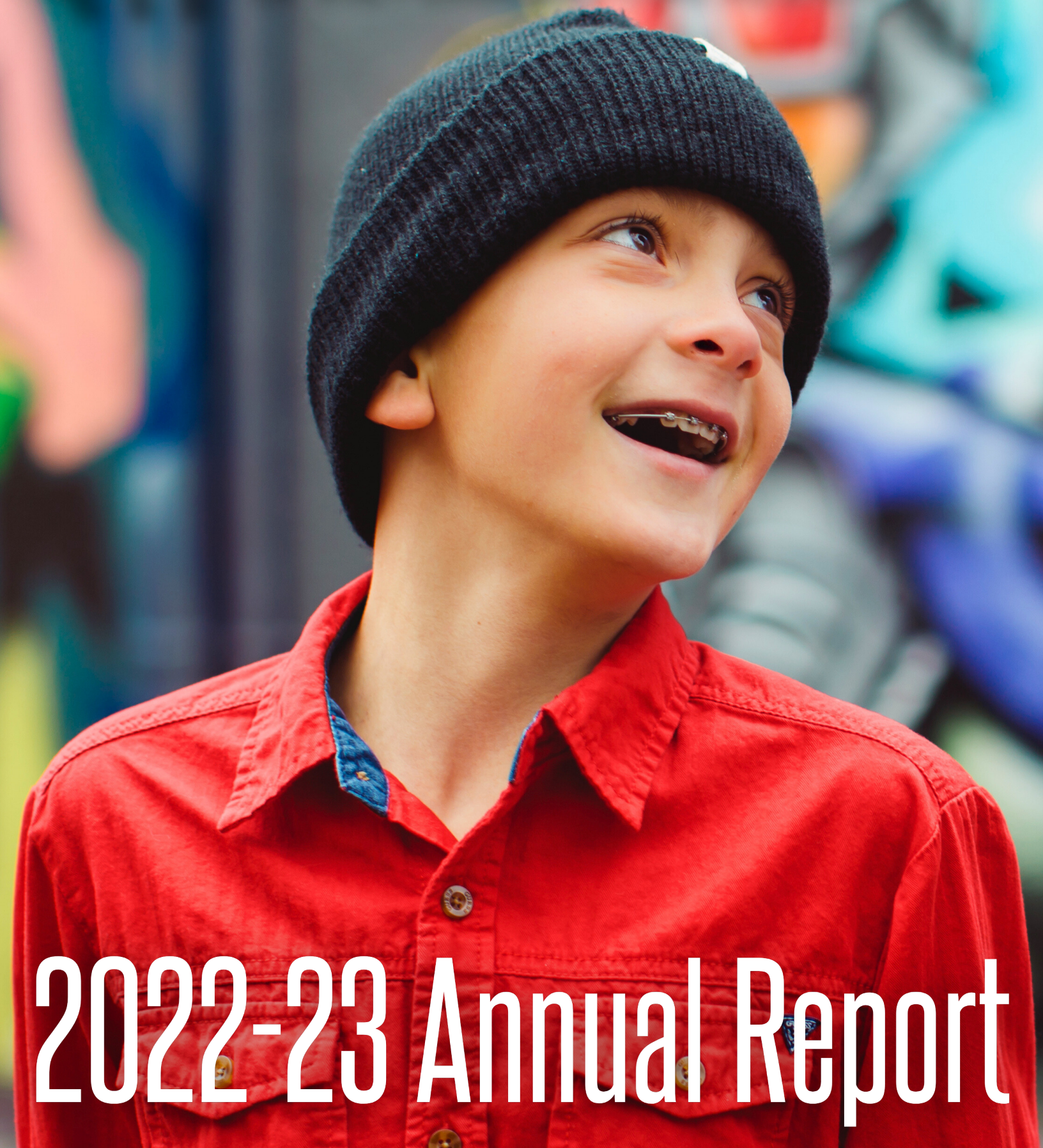




Big Brothers Big Sisters OF VICTORIA CAPITAL REGION



2022-23 Annual Report

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF VICTORIA CAPITAL REGION: 2022-23 IMPACT



451 Youth Mentees



276 Volunteer Mentors



4 Mentoring Programs



14 Municipalities



7 Indigenous Communities



22 Schools in 5 Districts



10% Growth in Grants
& Subsidies



14,000+
Volunteer Hours



26% Growth in
Fundraising Initiatives

We know that our children are our future. We also know that growing up today can be tough. At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we believe that every child has limitless potential. That's why we enable mentoring relationships which build confidence in our youth and ignite their potential. Mentors can support children and youth through the challenges of growing up while inspiring them to dream about their future. These stable relationships are critical for young people who might not otherwise have someone to lean on. Over the past year, hundreds of local families have come to us seeking support for their children. We also saw an increase in new volunteers signing up to be mentors for these children. Thank you for your support as demand for our mentoring services continues to increase.



OUR VISION

is that all young people realize their full potential.

We believe that every child has limitless potential – and that this potential is our most cherished resource.

OUR MISSION

is to enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people. With these relationships, youth have the confidence and support they need in order to grow into whoever they dream of being.

