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A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Josette Rider Executive Director

2018 has been a monumental year! From nationwide rebranding to launching new local programs, we have spent a year making major changes to ensure that we continue impactfully serving youth for years to come. Though we look a little different, our core vision remains the same: seeing every youth fulfill their potential with a positive adult role model by their side! This vision, in fact, inspired the changes.

In 2018, we became Defenders of Potential through a nationwide rebrand to modernize and embolden the look. Our vision is the lifeblood of our work, program-defining, operations-informing, and decision-quiding. Under this vision, together we are gathering. Together, we ignite, empower, and defend potential in our local youth. "We" includes more than just the staff. It includes the Littles, Bigs, Guardians, Donors, Board Members, Cheerleaders, Advocates, and Champions – it includes YOU. Together, we are united as Defenders of Potential, and the biggest piece of this equation is YOU!

Under this renewed focus, we have expanded the opportunities we provide to our youth. With a generous grant, Big Brothers Big SIsters launched The NIPSCO Academy: Mentoring Youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, focused on exposing youth to STEM fields. Through a second generous grant from AEP, we received the funding for our first ever science lab. Together, these initiatives will enable youth to discover potential in STEM-related areas, areas many student have little to no previous exposure.

Amidst these external changes, our staff have undergone many internal changes as well. We launched our first-ever marketing department, aimed at more vocally sharing our vision. This effort capitalized on local talent, bringing in many new interns as innovators and norm-changers. We rolled out a new software for tracking and monitoring Matches as well as a new framework for our Match Support Team – and the results speak for themselves

This year, we greatly exceeded our agency's Match goal and supported over 1,700 Matches this year – almost 200 more than last year. On top of these one-to-one Matches, we continued to support waiting youth through the First Friends and First Mentors programs. We expanded our school and education-based programs including Real Men Read, School Buddies, and Big Futures. All while implementing internal infrastructure to sustain the growth.

Even still, over 400 children are still waiting for a mentor. Disproportionately, these waiting children are boys, especially Hispanic and African American boys. These boys need local men to step up to mentor them, to make next year record-breaking in not just capacity but also in variety. They already have the capacity to succeed - they just need someone to encourage them to live up to their fullest potential. Throughout this year of new and renewed beginnings, we always remember that we do not succeed alone. We thrive as a direct result of your generous time and monetary contributions. Your support enables us to create and professionally support these life changing, communitychanging mentoring relationships. Yes, you are a community-changer. A life-shaper. A difference-maker. Because every Match impacts not just the Big and the Little but also their parents, guardians, siblings, teachers, spouses, and friends. You help change thousands of lives just by supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters and making one match at a time. Whether \$10 or \$10,000, we thank you! The Board and I assure you that we use every dollar to its fullest potential to fulfill potential in our youth, our agency, and our community.

Yes, 2018 was an astounding year, and in 2019 – we will face bigger challenges, skyrocketing costs and even more children with their hand in the air ---- waiting for a BIG. Yet with your help and support we will face these obstacles and find the potential in everything we do. Together, we are united as Defenders of Potential. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Joseth Rider

Josette Rider, Executive Director

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST INDIANA CELEBRATES OUR

2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS



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MISSION

To create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of vouth.

VISION

That all youth achieve their full potential.

PASSION

To see all children achieve success in life.









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and for supporting the children in our communities during 2018















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Aaron Schaffer **Board President**

Once again, 2018 reminded me of the joy I receive from supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana. I have been on the Board of Directors since 2014 and have served as Board President since 2017. Our organization is an excellent example of the impact a group of people can have when they dedicate themselves to a vision for a better tomorrow. Our agency has built a strong foundation to embrace change, take advantage of new opportunities, and help establish the new brand of Big Brothers Big Sisters. A major change that we implemented in 2018 led to overwhelming benefits. To serve our youth better, we introduced a new service delivery model, which restructured how our match support team functioned The restructuring aligned the different phases of a match with an appropriate level of support from the agency. As a result, we saw growth in the number of matches we served and improvement in the level of support provided to those matches. In 2018, the agency supported 1,732 matches. This total exceeded our agency goal and is almost 200 more matches than we supported in 2017. The new model should also improve long-term match retention and provide better support for new match relationships. A special recognition goes to the match support team, who worked through the changes and continues to ensure our matches are on track for an impactful relationship.

As part of setting our youth on the path to a bright future, we received funding for a new STEM Academy. The goal is to equip our youth with the skills necessary to pursue STEM-oriented careers. In addition to the

STEM Academy, the agency also received generous funding for its first ever science lab. This lab will provide hands-on learning opportunities. These two initiatives are unique to our agency, and set us apart by providing value-added experiences not otherwise available. Most noticeably, we also rebranded this past year as part of a national campaign to modernize our look and diversify the support base of the agency. The changes of the rebrand have reverberated through the organization and reenergized the focus on the mission. I personally like the brand's definitive call to action, as we are all "Defenders of Potential."

