Happy 45th Anniversary!

2017 has been a great but challenging year! Challenging because of the economy and staff transitions and great because of the consistent donor and volunteer support we receive. Because of you, we have been able to provide services to more youth than in the past four years. Our Agency continues to be an innovator in developing cost-effective and quality-enhancing procedures and practices; however, the need remains to be great with over 400 youth on the waiting list.

In 2017, we created and supported one to one mentoring relationships for 1,580 children and provided programming for the hundreds of children still on our waiting list through our First Friends and First Mentors programs. We continued to expand our school and education-based mentoring- through our Bigs in Schools and Big Futures Mentoring programs, and created more of our traditional community-based matches.

With the help of you, the best volunteers, most generous supporters and most dedicated Bigs, the successes are many. The littles that graduated from high school and on to pursue college, career and military choices are abundant. The mentoring programs we provide locally have not only touched the lives of individuals in our communities, but are making an impact all across the nation.

Please join me in congratulating our past Board President, Rod Schoon. Of all of the thousands of individuals who serve as dedicated Board members across the United States, Rod was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Clifford P. Norman Award! Rod was honored in June at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National conference. This was a much-deserved recognition, as we have been blessed with exceptionally talented, hard-working and generous board members over the years. They ensure that your donated dollars are spent wisely and efficiently and that the tens of thousands of volunteer hours produce measurable positive outcomes for the children we serve. We are extremely proud and humbled to have an individual from our Agency representing the country. Congratulations Rod!

While we celebrate the awards, we never forget the core achievements and this is something we cannot do alone. It is with your generous contribution of time and money that we are able to create and provide professionally supervised mentoring relationships for hundreds and hundreds of area children who need a safe and positive “match” with a caring adult. When we include the parents, guardians, siblings, teachers and spouses directly impacted by our work, literally thousands of new, life-changing relationships are created through your support of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Whether it be $10 or $10,000 - each and every dollar is used to its fullest to help youth reach their full potential. While 2017 was a great year, 2018 will pose bigger risks and greater challenges that we will face and solve together. As we celebrate 45 years of mentoring and providing children with positive, caring role models, we continue to be fully committed to being the “best” at what we do and develop plans to further grow what we consider to be the most successful mentoring program in the country.

God Bless,

Josette Rider, Chief Executive Officer

A Message from Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Schaffer, President
Kenneth Jones, Vice-President
Tony Tranquill, Vice-President

Bill Decker
Morgan Boudler
Dave Dietz
Jake Fetters
Steve Goodman

Troy Hartman
Phil Henry
Andrew Hoenpner
Chris Johnson
Laura Kapp Miller

Jimmy Knight
Haley Lawrence-Evans
Chase Lockwood
John Marshall
Joe Martin

Carey Roth
Doug Schenkel
Christine Swift
Scott Swegger
Jerry Wood

A Message from Our BOARD PRESIDENT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana is an agency that is easy to support. I have been on the Board of Directors since 2014, and have found serving as Board President more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined. Our agency’s achievements reflect what is possible when a group of skilled people rally behind an agreed-upon vision of the future. Fortunately, the decisions made in the past provided a firm foundation that allowed the agency to focus on growing matches, execute on its strategic plan, and invest in the development of our people.

In 2017, the agency supported a total of 1,580 matches. These matches are guided by a staff of match support specialists, who spend their days making sure each match has the highest probability of being successful. Our agency is BIG on highlighting the positive impact that a mentor can have on a young person in a public forum. I invite you to attend our first-class events to hear one of these stories. Luckily, the real impact our mission has on today’s youth provides a never-ending pipeline of successful match stories, and motivates our leadership team to prioritize time to initiatives that ensure sustainable success. Our agency has had a strategic plan for much longer than I have been involved. In 2017, effort was put into the plan to align it with agency goals. Simply put, the board and the staff began monitoring the same metrics, speaking the same language, and bringing to light areas of focus. This resulted in an emphasis on volunteer recruiting, match pipeline management, and optimism for 2018 that the number of matches served would increase dramatically. This has also led to discussions on improving our match infrastructure, and investing in our staff in a way that allows them to broaden their skill set.

An organization’s tax status does not change the challenge of balancing the unrelenting demand for our agency and meeting that demand with limited resources. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana understands that the success of the agency starts with the talent of its staff. Deliberate investments have been made, whether in tuition reimbursement or personal development plans, with the hope that people view our agency as a place to have an impactful career. We are confident that a fulfilled staff will lead to fulfilled matches.

I personally encourage everyone to consider spending time with our agency - the people are genuine, the passion is contagious, and the impact is tangible. To everyone currently involved with us, whether as a volunteer, staff member, donor, or board member, thank you for your contributions to Big Brothers Big Sisters’ success in 2017. Our future is promising, and your efforts are making a BIG difference.