OUR CHALLENGE

is that many children and youth in our community are struggling with adversities that threaten their development and limit their opportunities – through no fault of their own.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

We are committed to sustaining an environment where representation matters, diversity is celebrated and everyone is welcomed. All people and their diverse abilities, gender identities and expressions, biological sex identities, 2SLGBTQIA+ identities, races, religions, cultures and orientations are worthy of support, respect and empowerment. We honour the diversity of people, families, cultures, traditions and experiences. We uphold the rights of all our volunteers, youth, families, staff, students and community to respect, dignity, fairness, caring, equality, self-esteem and inclusion.



Welcoming

We acknowledge and honour the diversity of people, cultures, traditions and experiences and recognize the right of all individuals to respect, dignity, fairness, caring, equality, and self-esteem.



Learning

We strive for the highest standards of service and continuously improve our knowledge and best-practices to better support children, youth and volunteers.



Sharing

We believe in the power of collectively working towards common goals that benefit our community and the lives of young people in Canada.



Responding

We commit to developing programs which are relevant and leverage the power of volunteerism and mentoring in our communities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region recognizes and honours the traditional lands of the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Esquimalt and Songhees), Pacheedaht, Scia'new, T'Sou-ke, WSÁNEĆ (Malahat, Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum), K'ómoks, Hul'qumi'num, and SENĆOTEN peoples where we live, work, and play. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region is committed to a child-focused role in reconciliation by providing mentoring programs in Indigenous communities and facilitating culturally-informed mentoring for Indigenous youth.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, we continued on our path of achieving our goals and revisited the strategic plan developed by the board and team to meet them. We are well on our way and continue to find ways to adjust and pave the way with positive forward momentum. We continue to add schools to our In School Mentoring programs and our Community Mentoring coordinators are actively working to engage new volunteers and set up matches. The B You program implemented a very successful Summer Day Camp program for female identifying youth full of energy and creative opportunities to learn about healthy minds and bodies.

Our Social Enterprise has added new team members and they continually flex to meet the needs of our agency and work with our community partners in order to support our programs. The Fund Development team has grown our resources and brought together new and dynamic fundraising opportunities. Our presence in the community is growing with donors, sponsorship and engagement in our online content.

The commitment of our volunteers continues to humble me. The dedication of the staff and the board and the work they do to further our vision and mission is commendable and it is truly the efforts of the community that will drive us towards the big goals we have set. We couldn't do what we do without our donors, sponsors, partners and granting organizations. Thank you to each and every one of you who comes together to support the potential of children and youth in our community – it truly takes a village.

“Thank you for the warm welcome to the agency, especially during a time of immense change. The team has been resilient and flexible and many have stepped in to lend a hand. The commitment of our volunteers continues to humble me. It is truly the efforts of our supporters, volunteers, donors, funders, board, and staff who come together as a community to drive us towards the big goals we have set.”

Amanda Hill



A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2022-23 BOARD PRESIDENT

I am honored to present the 2022-23 Annual Report for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region. This past year has truly been a testament to our unwavering commitment to creating life-changing mentoring relationships that help children to reach their full potential.

Following the pandemic, there is a need more than ever from families in our community for our youth mentoring programs. Our dedicated team, mentors, and supporters have responded to that need with steps to grow the organization towards our goal of serving 1000 children. Fundraising was met with overwhelming support from our local community and committed partners which play vital roles in our journey to achieving our goals.

“As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, I would like to extend my gratitude to our mentors, staff, community partners, board and volunteers for their commitment and dedication. Together we are making a lasting impact on the lives of the children we serve. Thank you for your continued support!”

Donna Hobbs



2022-23 TEAM OF STAFF

Adrianna Kipp, Big Steps Mentoring Coordinator
Alexis Gardner, Community Mentoring Coordinator
Allie McFarlane, Marketing & Communications Specialist
Alysha Vivian, Community Mentoring Coordinator
Amanda Hill, Executive Director
Andrea Pearson, Development Associate
Andrew M. Reed, Operations Manager
Annie Taal, Social Enterprise Business Manager
Ashley Adams, Mentoring Coordinator
Brooke MacDonald, Salt Spring Mentoring Coordinator
Candace Johnson, Comox Mentoring Coordinator
Colton Sammut, Co-op Student
Crystal Neve, Retail Supervisor
Darcy Lapushinsky, Collections Coordinator
Eden Thom, Online Marketplace Coordinator
Emily Stanhope, Co-op Student
Emma Kirkland, Director of Development
Ezra Loggin, Social Enterprise Assistant Manager
Fiona Hawes, In-School Program Coordinator
Jacqueline Sookermany, Big Steps Mentoring Coordinator
Jasmine Crant, Auction Coordinator
Jenny Felix, Manager of Finance
Johnny Pranic, Online Marketplace Coordinator
Kait Burns, B You Program Lead Coordinator
Kaitlyn Shynkaryk, Co-op Student
Kate Dickinson, Assistant Manager of Operations
Kathryn Ebert, In-School Mentoring Coordinator
Keltan Roth, Collections Coordinator
Kyle McKenzie, Co-op Student
Lilaine Galway, Program Manager
Lynda Weller, Collections Coordinator
Mariana Carreiro, Finance Assistant
Matthew Collicott, Co-op Student
Matthew Schmidt, Co-op Student
Mary MacLeod-Beaver, In-School Mentoring Coordinator
Olivia Wein, Co-op Student
Rhonda Brown, Former Executive Director
Rose Gora, Community Mentoring Coordinator
Russ Allert, Collections Coordinator
Sienna Pike, Co-op Student
Sue Pratt, Interim Executive Director
Talia Papa, Volunteer Intake Coordinator



