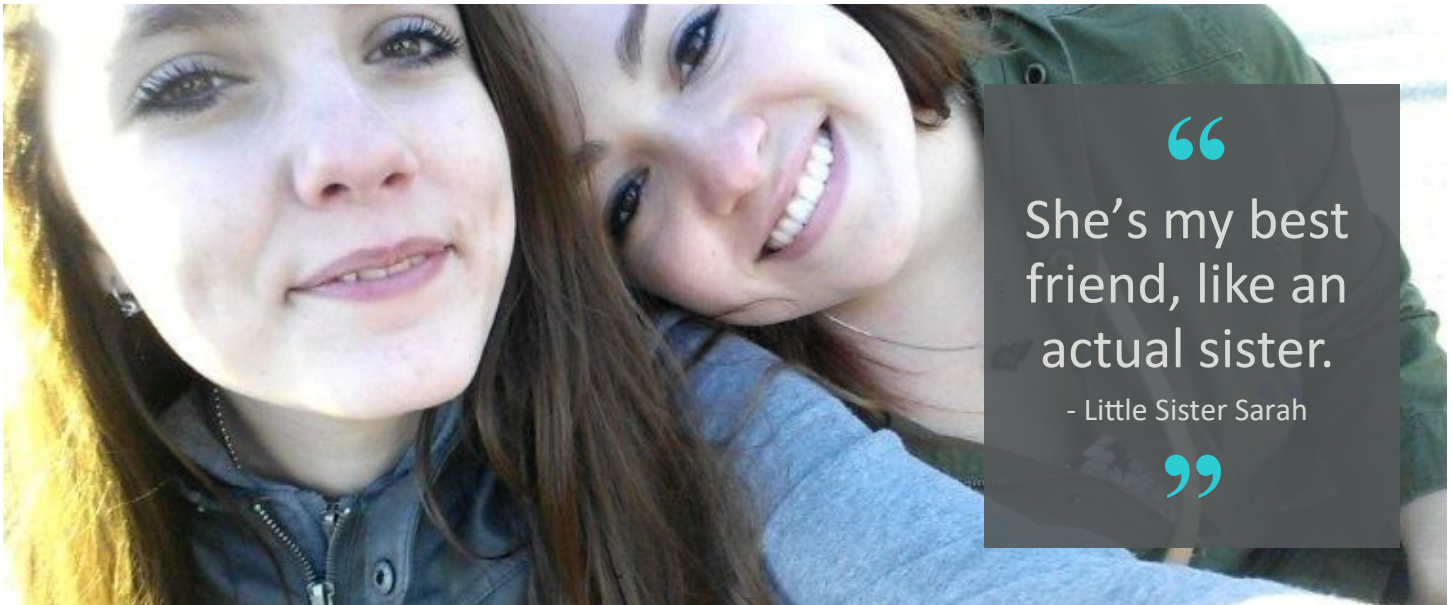


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| 1. MEET LISA & SARAH | 3. PARTNER'S CIRCLE | 5. BIG MOMENTS |
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“
She’s my best
friend, like an
actual sister.

- Little Sister Sarah

”

LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIP BUILT THROUGH MENTORSHIP

If you noticed Lisa and Sarah sitting across the room, you might think they are sisters - they get along wonderfully, appear to be the best of friends, and in fact, they look as if they are related. Seventeen-year-old Sarah laughs as she admits, “Everyone says that we look a lot alike, or like actual sisters.” And that might as well be the case, considering the strength of the bond they’ve formed over the past five years. “Lisa means a lot to me. She’s my best friend, like an actual sister. I feel like I can tell her anything, and she’d always have an answer for me. If I have a problem, she always helps me,” Sarah says.

Sarah was 12 years old when she first met her Big Sister Lisa. At the time, Lisa was a busy university student. Now, an even busier full time nurse while working on her Master’s Degree, Lisa still always finds the time for her Little Sister. Nowadays, they keep in touch in between visits too.

Perhaps without realizing it all along, Lisa’s dedication to her career and education had positively influenced Sarah. “Seeing her as a nurse, she has her whole life set. She has a good job and I look up to that. I want to be like her,” Sarah said.

