



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Windsor Essex**

# 2016 Annual Report

2016 has been a year of tremendous growth for us, with more than 850 children and youth served this year! With growth again this year at another 20%, we can begin to see our Vision 2020 goal of serving more than 1000 boys and girls in our region on our horizon. Our Board of Directors remains committed to our vision that every child in Windsor-Essex who needs a mentor will have a mentor.

Last year we committed to increase our 1:1 matching programs both in our local schools and in our flagship Community Based Mentoring Matches and have done so. In the coming year we will be focused on our goal of recruiting and enrolling caring volunteers who will provide the mentoring friendship that has so many positive benefits in the life of a child.

The young people in our programs are less likely to be bullied, less likely to engage in bullying behavior and develop more positive coping strategies than their peers who do not have a mentor. As well, children in our programs perform better in school and go on to post-secondary education at a higher rate than young people without a mentor.

Mentoring also gives back to our community. In fact, for every dollar invested in Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Programs, \$18 are returned to the community in terms of a child's future earnings potential, charitable giving and time spent volunteering. Our programs break the cycle of poverty and put a cycle of giving in its place!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of our professional staff who dedicate themselves to the agency in support of our volunteers, youth, and their families by providing training and support, including our former Executive Director, John Sutton who served us well before assuming a new role in one of our United Way partner agencies, our Director of Programs, Rose Culmone, and Program Team (Linda Souigny, Kellie Abbott, Katie Shepherd, Marissa Rossi, Ashley Marchand, Jasmine Taylor, Chelsea Lefave, Laura Kurdi and Dhai Omar), and office staff (Barb Browning & Deb Gray-Libby).

I would like to thank the dedicated volunteers and donors who help the agency deliver programs, run special activities for the participants in our programs, and all the individuals who help support the activities of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Windsor Essex Foundation. The donation of time or money is essential in helping the agency support mentoring relationships in our community. Special recognition goes to all the volunteers who serve on the various committees that support both the Agency and Foundation, including members of the Battle of the Hors D'Oeuvres, Bowl for Kids Sake, Special Activities and Program Committees.

I would be regretful to not recognize the outstanding contributions of my fellow members of the Board. The Board of Directors continues to focus on providing the highest level of governance and fiduciary oversight to ensure that the agency continues to deliver high quality programs, recruit and sustain volunteers, and achieve financial sustainability. In the next year, we will continue to implement our strategic plan, focusing on increasing our impact, amplifying our voice, strengthening our leadership, and enhancing our sustainability.

There are exciting times ahead for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex as we now have entered our 50th anniversary in 2017. Over the course of the next several months we'll be planning ways to celebrate this incredible landmark and I invite you to stay tuned for more details.

In closing, the agency continues to deliver high quality services to our community lead by outstanding professionals, driven by dedicated volunteers, supported by enthusiastic donors, and appreciated by a terrific group of children and youth in Windsor-Essex.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Busch  
President, Board of Directors

## MISSION STATEMENT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex is a not for profit organization supporting youth, families and adult volunteers in mentoring relationships where youth gain life experience and achieve personal growth.

### 2016 Board of Directors

Chris Busch, President  
Kavanaugh Boismier, Vice President  
Austin Faulkner, Treasurer  
Jacquie Reaume, Secretary  
Sandra Bortolin  
Cessidia Debasio  
Monique Diotte  
Stephen Greff  
Danielle Gifford  
Kieran McKenzie  
James Sarkis  
Brittany Seguin  
Mark Tesolin  
Bob Speroni

## VISION STATEMENT

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex is an organization that works together to:**

- **Expand services to reach new groups and reduce the waiting list;**
- **Build relationships to increase participation in the organization;**
- **Be recognized and valued by the community for its impact on youth**

Proud Funded Partner of:



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Windsor-Essex County

## Supporting the Mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex exists to serve our community and in turn is supported by our community. As a not-for-profit organization, we depend on the financial support of individual and corporate donors, grants from government, community and private foundations, fundraising events and other initiatives to keep a balanced budget.