2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donna Hobbs, President
Scott Treble, Vice President
Karen Mark, Secretary
Agnes Piotrowski, Treasurer
Megan Casault, Director
Dr. Curtis Clarke, Director
Kaylee Apostoliuk, Director
Silvia Vajushi, Director
Barb Fabian, Director
Samuel Raphael, Director

CELEBRATING DEDICATION

We would like to recognize our Collections Coordinator Russ Allert for his longtime commitment and service to our agency. Russ has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region for an incredible 25 years. Russ is always willing to lend a hand, has an infectious laugh and is the best storyteller in the office. Thank you to Russ for your dedication to supporting youth.

Our entire team is grateful to Sue Pratt, who offered her leadership as Interim Executive Director during a time of need in 2022. Thank you for lending a hand to each and every staff member and student. We are grateful for the way Sue gave her time and experience to support us from programs, to fundraising, to our social enterprise.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUTH

At the core of our mentoring programs is the belief that each and every child has limitless potential. However, through no fault of their own, many children and youth in our community are faced with adversities that threaten their potential. These young people are vulnerable to toxic stress, a harmful condition where difficult life experiences cause continual physical and emotional stress. According to the Harvard Centre for the Developing Child, youth are at risk for toxic stress when they go through prolonged or severe adversities.

Challenges like living in poverty, witnessing domestic violence, or struggling with mental health can cause toxic stress in developing children. Young people who experience childhood toxic stress are at risk for developmental delays and – later in life – substance abuse, depression, heart disease and diabetes. So how do we prevent our children from suffering the effects of toxic stress?



The key is a developmental relationship. According to Harvard, the most important factor in a child growing up successfully is at least one stable relationship with a trusted adult. These relationships give children the support, empowerment, and confidence they need to realize their full potential.

Our volunteer mentors learn how to intentionally build developmental relationships with their youth mentees. These relationships give youth the support they need, challenge them to be their best and give them space to learn from mistakes. Our mentors learn five different ways to strengthen developmental relationships while they spend time, share experiences, and just be there for their mentees.



Expressing
Care



Challenging
Growth



Providing
Support



Sharing
Power



Expanding
Possibilities

“Simply just showing up for someone, especially a young person, communicates care and love best of all and is crucial to developing a sense of security and safety for the both of you.”

- 2022-23 Mentor

I have really realized how important relationships are in people's lives, especially at a young age when we are changing and growing into individuals.

- 2022-23 Mentor





My mentoring experience has taught me a lot about how to listen to kids and how to help navigate some of their concerns. I feel like now I can better understand and better build connections and trust with mentees.

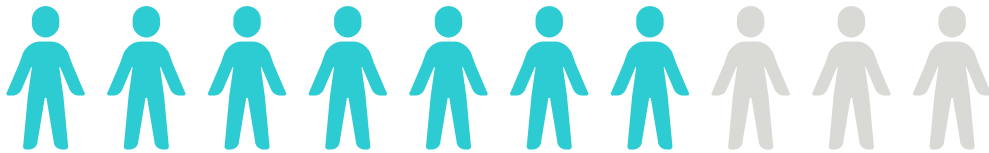
- 2022-23 Mentor

I've learned to let go of expectations and to be fully present. It's a reminder that kids are kids, no matter where they are or what their circumstances are - and they continue to need support.

- 2022-23 Mentor

COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

Children and youth who are facing challenges in their young lives are matched with adult volunteer mentors through our Community Mentoring Program. Matches spend time together in the community each week, providing the young person with stability, trust, and some fun, too.



This year, we continued to see children who are experiencing multiple challenges. 70% of youth came to our Community Mentoring Program in 2022-23 experiencing three or more adversities in their everyday lives.



12 Municipalities



16% of Participants Self-Identify as Indigenous



149 Matches



Every year, hundreds of compassionate adults and teens volunteer their time to make a difference in the life of a child. Our volunteer mentors spend time with their mentees in the community or at school – building a supportive relationship, sharing their interests with activities, and having fun along the way.

Each of our mentoring programs saw increased volunteer applications in 2022-23. Over the past year, our In-School Mentoring program has seen a 70% increase in volunteers either applying or returning to the program. Half of our In-School mentors were high school students between the ages of 14 and 18. In our Community Mentoring Program, adult volunteers ranged in age from 19 all the way up to 83 years old.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers – your support means everything to the children and youth that you mentor.

BIG STEPS TO SUCCESS

In partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, our new Big Steps to Success program seeks to reduce these impacts and fill the gaps for kids in care. Youth ages 7 to 14 who are involved with the child welfare system are matched with mentors who can give them the extra time, support, and stability they need to thrive. Mentors matched with children in care face additional challenges when it comes to navigating the systems and managing the logistics of supporting a child who lives in a group home or is temporarily placed in a foster home. It takes more time, coordination and planning from mentors and mentoring coordinators to ensure that the children have their weekly activities. Big Steps to Success mentors receive additional training in anti-racism, mental health and navigating government systems.