“When we were first matched, Sarah was struggling in school, and she didn’t really know what she wanted to do after high-school, or, if she wanted to do anything at all,” Lisa explains. But through half-a-decade of outings like bowling, swimming, sports games, arts and crafts, cooking, and more recently, dining out or just hanging out, Lisa has continued to encourage Sarah and instill positive lessons. “Stay true to yourself and the things that you want. We’ve talked about that a lot,” says Lisa. And it’s no doubt that this has resonated with Sarah.

When Sarah recently decided that she wanted to peruse a career in the trades, she spoke with Lisa about it. “I told her I wanted to be a mechanic, but I was really iffy about it,”

Sarah says, explaining, that now, “Lisa makes me look forward to it. She’s encouraging me, and knows I can do it if I really try.” Sarah admits that without Lisa’s guidance, things could be different. “I feel like if I didn’t have that motivation, I wouldn’t have gone for my goal,” Sarah says.

Lisa knows that Sarah values her insight. “She’s told me that she appreciates my positive encouragement and my reminding her that she can do whatever she wants to do,” Lisa says.

Currently Sarah is completing a high-school co-op placement in the automotive sector. Up next, she hopes to do an apprenticeship at Mohawk College to be an Automotive Service Technician.

Before Sarah met Lisa, Sarah confesses, “I was really shy. I didn’t really talk a lot to people. Lisa has definitely boosted my confidence with a lot of things.”

Lisa is proud of her. “When Sarah first started high-school, she didn’t feel like she was capable of doing something like setting a career goal. She wasn’t motivated; now she is,” says Lisa.

Lisa has watched Sarah grow up into a young woman, but she admits that mentorship has always been a two-way-street. Specifically, Lisa’s favourite memory was the time her Little Sister literally taught her to swim. Lisa laughs.

Fittingly, Lisa says, “The most important thing I learned from Sarah is just to laugh and have fun. As you get older, sometimes you forget about making things fun and laughing every day.”

Lisa and Sarah’s match will formally close at the end of the year, as Sarah is turning 18 and will age out of the Big Sister Program. When Lisa thinks of their match closing she gets upset, but then she’s reminded of her Little Sister’s wisdom: “Don’t be sad; nothing’s going to change between us.” Both Lisa and Sarah agree that they will be life-long friends.



MARIANNE'S MENTION

“The late and great Leonard Cohen said it best: To keep our hearts open is probably the most urgent responsibility we have.”

Marianne

MARIANNE NOAKES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 905.525.3860 x312
MARIANNE.NOAKES@BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA

BE KIND. BE THOUGHTFUL.

I ran into an old friend the other day, who said something to me that resonated through to our work at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

We exchanged pleasantries, got caught up on each other's families, our work and who it was we had stayed in touch with over the many years between our lives touching. It was a joyful and fascinating conversation. Although our paths were intertwined as young kids, we had not had cause to see each other in over half a century!

As we were saying our good-byes, I found myself making excuses for why we hadn't stayed in touch. My friend looked me square in the eyes and simply said, "real friendship doesn't expire." He went on to tell me that he never forgot how he felt when during baseball tryouts. I had brought for his use an extra baseball glove from home. I didn't and don't remember that.

He told me that he played baseball well into his adult life. He didn't own a baseball glove as a kid.

That got me thinking. As we enter a new workplace, a new community group, a new neighbourhood, or a relationship with a child at Big Brothers Big Sisters, we don't consider in any real measure, the lifelong impact our new relationships will have. What our history as an organization tells us is that many children will wait until their mid-life before understanding or articulating the impact that you as their Big Brother, Big Sister or mentor have had on their life's trajectory.

The morale of the story, be kind. Be thoughtful. Open yourself up to new relationships. Thank you to our mentors for being and doing just that.

Stay with us as we continue to ignite potential in our next generation.



LAURI REESOR

- 2019-2020 BOARD CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER SINCE 2017.
- PROUD MOTHER TO A 13-YEAR-OLD SON.
- DAY JOB: PARTNER, HICKS MORLEY
HAMILTON STEWART STORIE LLP
- FAVOURITE ANNUAL EVENT: "IT WOULD BE
HARD TO BEAT BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE.
BOWLING IS ONE OF THOSE TIMELESS
PASTIMES THAT CAN BRING GENERATIONS
OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOGETHER FOR
AN EVENING OUT."
- ROLE MODEL OR MENTOR GROWING UP:
"MY PARENTS."