In 2016, we celebrated a number of significant achievements. We were one of six agencies in Ontario selected to pilot the Youth In Care program which provides In-School Mentoring to children involved with our local Children's Aid Society. We also put our focus on expanding our Community Based Program with the addition of a Group Worker/Enroller position which increased our capacity to serve children in these invaluable programs. Teen Mentoring, through a grant provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, allowed us to deliver yet another way to provide mentoring to children who are best served by the unique benefits of having a younger mentor. Between Generations was another new program this year that allowed us to reach out to a brand new demographic in our community – those mature adults over the age of 50 and provided excellent outcomes through support of the Windsor Essex Community Foundation.

We again saw growth in our signature events, *Bowl for Kids Sake* and the *Battle of the Hors D'oeuvres*. Many thanks go out to the teams, sponsors, organizers and volunteers who helped raise more than \$100,000 between the two events.

Most importantly we realized 20% growth in 2016 with a total number of children served reaching 870. We could not achieve these numbers without the men and women who volunteer their time to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Whether it's through the traditional one-to-one match program, in-school mentoring, or our group programs, it's the volunteers that help us Start Something Big!

## Statistically Speaking

PROGRAM NAME	# of Volunteers	# of Young People Mentored
Big Sisters	55	55
Big Brothers	50	50
In-School Mentoring	167	196
Go Girls!	32	389
Game On!	8	76
Group Mentoring	10	53
On Track to Success	20	20



Unlocking a child's true potential creates a future where anything's possible

Start Something

## Staff Compliment

**(Acting) Executive Director**  
Becky Parent

**Director of Programs**  
Rose Culmone

### Community Based Mentoring Coordinators:

Laura Kurdi  
Katie Shepherd  
Linda Souligny

**Enrollment/Group Worker**  
Jasmine Taylor

### In-School Mentoring Coordinators

Kellie Abbott  
Chelsea Lefaive  
Ashley Marchand  
Dhai Omar  
Marissa Rossi

**Office Manager**  
Barbara Browning

**Bookkeeper**  
Deb Gray-Libby

**Foundation Staff**  
Hayley Morgan, Executive Director  
Vicki Hedge, Fund Development Assistant

### Students University of Windsor 2015 – 2016

Jonathon Carter (BSW Program)  
Katie Shepherd (BSW Program)  
Rand Shlemon (MSW Program)  
Natalie Girard (Nursing Program)  
Ashley Foster (Nursing Program)  
Ryan Hillier (Nursing Program)  
Joshua Easby (Nursing Program)  
Matthew Michie (Nursing Program)  
Eric Langlois (Nursing Program)

**2016-2017**  
Natalie Toukan (BSW Program)

**Students  
St. Clair College 2015 – 2016**  
Alyssa Diluca (CYC Program)  
Mitchell Hunter (CYC Program)  
Tamara Donlon (CYC Program)  
Jordyn Vollans (CYC Program)  
Brittany Caron (CYC Program)  
Lyndsay Webster (CYC Program)  
Amber Ulisse (CYC Program)  
Madison Rakus (CYC Program)  
Kayla Dupuis (CYC Program)  
Jordyn Weldon (CYC Program)  
Megan Daigneau (CYC Program)  
Marissa Sgabellone (CYC Program)  
Nicole Matar (CYC Program)

**2015 – 2016**  
Jessica Bozin (CYC Program)  
Paiton Del Monte (CYC Program)  
Shealyn DeVore (CYC Program)  
Paige Watson (CYC Program)  
Natasha MacDougall (CYC Program)  
Kaitlyn Barris (CYC Program)  
Kayla Parent (CYC Program)  
Megan Lilley (CYC Program)  
Danielle Mansell (CYC Program)  
Stephanie Miller (CYC Program)  
Monique Laviolette (CYC Program)  
Mikayla Robertson (CYC Program)