The Children's Aid Foundation of Canada reports that at least 300,000 children in Canada are living with vulnerable families and are at significant risk for abuse or neglect. Many young people are removed from their families and placed with foster families, extended family or group homes. These experiences can be incredibly traumatic for children and their families.

Of the almost 60,000 children and youth who are living in permanent government care and foster homes, across the country, less than half will go on to graduate high school. Youth who grew up in care are also 200 times more likely to experience homelessness than their peers.





13 Elementary Schools



70% Increase in Volunteers

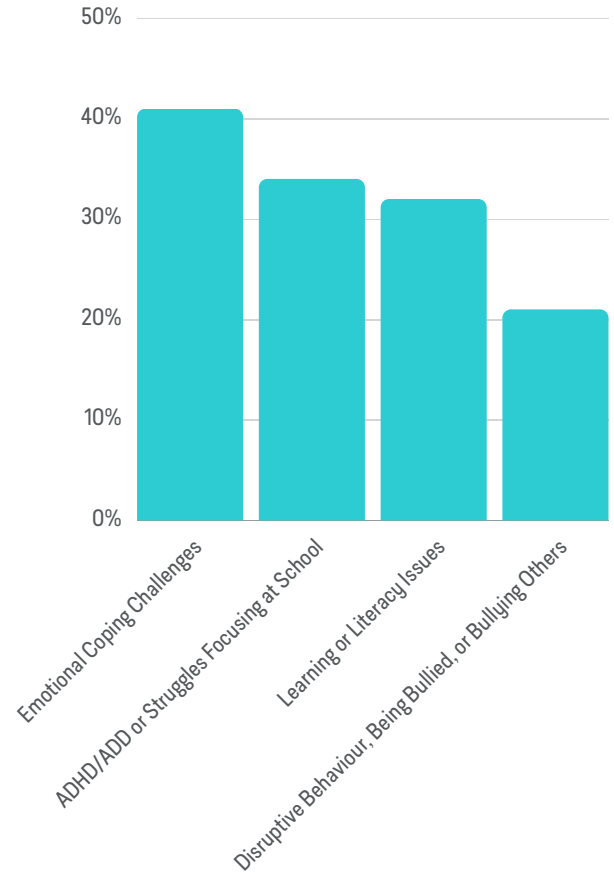


85 Matches

IN-SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM

Elementary students who are facing challenges that could impede their ability to learn, attend school on a regular basis or positively connect with others can be referred to our In-School Mentoring program by their school. In 2022-23, the 85 children referred to our program came to us with one or more challenges impacting their engagement and self-esteem.

In 2022-23, our In-School Mentoring Program was offered at 13 schools across the Victoria Capital Region, Sooke, Comox Valley and Salt Spring Island. With fewer disruptions to the school year and less health concerns, many volunteers returned to mentoring in schools for the 2022-23 year. The demand for mentors will be even greater next year as additional schools continue to request our programs and the number of vulnerable children identified by each school as dealing with anxiety, learning loss or living in a high-risk home continues to grow.



Over the past year, 84 teen and adult volunteers connected with mentees at their elementary schools to spend time with them, support them, and provide a consistent relationship in their lives. Thank you to our dedicated teens and adults who give their time to support our youth in schools!

100% of our school liaisons at partner elementary schools reported:

- the children looked forward to their visits with their mentors
- the visits between the children and mentors were positive
- the mentors recruited were appropriate individuals for a mentoring role

According to our In-School Mentoring youth mentee surveys:



92% reported that they wanted to do the program again next year



90% reported that having a mentor made them feel happier at school



77% reported feeling close and connected to their mentor



Motivation to Learn

86% of mentors reported that their mentee's motivation to learn and try new things has grown during their time with them



Seeking Support

69% of mentors reported that their mentee speaks with them if something is bothering them at school or at home



Growing Confidence

69% of mentors reported that they had seen an increase in their mentee's confidence



Building Self-Esteem

53% of mentors reported that they had seen an increase in their mentee's self-esteem

2022-23 SCHOOL PARTNERS

- Braefoot Elementary
- Brentwood Elementary
- École Élémentaire Campus View Elementary
- Craigflower Elementary
- École Élémentaire George Jay Elementary
- KEYSET Elementary
- École Élémentaire Marigold Elementary
- École Élémentaire Quadra Elementary
- Saseenos Elementary
- Brooklyn Elementary
- Queneesh Elementary
- Valley View Elementary
- Salt Spring Elementary School
- Edward Milne Community School
- Gulf Islands Secondary School
- Highland Secondary School
- École Secondaire Mark Isfeld Secondary School
- Spectrum Secondary School
- École Secondaire Stelly's Secondary School



“Our students involved in the program light up when they know it’s the day their mentors are arriving to hang out with them. It’s wonderful to see them open up and flourish in a meaningful, satisfying relationship.”

- 2022-23 School Liason

I have really realized how important relationships are in people's lives, especially at a young age when we are changing and growing into individuals.

- 2022-23 Mentor

“The most rewarding part of being a mentor is knowing I play an appreciated and trustworthy role in my mentee’s life, and seeing it through her words, actions and development.”