Our agency spent 2018 making decisions with the balanced approach to make a difference for youth today, next year, and the next five years. To everyone currently involved with us, whether as a donor, volunteer, staff member, board member, or committee member, thank you for your contributions to our success in 2018. To everyone considering involvement, I personally encourage you to consider spending some more time with our agency or attending one of our events. When you do, I am confident you will discover that the people are authentic, the passion is contagious, the impact is tangible, and the future is promising.

Aaron Schaffer, 2018 Board President

Clacon R. Schaffer

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XVIII. Volunteers / Committees Our Leadership III.

2018 NORTHEAST INDIANA BIGS OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR

Big Brother Brian – Little Brother Adrian

Matched since 2010

Adrian was a shy young kid who enjoyed video games and imaginative play but growing up in a house full of girls left Adrian without a male role model. His mother, Tameka, who was a Little Sister herself years prior, knew the value of a positive role model so she enrolled Adrian with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She remarked, "he's surrounded by females and needs male interaction. I hope this provides him a strong male role model."

And it did. In 2010, Adrian was matched with Brian, a Marine Corps Veteran who has served 10 years domestically and internationally. With the help of their shared love of basketball, they formed a strong bond instantly.

When Brian first met Adrian, he did alright in school but occasionally fell behind. Throughout the years since their match, Adrian has continued to perform well in school yet, Brian always encouraged him to fulfill his potential and strive for more. This past year, his junior year, Adrian got honor roll multiple times and was even invited to attend the prestigious honors ball.

The pair couldn't be prouder. Adrian remarked, "I'm really proud of myself this semester. I kept every grade a C and up and ended with over a 3.0 GPA – I'm confident I can continue to do this all the way through graduation."

Big Brother Brian and Little BrotherAdrian at the 2019 Volunteer Recognition Dinner with the BBBS CEO, Josette Rider and the 2019 Board President, Matt Stout.



"MY BIG BROTHER BRIAN HAS GIVEN ME EXPERIENCES THAT I WOULD HAVE NEVER DREAMED OF HAVING BEFORE."

-Little Brother Adrian

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Launched in May 2016, Match Makers is our automated monthly giving program that proudly supports dozens of matches thanks to the generosity of the following donors.

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Gardner, Nancy

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Gergely, Jason

Gibas, Megan

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Gumbert, Missy

Gunawardena, Shar Gunawardena, Sharma Gutwein, Corrin Haak, Simone A. Haiflich, Brianne Haines, David Hall, Janet Hall, Robert Hallman, Timothy Hamann, Timothy Hankins, Jefferson Hansen, Dan Hanson, Seth Hapner, Jacob Harless, Jason Fenstermacher, Marle Harmeyer, Grant Harper, Vikki Harpham, Julie Harris, Chelsea Harris, Elaena Harris, Latoria Harris, Nancy Harris, Sara Harrison, Andre Harrison, Keith Harter, April Hartman, Brad Hartman, Brittney Hartman, Chris Hartman, Jennife Hartman, Michelle Hartman, Norman Hartman, Rebecca Hartman, Troy Hartmann, Daniell Hartzog, Amy Harvey Alexander Hasecke, Linda Hassett, Rene Fuhrmann Ruble, Kimberly Hatch, Carmynn Hatfield, Matthew Hathaway, John Havey, Matthew Havnie, Elizabeth Hazel Bryan Heal, Heather Heckley, Caleb Heins, Pam Heiny, Nicholas Heller, Leslie Helmkamp, Mary Kay Henline, Richard Hensley, Ross Hepler, Cindy Herberger, Jason Hering, Keith Hernandez, Caitlin

Herndon, Dale

Brian echoed his sentiments, "I'm really proud of Adrian stepping it up and taking school seriously enough to accomplish this.'

Adrian's academic accomplishment follows a very rough period. Adrian's mother passed away in 2015, leaving Adrian and his sisters to live with their grandmother. Throughout this difficult time, Brian stayed by Adrian's side and supported him as Adrian dealt with the emotions and change of his loss. Adrian's grandmother saw this and said, "I'm so appreciative of everything that Brian has done to support Adrian."

Through this difficult time and many other challenges, Adrian and Brian have grown incredibly close. "I enjoy just giving Adrian that interaction with someone who really cares and seeing him grow up into a man," Brian explains. He commented that "Adrian has grown into himself a lot more. He's way more confident and assured. He's become very close with family, and has a close circle of friends." Indeed, Adrian has grown quite a bit since the two met. Brian now has a family and Adrian considers these kids his younger siblings; they adore him in return. Now seventeen, Adrian is on track to graduate in the spring of 2020 and is thinking about attending college for something in the medical field. He has already toured some schools and is narrowing down his list.

