

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

STAYING CONNECTED.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF WINNIPEG



ANNUAL REPORT

STAYING CONNECTED.

2020
2021



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Big Brothers
Big Sisters

OF WINNIPEG



MISSION & VISION

STAYING CONNECTED.

Our Mission

Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people.

Our Vision

All young people realize their full potential.

Land Acknowledgement

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg operates on Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples; as well as the homeland of the Metis Nation. We further acknowledge the water of which we drink comes from the Anishinaabe First Nation of Shoal Lake.

We respect the Treaties formed on these territories, and acknowledge that We Are All Treaty People. We recognize the long-term effects of colonization and the harmful legacy of the residential schools endured by Indigenous peoples. We commit to making space for Indigenous voices, to celebrate Indigenous culture, and to honour Indigenous heritage. We are Bigger together and we will work in partnership with Indigenous communities toward justice, equity, and reconciliation.





OUR BOARD & TEAM

STAYING CONNECTED.

2020
2021

Our Board of Directors

- Mark Giesbrecht | President
- Colin Napper | Vice-President
- Stephen McMillan | Treasurer
- Michael Joko | Secretary
- Adriel Agpalza
- Ibiyemi Arowolo
- Amnol Noor
- Elliot Olin
- Laryssa Sawchuk
- Cathy Skinner

The Board of Directors exists to direct, control and inspire the organization through careful establishment of the organizational values and written policies. This includes identifying the desired performance goals, making specific contributions that lead the organization toward the desired performance and ensuring that the goals are attained. In addition, the Board of Directors identifies and nurtures the strategic relationships required to strengthen *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg* and is accountable as a body to its stakeholders for the competent, conscientious and effective accomplishment of its obligations.

Our Team

Senior Leadership

- Jane Marion | Executive Director
- Kirsten Dent | Director of Service Delivery
- Evan Maydaniuk | Director of Development & Marketing
- Suzanne Nielson | Manager of Finance & Administration

Service Delivery Team

- Pearl Alifasi | Match Support Worker
- Kevin Allum | Manager of Community Matches
- Rachel Gebhardt | Match Support Worker
- Mackenzie Kolton | Manager of PRISM Program
- Ty Meyer | PRISM Program Assistant
- Kirsten Nicholson | Match Support Worker
- Kelley Shushter | Manager of Site-Based Programs & United Mentoring Network Navigator

Administration & Support Staff

- Ian Buxton | Manager of Big Smiles Collection Crew
- Keagan Lilley | Site Based Support Worker
- Caroline Malzhan | Big Smiles Collection Crew Assistant



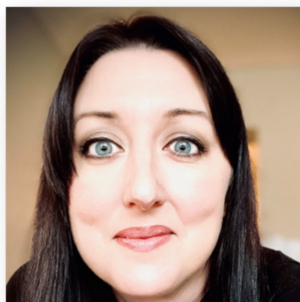


MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

STAYING CONNECTED.

Executive Director's Report

2020 - 2021.... How does one encapsulate such a year? I have been with this Agency for 20 years, written countless messages, and this is the most difficult piece I've ever had to write. What we have gone through, and are still going through, is something we need new words for. New words to express new experiences, as words like pivot, innovation, and re-imagination were already well-used, and they mean something new now. Now, there simply are not enough adjectives and adverbs to aptly package the impact of this "unprecedented" experience.



In the fall of 2020, long-time Executive Director, Greg Unger decided to take on a new position with another charity, and I took on the role of interim E.D. At the conclusion of this fiscal year, I was given the honour of the permanent role. Our team added a new Director of Development and Marketing, Evan Maydaniuk, and our Senior Manager of Programs, Kirsten Dent, was promoted to the Director of Service. While the world changed around us, our team's tenacity ensured youth would continue to have support.

Our work has always centered around understanding the impact of adversity and effects of social isolation. Over the years, we have seen the texture of barriers, the hurdles of marginalization, discrimination, social, economic and technology disparity, and the unfair individualism our society places upon families and youth folks. From positions of privilege the circumstances contextualizing others are often rendered invisible. But a virus suddenly made us all vulnerable, with the most at risk bearing the brunt of the pandemic. The stay at home orders separated families and loved ones, and distanced our youth from their vital support networks. Yet, in the middle of the isolation thanks to effort and new technologies, suddenly there was an opening of new connection points and pathways to greater empathy. In this last year we perhaps found a new understanding of our fragile precariousness, and our inherent interconnectedness. More and more, a greater number of families and household units expressed growing worry as they watched their children stuck in their rooms for days on end, stuck on screens all day long, and retreating into themselves through despair and staggering loneliness. And so I cannot write an upbeat message. Not this year.

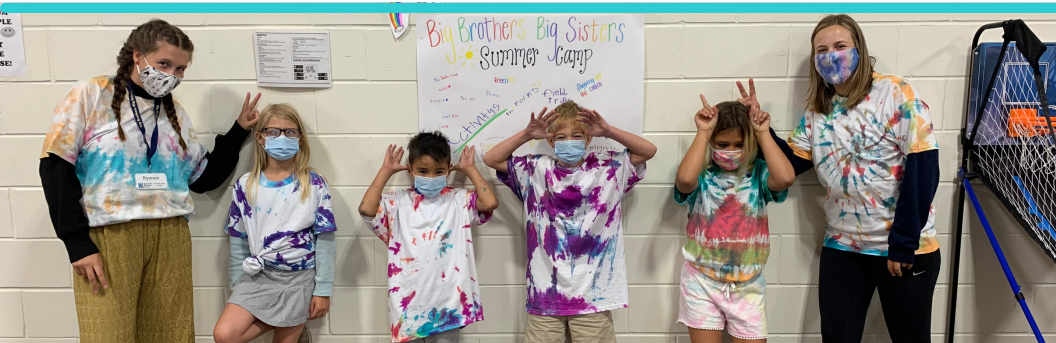
Continued.