- 2022-23 Mentor

Our B You: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds group mentoring program connects female-identifying and gender-diverse youth with mentors and peers. Groups take place at local schools and support youth in learning about taking care of their bodies and minds, building healthy relationships with others and developing their own self-esteem.

In our 2022-23 surveys, mentees most remembered learning about:

- Journaling
- Self-Care
- Friendship
- Relationships
- Mental Health
- Bullying
- School
- Anxiety
- Balanced Eating
- Emotions
- Gender Stereotypes



B YOU: HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS



94% of mentees felt more comfortable talking about how they think and feel after the program

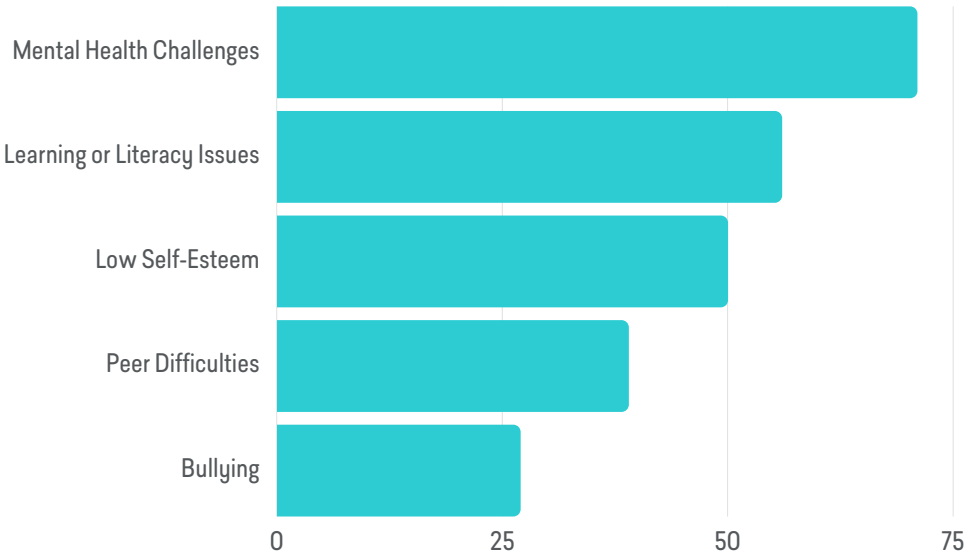


87% of mentees said they felt good about themselves after participating in B You: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds



77% of mentees felt more comfortable talking about mental health and mental illness

This year, our B You: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds program was offered at nine different schools across eight municipalities. Demand from schools and students alike was higher than ever in 2022-23, with enrolment in the program growing by 54% over the previous year. This growth speaks to both an increase in knowledge about the B You: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds program as well as heightened demand for youth services in our community. This year, 78% of mentees were reported to be facing one or more adversity.



24 Groups Facilitated



Enrolment Increased by 54%



217 Youth Served

2022-23 SCHOOL PARTNERS

Cedar Hill Middle School

Gordon Head Middle School

Spencer Middle School

École John Stubbs Memorial School

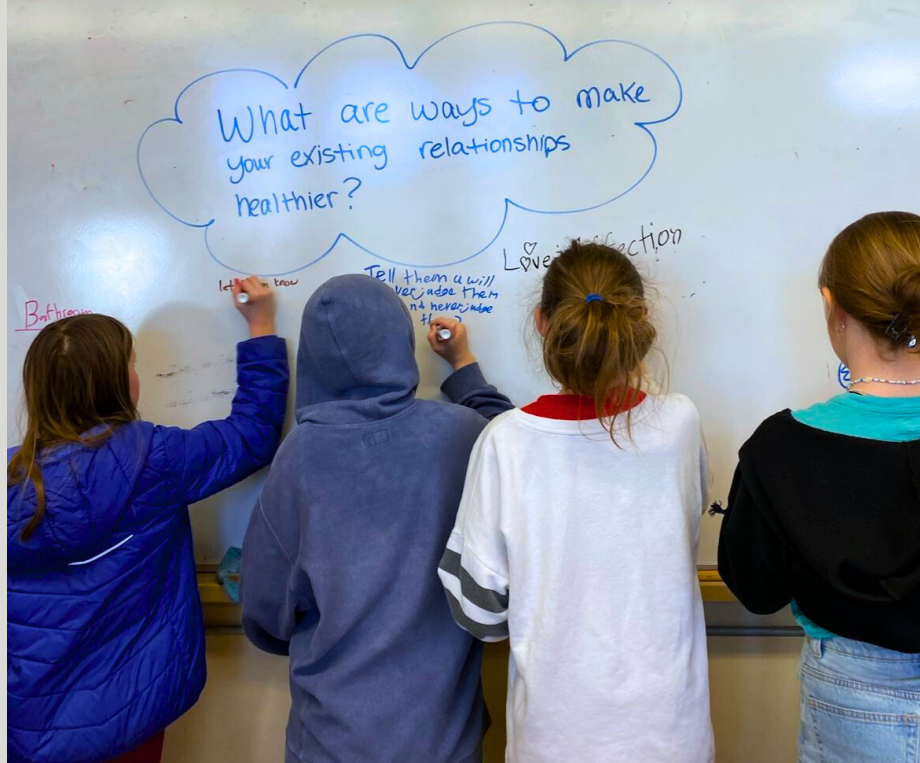
Lansdowne Middle School

Dunsmuir Middle School

Rockheights Middle School

Victoria West Elementary School

Savory Elementary School



"My daughter prioritizes B You nights, shares important things she's learned and takes it seriously. She trusts and likes the peer group. She takes the topics seriously and mentions them throughout the week, which I find interesting because it's keeping her interest. It seems to bring out a kind, caring and thoughtful side of her when mentioning B You peers and topics. She also takes confidentiality very seriously in the group, and trusts the mentor and peer group."