BULLETIN BOARD



"I truly believe in giving back to the community in which I live. There is no future without a strong investment in our children, the next generation. All they need is your time. Get involved, get engaged, whether it is as a mentor, a donor or a Board Member. It's a relatively small investment that has a larger return than you'll ever know – a life-changing one."

- Lauri

PARTNER'S CIRCLE



OUR SUPPORTERS ALLOW US TO IGNITE POTENTIAL

Thank you to our featured partners below — your support enables life-changing mentorship, which ignites the power and potential of young people in our local communities.



Physical Literacy for Newcomer Children and Youth (PLNCY) provides youth with mentoring and fun, using a physical literacy approach. The Ontario Sports and Recreation Community Fund (OSRCF) is generously supporting the PLNCY Program for a two-year funding term – we are so grateful for your support. Thank you, OSRCF.



The Cultural Mentorship Program aims to create and develop mentoring relationships with a focus of embracing Caribbean and African cultures. Generous three year funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has allowed us to bring this new Program to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our thanks – we are so grateful.



Connections Project provides mentors to newcomer youth, allowing them to build confidence as they adjust to their new surroundings. Program mentees meet for weekly group mentoring sessions. We are able to grow this Program over a three year period thanks to a funding commitment from the Ontario Trillium Foundation – a BIG thank you for helping us grow.



Game On! is a group mentoring program that provides boys and young men with information and support to make informed choices about a range of healthy lifestyle practices. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has generously funded this program for a one year term – we are grateful for your support.