For years, Brian has encouraged Adrian to dream for the future, saying, "my biggest impact on Adrian has been showing him that there is a large world out there – and that he has access to it." As they prepare for life after high school and the changes that will come, Adrian and Brian will stay side by side.

According to Adrian, "Brian is just fun to be around, always listens to me, and helps me grow by encouraging me. Brian is my real big brother. He is just different than anyone I've ever known, and it's what I want to be like too."



XVI. Volunteers Bigs of the Year \mathbf{V} .

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICES

BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR

Big Sister Natalie – Little Sister Abby

Matched since 2012

When Little Sister Abby was in 2nd grade, she struggled to focus in school despite being a very brilliant, clever, and bright kid. To find someone to encourage Abby, give her concentrated attention, and make her feel special and valuable, Abby's mother signed her up for Big Brothers Big Sisters. A few months later, Abby met her Big Sister Natalie for the first time.

Instantly, the two connected. They began having lunch together, a weekly Match tradition that continued for over four years. Slowly, the pair branched out into new activities in the community. After trying a variety of activities, Abby and Natalie discovered their favorite: just spending time together. According to Abby, "I really love being around Natalie! I like hanging out with her since she is fun and easy to talk too. I wouldn't change a thing about my match - everything's perfect. We are together regularly and we enjoy our outings and times."

Natalie echoed these sentiments, "I just love to have great conversations with Abby. I love talking with that girl! She is just a gem to be with!"

Through Natalie's husband, the pair discovered the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, a student group who coordinate efforts to engage youth in local politics. Abby began to attend their meetings with Natalie taking her. They enjoyed their car rides together and the consistency of their outings.

Through the MYAC, Abby has made some good friends and stepped out of her comfort zone - which Natalie highly encourages. "Abby has changed in leaps and bounds since we have first started meeting. She is trying things out of her comfort zone. She has always been introverted, but she is really coming out of her shell and is starting



to make some really good friends. It's been great to see that change in her social skills!"

Over their six years together, Abby has also developed a love of the arts - music, writing, and drawing - and of technology, describing herself as quite "tech-savvy." School is not always easy for Abby who is still learning a way to organize and keep track of her assignments and other responsibilities. Regardless the challenge, Natalie has continued to encourage Abby that she is capable of success.

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#6074

According to Abby's mother, "Abby loves her time with Natalie. She is a great help to Abby with her homework and just making her happy We love Natalie. She is a good friend and resource for Abby."

Recently, Natalie spoke of Abby saying, "Abby is turning into a lovely young lady!!! She has grown and matured so much. She is a typical teen, but in other ways she is more mature than her peers. I like seeing her grow and being a part of her life - she's just growing up so

Throughout this Match's journey, Abby has been very open with Natalie who has been a constant source of support and encouragement. Abby commented, "She is a great person and feels like a member of my family. She means a lot to me and I'm grateful for her. Natalie has been a great support the last couple years!"

Through trials and triumph, Abby and Natalie have only grown closer together. According to Abby, "Natalie means a lot to me. I feel it's more than I expected and it's in a good way. Natalie basically makes me feel like I'm in a good dream. She's been my greatest friend through tough times. I like how kind and generous she is and that she listens to what I say."

"I JUST LOVE BEING WITH MY **BIG SISTER NATALIE, PERIOD."**

-Little Sister Abby



XIV. Our Donors Bigs of the Year **VII.**

BIG COUPLE OF THE YEAR Big Couple Sheila & Justin - Little Sister Scarlett Matched Since 2012

Growing up with five younger brothers, Scarlett did not have any sister figures so her mother signed her up to be a Little hoping to find someone for Scarlett to spend time with away from her brothers. In 2012, Scarlett met Sheila and Justin, her Big Couple. The three connected immediately and began slowly getting Scarlett to open up. They spent many outings having meals together and hanging out. Being with Sheila and Justin brought Scarlett out of her shell. "Sheila and Justin have helped me break away from my shyness," Scarlett explains. They encouraged her to get a job and now Scarlett has become a manager at Arby's.