- 2022-23 B You Mentee's Parent



"B You helped me be more confident and realize that sometimes I'm not the only person that goes through something."

- 2022-23 B You Mentee

"B You is great because not only do you get accepted by everyone, but you also get to do crafts and have snacks! I found a lot of people who are a lot like me too!"

- 2022-23 B You Mentee

"I love everything about mentoring in B You and find every session super rewarding. I love this program and totally wish it was offered when I was younger. I'm so happy to have been a part of it and look forward to future groups!"

- 2022-23 B You Mentor



"Working with students is one of my favourite things about my role here at the agency. I love helping them to discover what excites them and giving them a chance to explore what they've learned at school. They always inspire me with new ideas and I am so grateful for and proud of what they bring to the team."

- Allie McFarlane, Marketing & Communications

PRACTICUM & CO-OP STUDENTS

This year, 21 post-secondary students joined us to gain experience, expand their skills and support our programs. Practicum and co-op students worked in many roles throughout our agency, applying their own unique skills and exploring their own learning goals to help us make a difference for families in our community. Students applied their academic knowledge and innovative perspectives while being open to growth and mentorship. Each student had both a supervisor for structure and a mentor for skill-building and support. This year, student projects ranged from working with our mentoring coordinators to support programs, to joining our social enterprise team to raise funds for our charity, to creatively contributing to our website and social media content. Thank you to all of our students who spent time with us – we learn as much from you as you do from us.

2022-23 STUDENTS

- Abbey Haas
- Andrea Pearson
- Anne Nomellini
- Brennan Finch
- Bridgit Nutting
- Carissa Klammer
- Charlotte Robichaud
- Colton Sammut
- Ella Eidnani
- Emma Collins
- Hallie Garfield
- Kaitlyn Shynkaryk
- Kiera Ariano
- Kyle McKenzie
- Matthew Collicott
- Matthew Schmidt
- Olivia Wein
- Reece Lebeau
- Sage Togyi
- Sienna Pike



Seeing a new volunteer application



Try colouring challenges with your mentee!



Here's how I spent my day as an office pup at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MANAGER

I have spent the last four months taking in all the meaningful programs we provide, including joining as a mentor, and how the Social Enterprise weaves through all aspects of the organization. We support the programs financially, work closely with development, and support many staff members and facets of a busy donation program. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish what I have, in my first few months, without the support of the SE team, especially our Assistant Manager, Ezra Loggin, who has really shown me the ropes.



The Social Enterprise weathered increasing challenges during the pandemic, and has emerged on 'the other side', still intact and looking forward to growing and changing. The Social Enterprise team faced unprecedented challenges when the pandemic forced staff to cease its usual operations, moving many of our calling staff to new roles working in our three-room marketplace. In creating the small but mighty marketplace we were able to meet the cost needs of our staff and continue to see revenue. This last summer saw 4 co-op and 2 summer students move through our area, keeping us busy and adding new ideas! In this last year we have been able to support more weight dropped to our Savers partner Value Village and have increased partnerships within our community. With the changing priorities post-pandemic and need for increased revenue generation, Social Enterprise will be entering into a planning phase to streamline operations, increase efficiencies, create new ideas all to support more youth in our community. My goal is to continue building partnerships within the walls of our organization and within the community. I look forward to the work and welcome any suggestions, ideas, and partnerships to can help us to ignite the potential of our youth.



Team Accepting Items
at Donation Centre



\$815,000 in Funds
Generated for
Mentoring Programs



Revenue
Growth of 5%

I'm honoured to join the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region team as the new Social Enterprise Business Manager. I started my professional career at a non-profit here in Victoria and have since spent many years working at Camosun and UVic in alumni relations, fundraising, and event planning. I am a resident of Vic West - across the street from our office and the aunt to 5 nieces and nephews. I am excited to bring my experience to grow the social enterprise, working closely with my fellow managers and a great team of staff!

Annie Taal





THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

\$500+

Smart Dolphins
Sue Pratt
Richard Fable
Ritva Gronstrand
Island Savings
North Glass & Aluminum Ltd.
University of Victoria
C & Mary Stock
Diana Culver
Don and Lois Martin
Doris and Bruce Johns
Flora Allison
Frank Campbell
Geoffrey Carrington
Jaime Halan-Harris
K T Shum
Mary Mullens
Morgan Lewington
Murray Olson
Pat and Brenda Bell
Peter Jando
Russell & Kyoko Mark
Tony and Maureen Solecki