Aaron Schaffer, 2017 Big Brothers Big Sisters Board President
2017 NORTHEAST INDIANA BIGS OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS
Recognizing Outstanding Volunteers for their Dedication and Services

BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR
Don Armstrong & Little Brother Logan
Matched Since 2010
"Don is the best! I wouldn't be where I am today without him." - Little Brother Logan

BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR
Barbara Wolf & Little Sister Carmen
Matched Since 2008
"My Big Sister is someone I trust. She's pretty much my family... and I can talk to her whenever I want, especially when I need to" - Little Sister Carmen

SCHOOL BUDDY OF THE YEAR
Kathy Pargmann & Little Sister Mackenzie
Matched Since 2013
"We do everything! We go to the library and study. We really like to read together and play games, but my all-time favorite is when Kathy brought in a craft... we made Salsa!" - Little Sister Mackenzie

BIG COUPLE OF THE YEAR
Michelle and Troy Hartman & Little Sister Shawna
Matched Since 2008
"They've helped me to become a better person. Troy and Michelle are wonderful people and know how to make me smile" - Little Sister Shawna

REAL MEN READ OF THE YEAR
Bob Walters: Reading Since 2009
"My students love hearing Mr. Walters read. He does such a good job during his sessions. They really enjoy their time with him." - Mrs. Schweitzer, Fort Wayne Community Schools

HAVE A MENTOR MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

- 48% BETTER WITH THEIR FAMILIES
- 43% DOING BETTER AT AVOIDING DELINQUENCY
- 76% INCREASED SELF ESTEEM
- 70% LESS LIKELY TO USE ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES
- 89% DOING BETTER ACADEMICALLY
- 38% IMPROVED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
2017 FINANCIAL DATA

Revenue
- In-Kind Contributions ................................................................. $119,411
- United Way ................................................................................. $189,913
- Contributions .............................................................................. $500,225
- Other Income .............................................................................. $325,410
- Fundraising ................................................................................. $871,784
- Foundations and Grants .............................................................. $777,646
Total Revenue ................................................................................ $2,664,289

Expenses
- Management/General ................................................................. $96,482
- Programs ....................................................................................... $1,772,045
- Fundraising ................................................................................... $371,928
Total Expense ................................................................................ $2,240,455

2017 Total Net Assets $4,895,245 (includes endowment campaign)

2017 PROGRAM STATS

OUR LITTLES

Gender
- Male ................................................................. 41% 41%
- Female ............................................................. 59% 59%

Age
- 5-9 ................................................................. 31%
- 10-12 ............................................................. 36%
- 13-14 ............................................................. 15%
- 15-17 ............................................................. 12%
- 18+ ................................................................. 6%

Ethnicity
- White ............................................................... 54%
- HISPANIC ......................................................... 15%
- BLACK ............................................................. 21%
- OTHER ............................................................. 10%

Serving Children with the Greatest Need and Least Opportunity

Child Living Situation
- Single-Parent Home ......................................................... 71%
- Ages 6-12 ............................................................................. 67%
- Household Income of Less than $10k: 59%
- Minority Children ......................................................... 46%
- Ages 13+ ............................................................................ 33%
- Incarcerated Parent ....................................................... 21%
- Household Income of Less than $10k: 19%

BY THE NUMBERS

- Volunteers Recruited: 459
- Children on the Waiting List: 345
- Active Volunteers: 1,212
- Families Served: 1,188

Elementary Schools Services Provided To: 71

71% of Our Littles Graduated High School

Total Matches Made: 1,580

Site-Based: 586
Community-Based: 994

Program: Bigs in School
Traditional Matches: 546

Total Matches Made: 1,580
REAL MEN READ VOLUNTEERS

Marianne Stanley
Lili Hand
Sue Carpenter
Sara Brown
DeKalb County
Angie Schmidt
Heather Rush
Mike Ripley
Chris Nusbaum
Zach Meyer
Rick Hoffman
Ryan Cybulski
Allen County
Jessica Thieme
Dean Fuelling
Dan Kintz
Sandy Brown
Adams County
Gritzmaker, Andrew
Graham, Alexander
Gompf, Gene
Godfrey, Steve
Glick, Emmanuel
Geswein, Chuck
Galindo, Palermo
Fridley, David
Frey, James
Franke, Mark
Fife, Brian
Field, Jim
Earls, Michael
Duff, John
Dietz, Cory
Dietiker, Rick
DeWitt, Ed
DeSelm, David
Dennison, Mike
Dearing, Brady
Davis, Evan
Cutright, James
Cusick, Jeff
Curtis, William

DON WOLF AWARD RECIPIENT
Tom Kelley

CHARLES D. SMITH AWARD RECIPIENT
Ernie Wiggins

THE 2017 CLIFFORD P. NORMAN AWARD RECIPIENT BY BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA
Rod Schoon

Corporate Community Partners
Special thanks to our Corporate Community Partners for underwriting our programs and for supporting the children in our communities during 2017.
MISSION
Our Mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that will change their lives for the better, forever.

VISION
Our Vision is that all children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential: contributing to healthier families, brighter futures, and stronger communities.

PASSION
Our Passion is to see all children achieve success in life.