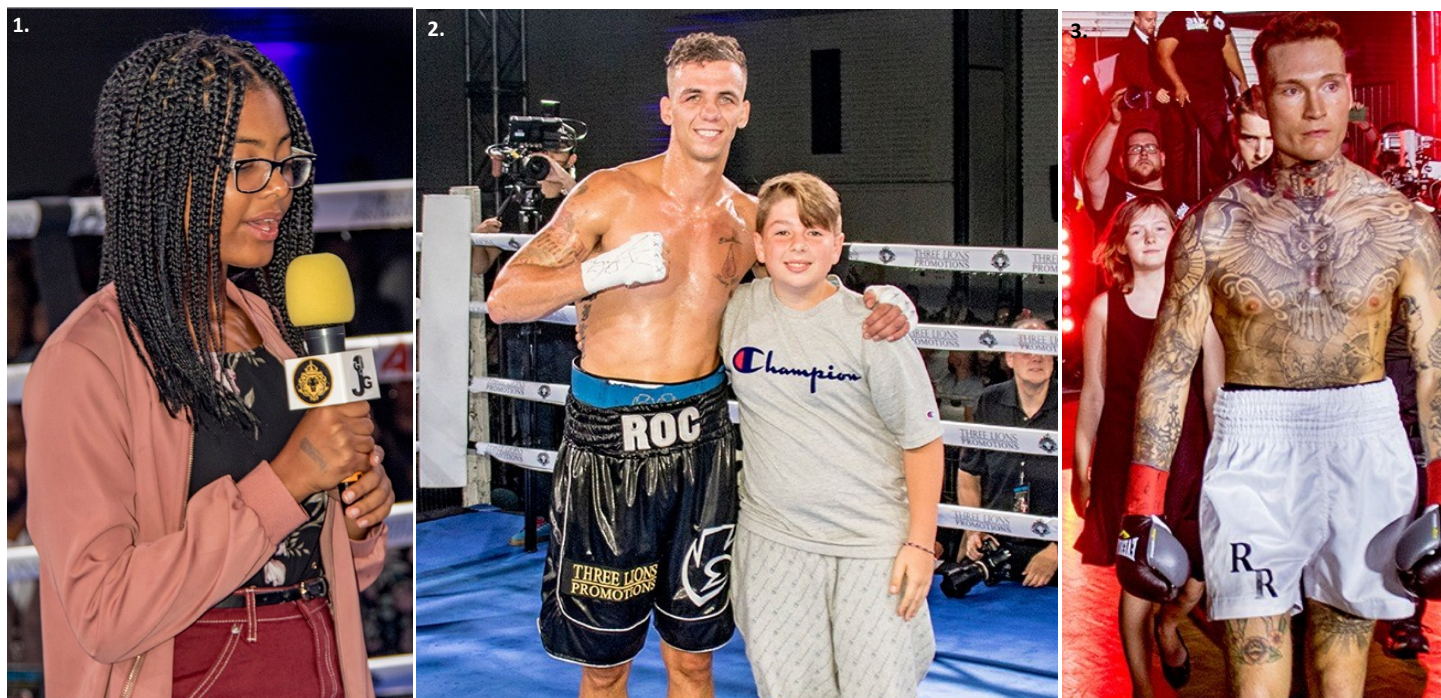


Through the support of their Community Investment Fund, the United Way of Halton and Hamilton generously funds nearly one-quarter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton's annual programming. We are grateful for the impact we are able to make in our local communities thanks to your continued support.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

“ THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME
SINGING FOR THIS AMOUNT
OF PEOPLE. IT WAS AMAZING! ”

- LITTLE SISTER AZALEE, 15



SE7EN - A MEMORABLE NIGHT FOR ALL

PHOTO CREDITS: ALEX SEARS

Talk 'bout an awesome pair! A big thanks to this knockout team for believing in the power of mentoring – Three Lions Promotions, Event Host, in partnership with Allure Medical Aesthetics, Official Diamond Sponsor.

On September 7th, Three Lions Promotions presented Se7en, an exciting evening of professional boxing. For its second consecutive year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton was selected as the event's beneficiary. In addition to the \$2,500.00 raised, this event presented some unique and memorable opportunities for our Littles. We are truly grateful.

Joined at the event by her family and Big Sister Fatima, Little Sister Azalee sang our National Anthem in front of a crowd of about 2,000 guests. After the event Azalee said, "This was my first time singing for this amount of people. It was amazing!" Azalee, who says she aspires to be a professional singer when she grows up, has been matched with her Big Sisters for five years. Recently, Azalee has been thinking about taking up boxing for leisure. "Being at this event encouraged me to get into boxing as a pastime, to gain strength and build confidence," she says.

For Little Brother Tate, Se7en was hardly his first

introduction to the boxing world – he has been paired to Big Brother Jessie Wilcox, Pro Boxer, for 10 months. Jessie says that Tate has naturally developed an interest in the sport, since he has tagged along to several of Jessie's matches since the beginning of 2019. Recently, Jessie and Tate have spent some of their time together boxing too.

Tate has become one of Jessie's biggest fans as both a Big Brother and boxer. When Jessie won the fifth bout of the night, Tate was one of the first ones in the ring to congratulate and celebrate with Big Brother Jessie.

For Little Sister Amalie, Se7en was her first-ever boxing experience—she had a blast. Among the evening's festivities, Amalie had the unique opportunity to walk in the main event boxer entourage for Ryan Rozicki, the undefeated Canadian cruiserweight champion.

What a fantastic evening this was for our Littles and Big Brothers Big Sisters alike. A special thanks to Three Lions Promotions for this remarkable opportunity for our Littles and for your continued partnership.

1. Little Sister Azalee sings Oh Canada.
2. Big Brother Jessie Wilcox celebrates in the ring post-victory with Little Brother Tate.
3. Little Sister Amalie walks in the boxer entourage for the main event.

BIG MOMENTS



WELCOME, 2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



(1) We are pleased to introduce our 2019-20 Board of Directors. Thank you for leading us as we Ignite Potential in the young people of our local communities. We welcome back returning Board Members, Chuck Conlon, Aiman Dally, Steve Horner, Catherine Lewis, Shafiq Mohamed, Peter Rakocz and Lauri Reesor, who has accepted the position as our new Board Chair. A BIG welcome to our newly inducted Board Members: Blair Henderson, Daniele Ingleton, Robert Ridge, Cassandra Weatherston and Patrica Wright. (2) During Smile Cookie Week, Mia, Jade and Leia joined Georgetown Tim Hortons Owner, Jodi Di Natale, to help keep up with cookie production by piping smiles. \$1 from every Smile Cookie purchased at Georgetown's Guelph Street, Mountainview Road North and South locations were donated back to Big Brothers Big Sisters. We are happy to report that over \$14,200.00 was raised, surpassing last year's fundraising by a whopping 4,000 cookie sales! (3) In it's fifth year, The Fresh Ride, brings the message of healthy eating to kids. We had 10 riders stop in at Big Brothers Big Sisters while making their journey from Niagara Falls to Toronto. During their visit, they chatted with our kids and families about the importance of healthy eating and exercise along with sharing healthy food giveaways. (4) September 18th marked Big Brothers Big Sisters Day nationally. Here's our staff showing off our newly branded look.



SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DRIVE

We are excited to introduce a new fundraising initiative, and we need your help! As you know, Big Brothers Big Sisters is a charity that offers free mentoring services to help young people reach their full potential. We are able to provide these services by raising funds, hosting fundraising events, and applying to grants. However, we are always in need of additional funding so that we can continue.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Beginning October 21st, pick up a donation box at our Hamilton or Oakville Office.
- On Halloween, or between the dates of October 24th and November 4th, spread the word about the great work BBBS is doing in hopes to fill your box with generous donations!
- Drop off the donation box at our office by Friday November 8th.

PRIZES AND INCENTIVES

- Raise over \$75 to be placed into a draw to win a \$50 Google Play gift card!
- Raise over \$125 to be placed into a draw to win a \$100 Google Play gift card!

Questions: Sara.Douglas@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca or 905-339-2355

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE CONTINUES

We are in need of supplies for our 50+ school-based program locations, and could sure use your help. We are looking for donations of any quantity of the following items:

SCHOOL-SAFE SNACKS:

- Peanut free/Individually wrapped/Easy to serve/Non perishable
- Examples: granola bars, cereal bars, rice crispy squares, gold fish, fruit gummies, bear paws, pudding, fruit cups.

IN-SCHOOL MENTORING SUPPLIES:

- Arts and crafts supplies (paint, paint brushes, canvases, markers, craft kits, pompoms, pipe cleaners, foam cut outs etc.)
- Board games or small fun games (2-player friendly)

For more information about our school-based programs or supply needs, please call 905-525-3860. Donations may be dropped off at:

Hamilton Office: 639 Main Street East (M-F, 8:30-5)

Oakville Office: 464 Morden Road (M-F, 9-4:30)

FEDERAL ELECTION - POLL WORKER

The Federal Election is coming up on Monday October 21. Note that paid Poll Worker Positions with training are available.

- Apply at elections.ca/job
- Or call 1-866-275-1592



COMING UP NEXT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

OCT. 21 - NOV. 8, SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DRIVE

Fundraising Boxes Available for Pickup at BBBSHH Offices
We invite mentees to pick up a donation box at our Oakville or Hamilton office. Fill a box with \$75 or more for your chance to win a Google Play gift card. For more details, contact Sara at 905-339-2355 or Sara.Douglas@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

NOVEMBER 7, 6:30-8:30 PM: BIG 100

Mercedes-Benz Burlington (441 North Service Rd, Burlington)
Please join us for complimentary cocktails and appetizers, and come hear stories from those impacted most by Big Brothers Big Sisters — our Bigs and Littles. The BIG 100 is a fund and friend raising event. For more event information or to RSVP, contact Kristin at 905.339.2355 or Kristin.Vanderwater@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

NOVEMBER 9, 4-11 PM: OAKVILLE FATHER DAUGHTER BALL

Le Dome Banquet Hall (1173 North Service Road East, Oakville)
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: OakvilleFatherDaughterBall.ca

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22: IKEA TREE LOT SALES

IKEA Burlington, 1065 Plains Road E., open-close each day
Buy your Christmas tree and support Big Brothers Big Sisters at the same time. We have been selected as the charity beneficiary for the IKEA Tree Lot. Please help us raise \$25,000 for mentoring this holiday season!

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22: SEASONAL VOLUNTEERING

IKEA Burlington, 1065 Plains Road E., open-close each day
Seasonal volunteers are needed for 3+ hour shifts at the IKEA Tree Lot. Give back and get in the holiday spirit! Gather your co-workers and do a seasonal give back! Contact: Natalie at 905-525-3860 x310 or Natalie.Michlewicz@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

DECEMBER 2 - 8: SHOP FOR KIDS SAKE ONLINE AUCTION

Online, Bidding starts Monday December 2, 9 a.m. Bidding closes Sunday December 8, 9 p.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 ShopForKidsSake.ca