\$250+

Janis and Steve Corner
Dan Miller
Fredrick Parkin
Jeanette Funke Furber
Karen Mark
Michael Wyeth
Patti Williams
Sherry Mark
Christina Friesen
Homewood Constructors Ltd.
Gamble Family Foundation
Alan Tynan
Anon Anon
Justin Graham
Kent Fullarton
Kevan King
Marianne Alto
Marina McDonough
Martin Lower
Nancy Bell
Richard/Jocelyn Hobbs
Ross McMillan
Stephen Hammond
Susan Ruf
Val Martin

Planned Giving & In-Kind

George Barrett Isherwood
Sissy Sapphire

\$5,000+

Sheila Elworthy
Bohl Family Trust
The Bottle Depot Victoria

\$1,500+

Celia Meade
Butchart Gardens
Lilaine Galway and
Thomas Galway

\$1,000+

Karen Mark
Dick Jackson
Donna Hobbs
Steve Chubby
Susan Smith

"My mentor has made such a huge difference in my life. Without him, I would not have the job I have. I would not have had the experiences or opportunities I have had when being with him. I like being able to be active and do different things together. I am always in a good mood and I learn when I'm with him."

- 2022-23 Youth Mentee



In 2022-23, we hosted two major peer-to-peer fundraising events – Bowl for Kid’s Sake in October 2022 and Move for Mentoring in April 2023. Thank you to all of our participants as well as our sponsors who donated funds, classes, activities, prizes, and more – all in support of local youth. Together, these events raised \$80,000 for our programs. We also worked with partners to participate in third-party events. Over the past year, our fundraising initiatives have grown by 26% – that makes a BIG difference in the lives of youth. Thank you to all who join us in our efforts!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 EVENT SPONSORS

Bowl for Kid’s Sake

- Canadian Brewhouse
- Coke
- 100.3 the Q
- The Zone @ 91.3
- Grant Thornton Foundation
- Little and Davies Insurance
- American Eagle Outfitters
- Artizia
- Bolen Books
- Booster Juice
- Chatters Hair Salon
- Chorizo & Company Restaurant
- Cineplex
- Earls Restaruant @ Bay Centre
- Epicure
- H&M
- La Senza

- La Vie en Rose
- McDonalds
- Med Grill
- Nevada Bob's Golf
- Peninsula Co-op
- Rickis Fashion
- Ricky's Family Restaurant
- Sephora
- Sport Chek
- Suzannes Clothing
- The Keg
- The Body Shop
- Ultimate Dining
- Violette
- WaySpa
- White Spot

BIG Holiday Market

- Pizzeria Prima Strada
- Swingers Golf Simulators
- The Market on Yates
- Fired Up! Ceramics
- Flying Squirrel
- Munro's Books

Move for Mentoring

- Peninsula Co-op
- Coca-Cola Local Bottler
- Abstract Developments
- BC Transit
- Canadian Tire View Royal
- Stantec
- CPCM & Co.
- Megson FitzPatrick
- 100.3 The Q
- The Zone @ 91.3
- 49 Below Ice Cream
- Butchart Gardens
- Cineplex
- Eagle Creek Athletic Club
- Frankie's Diner
- Island Savings
- Malahat Skywalk
- Mayfair Shopping Centre
- Space In Your Place Organzing Solutions
- The Keg
- Thrifty Foods Admirals
- Uvic Speakers Bureau
- Victoria Enhanced Sport & Spine
- WildPlay

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

\$100,000+

Province of BC (BC Gaming)

\$75,000+

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada

Canadian Red Cross

\$20,000+

United Way of Southern

Vancouver Island

Victoria Foundation

\$10,000+

Employment and Social

Development of Canada

Telus Community Foundation

Island Savings Credit Union

CFAX Santas Anonymous

\$5,000+

Venture for Canada

Innovate BC

UNIFOR local 333

City of Victoria

\$3,000+

Scotiabank

Provincial Employees

Community Services Fund

(PECSF)

City of Colwood

Township of Esquimalt

\$2,000+

Salt Spring Foundation

The Blenkin Higgins Foundation

The Charitable Gifts Funds

Canada Foundation

Vancouver Foundation

\$750+

Harry de Swager

Endowment Fund

As the Province's largest government funder, BC Gaming has funded BBBSV for more than 25 years and with over \$175,000. In November, BBBSV secured funding from BC Gaming for all of our programs: Community Mentoring, In-School Mentoring, Teen Mentoring, B You Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds and Indigenous Mentoring. Community Mentoring has the capacity to affect the lives of children, youth and families in every community. Through education, extra support and increased opportunities, they can together address challenges. The In-School Mentoring Program (ISM) was established in 1998 to meet the needs of children identified as at-risk whose families were not well enough to self-refer or request a mentor. B You Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (formerly Go Girls) was established in 2010 and through program evaluation and stakeholder feedback we have determined that B You Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds is an asset in middle schools where it serves girls identified as struggling socially and emotionally. Teen mentoring successfully operates in School Districts # 61, #62, #64 and #71. The program was established in 2005 in response to identified service gaps in rural communities across B.C. Teen Mentoring connects vulnerable elementary school students who it is believed will benefit from a mentoring relationship with screened and trained teen mentors. Indigenous Mentoring is a program for children and youth (aged 7 to 14) who have been referred to Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBSV) because they need additional and sustained support in their lives to help manage and overcome significant disadvantages. They live in families who self-identify with three or more risk factors and are struggling to cope. The focus is intended to increase supports to families within our target group who live with the negative stigma of mental illness, chronic health conditions, addiction, incarceration, and challenges related to culture, including new immigrants and Indigenous families. We are grateful for the support from BC Gaming and hope to expand on this partnership in the future!