After graduating in 2017, Scarlett decided to take a gap year before starting college. Sheila and Justin continued to talk to Scarlett about her future. They helped her to explore some career options by arranging for her to shadow each of them at their jobs. With their encouragement, Scarlett began at PFW last fall, on top of

her full time work at Arby's. After taking a year off, college was a big adjustment for Scarlett. Sheila and Justin were right by Scarlett's side cheering her on. Scarlett has now successfully completed her first year

As Scarlett has gotten older, Sheila and Justin have also been instrumental in helping her grow into an adult. They've helping Scarlett register for her classes each semester, file her FAFSA, and even file her taxes. They encouraged Scarlett to get her driver's license, which she now has, and to open her own bank account. Sheila says. "I'm very proud of her. We're here for her no matter what. We've learned as much from Scarlett as she's learned from us, if not more. I know that Justin and I will always keep in touch with Scarlett."

"SHEILA AND JUSTIN HAVE HELPED ME BREAK AWAY FROM MY SHYNESS."



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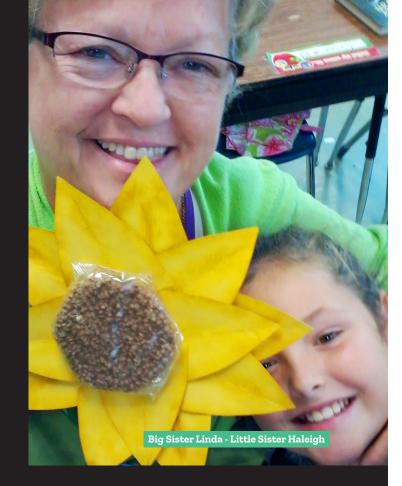
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Brink, Mary Lou SCHOOL BUDDIES BIG OF THE YEAR Brodock, Jessica Brooks Andrew & Pam Brooks, Blaze rooks, Ed & Mary Big Sister Linda - Little Sister Haleigh Matched since 2015

> School Buddy Big of the Year Linda Leighty has been matched with Little Sister Haleigh for over 3 years. Many of their lunches together include a craft which Linda used to foster Haleigh's love of art. Together they have made canvases, holiday cards, and other crafts. According to Haleigh, "Linda is really nice. I'm glad she comes in to see me. She is fun." Through these creative projects, Linda has spent time teaching Haleigh lessons on being a courteous, polite, and kind person. Linda constructively corrects Haleigh and repeatedly emphasizes her potential to be a better person. These lessons have made an impact on Haleigh's healthy emotional development and growth in keeping a positive attitude.

"LINDA IS REALLY NICE. I'M GLAD SHE COMES IN TO SEE ME. SHE IS FUN."

-Little Sister Haleigh



REAL MEN READER OF THE YEAR

Real Men Reader Steve Hays Reading Since 2009

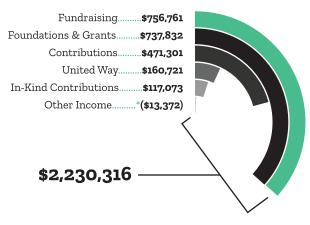
Real Men Reader of the Year Steve Hays' commitment to the Real Men Reader program and his classroom is truly remarkable. He goes above and beyond to inspire students to read. He always plans a hands-on activity that enhances the book he's reading and he makes real-world connections from the story to life to teach kids a lesson through the book. Steve even makes extra visits to read the students his favorite books and give them a copy at the end of the year. According to his teacher, "Steve gets the kids excited about reading! He brings everything he reads to life making it that much more meaningful and



XII. Our Donors Bigs of the Year IX.

FINANCIAL DATA

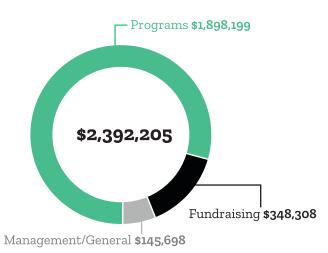




*There is a negative number for Other Income due to an unrealized loss on investments of (\$200,965)

2018 Total Net Assets \$4,732,239 (includes endowment campaign)

EXPENSES



BY THE NUMBERS

735 VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED











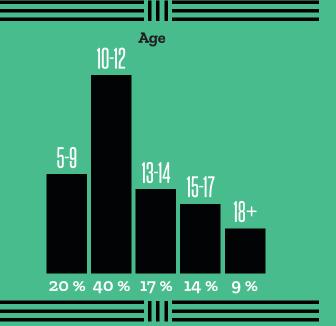


PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

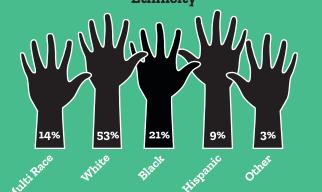


1,057 Community-Base Matches

675 School Buddies Matches

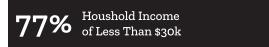


Ethnicity



SERVING CHILDREN WITH THE GREATEST NEED AND THE LEAST OPPORTUNITY

Child Living Situation

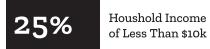














X. Finance / Impact XI.