The Children's Aid Foundation of Canada is supporting BBBSV with a multi-year grant for youth in Care. This initiative is a part of the Big Steps for Success program run as a part of our Community mentoring one on one program. Young people living in care often lack caring relationships with a trusted adult mentors that can have consequences for the child's ability to move forward. The Big steps program objective is to help improve outcomes and benefit the youth in care.

In July, The Canadian Red Cross offered grants to organizations to help support - Strengthening Community Capacity to Support Mental Health and Wellbeing. Although, due to strong competition in the granting process our grant was approved. Our project will increase the number of youth served through Youth Focused Community Mentoring (YFCM). YFCM is a preventative program offering early intervention through mentoring to youth 11-18 years. Mentors increase resiliency in youth by providing opportunities to develop healthy behaviours, improve social emotional competency and optimistic thinking. Through weekly visits with a mentor we help youth realize their full potential. The goal of the program is to Prevent longer-term mental health illnesses, including those associated with COVID-19 related traumatic experiences

The United Way of Southern Vancouver Island (UWSVI) has been a long-standing partner of BBBSV, dating back to inspection almost 50 years ago! This partnership remained strong in 2022 with United Way supporting us with a Community grant for \$15,000 for our community-based one-to-one mentoring programs. With year after year support, UWSVI has demonstrated to BBBSV that they remain highly engaged and committed to the tremendous work we are able to accomplish. The team at UWSVI are highly involved with supporting our team throughout the granting cycles and offer support when necessary. We are grateful for the ongoing involvement for our programs we strive to deliver.

The Victoria Foundation has been a community funder of ours helping build capacity with our programs. This year, in the Community granting program, they have funded expanding our B You Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds group mentoring program. B You provides service to an under-served population of youth, those who identify as female of any race/culture/religion, who are vulnerable due to low self-esteem and/or mental health concerns, and have experienced or witnessed harmful behaviours in school, in the community or at home, including violence against women and sexual harassment. We know that critical supports need to be strengthened for young women experiencing mental health concerns, both to prevent and address violence. Overall, as a result of B You Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, the youth were supported in their social and academic development as they were better able to make healthy decisions. Risk and harm reduction are evident and the cost/benefit to community is significant. B You Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds has been effective in improving three pillars in development, which are: physical health, self-efficacy and social development. With the funding we have been able to expand to 7 additional schools and hire an additional Program Coordinator.

“I feel privileged to be part of a program that can make a kid’s day better.”
- 2022-23 Mentor

“My mentoring experience has taught me that there are many lessons you can take away from volunteer work, even when the purpose of your volunteering is to help others.”
- 2022-23 Mentor

“Meeting with my mentee has helped me let out my inner child and embrace creativity.”
- 2022-23 Mentor

“The most rewarding part of being a mentor is knowing I play an appreciated and trustworthy role in my mentee’s life, and seeing it through her words, actions and development.”
- 2022-23 Mentor



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD TREASURER

These financial statements embody narratives of transformative relationships that inspire and empower young people through an array of exceptional programs. This organization has a profound and lasting impact on both children and the community at large. Beyond the individual level, the ripple effect of these positive transformations extends to the broader community, creating a more inclusive and compassionate environment: building a stronger, more interconnected community that values the well-being and success of its younger generation.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

As our organization transitioned out of the pandemic, we focused our work on investing in impact. This year, we were reminded of the relationships we create with our mentors and mentees. Our incredible supporters have shown they have dedication, commitment and generosity throughout the year. I must say a heartfelt thank you to our donors, sponsors, financial partners, corporate donors, grant funders, volunteers, mentors, staff and the community for their generous support. Together we achieved a 26% increase in overall fundraising and donations. This incredible support means that we can continue to grow our programs and expand mentoring services to more local families who need our support. Thank you for standing in support of our community’s children.

Emma Kirkland



DEDICATED TO RHONDA BROWN (1961-2023)

This year we said goodbye to a very special person to our organization. Our long-serving Executive Director Rhonda Brown lost her battle with cancer in July. Rhonda was an incredible and impactful inspiration to all of us at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region.

We are forever grateful for Rhonda and we are committed to carrying on her life's work of making a difference for children and families.

Rhonda's remarkable 45-year career was a source of immense purpose and joy. After 30 years of developing youth programs with the Boys & Girls Club, Rhonda joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region in 2006. She was a tireless leader, fundraiser and advocate for children. In her 16 years as Executive Director, Rhonda made it possible for over 3,300 children and youth to have a mentor. Her incredible impact will always be remembered by so many of us.



A lifelong champion for children, Rhonda Brown led Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region as the Executive Director for more than 15 years. Those who had the pleasure of meeting Rhonda knew well of her unwavering dedication to the wellbeing of children and families. All her life, she put others' needs before her own. She had a remarkable gift for helping people to see their potential, even when they couldn't recognize it themselves.



Big Brothers Big Sisters

OF VICTORIA CAPITAL REGION

230 Bay St. Victoria, BC V9A 3K5

victoria.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

main.victoria@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

(250) 475-1117