I can only hope that perhaps, more of us now have a larger glimpse or even a full view, of what social isolation feels like for those pushed to the margins every day. Perhaps we can better understand the "otherness" and the "apart-from" ideas we had pre-COVID, the things that kept us too alone even then. Perhaps, through this unique viral experience we will stay committed to continuing to find ways to be and stay connected to our children, to our neighbours; in compassion, in comradery, and acts of radical community care such as youth mentorship. Perhaps, we can hold this burgeoning togetherness, closely, into the future.

This year, research on our programs demonstrated mentors played a key role in reducing depression stemming from the sweeping disruption – to school, to social events, sports, and extracurricular activities. We heard caregivers say their childrens' Bigs helped ease the hardships they were enduring through our strategy of digital nearness; a virtual meeting could help break the monotony and feelings of relentless gloom. And what is especially profound, is how this functions reciprocally, as our mentors benefited from these connecting moments too. The link between increased mental health and positive social relationship experiences was undeniable pre-pandemic. Now, it is absolutely unbreakable. We know relationships are more than just nice to have. Our caring relationships calm our nervous systems. Our caring relationships ease tension, and laughter stimulates a boost of physiologically healthy responses. And finally, our caring relationships are going to be the ones we depend on to help us transition to the next stage of this ongoing health crisis. As we adapt, as we keep being asked to shift and change, our relationships will offer the gentility of a broadened context, a clearer understanding that it is hard to grow up. It is really hard to grow up right now. It is now, and has always been, very hard to see one's potential when we are rendered invisible and everyone is kept so busy.

One of the things that moved me during this year was the drive-by parades, and the coordinated clapping people did outside of windows to shore people up and to say, "you're not alone". To our team, our board, our mentors, our families, our donors – I am standing outside your windows; I am clapping for you. I am offering you all a standing ovation and a ticker tape parade. I am quite sure that in this last year you have all had several conversations during which you have offered hope, encouragement, commiseration, compassion, humour, and tears (and maybe even all at once). In these loving acts of relating, each of you have embodied the work we do at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Winnipeg. May we find the continued strength, together, to never stop supporting one another so beautifully.





PROGRAMMING

STAYING CONNECTED.

2020
2021

530 Children Served

2020-21 year began immediately after our busiest time of year, spring; having made many brand new matches in March our team was bursting with activity. We had growing attendance for drop-in, Ukulele Club had just started, and many school based matches and groups were up and running full tilt. Then, suddenly, it all came to a halt.

When the Covid-19 pandemic first reached us, we felt that we would be sustaining our relationships through a brief period, a band-aid of social distance, and assumed the new protocols would be temporary. Who could have known just how long it would be, how high the waves would surge, and how forever changed the term 'served' would become? The children and youth (and families) we supported this year, though fewer in quantity as a result of the pandemic, we served in new ways; through fierce commitment and via incredible imagination; we adapted.

Continued.



"It has surpassed my expectations – it's a wonderful match and really good for him and his confidence. I think having someone to relate to who shares an identity has made all the difference"
– PRISM Parent



The move to virtual programming forced our team to re-create every step, every form, each taken-for-granted workflow; virtual enrolment, virtual meetings, virtual activities. And at our year-end we had a fully dual-track process. We had served virtual groups, delivered activity packages for synchronous Zoom events, and published daily challenges of puzzles and tasks. We pushed out resources, supportive letters of encouragement. We added virtual tutoring for youth who were struggling with school changes, and we were brought to tears by the number of committed volunteers, families and young people who were struggling through barriers, intense fatigue and complex emotions to stay connected to each other and to us.

To all our staff, funders, donors, program participants, and partners: thank you falls short, the word gratitude is not enough. We surely did this together, we are still here, and we are still working so hard to sustain our critical work. As some of our program funds were retained and deferred into the next year, we move forward with great hope that we will see some of the plans we had in store last year finally able to move forward once again.



"My Mentor is kind and always believes in me. When I am having a stressful time, I can talk to him and he is always honest with me."
- Little Brother





FUND DEVELOPMENT

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2020
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To Our Funders and Supporters, Thank You!

This year has been a challenge unlike any we have faced and in all the ways COVID-19 has changed our lives, the foundation of what we do remains the same. When we provide youth who face adversity with a caring mentor, we decrease their risk factors and ignite their potential!

Activities and meaningful connections are an essential part of our programs, and we are grateful to our major funders at *The Province of Manitoba*, *The United Way*, and *The Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg* for their incredible support. While we know that youth enjoy a wide range of emotional and social support, including having someone to talk with, and provide support, spending time together in action is what helps to build the strong foundation of trust that is required for youth to realize new interests, new passions, new talents, and other important discoveries.

This year our team worked hard to transition our programming to an engaging and virtual format. We are so grateful to all our supporters and donors for your continued support and belief in the important work we do, especially in this unprecedented time!

Manitoba



winnipeg**kinsmen**



United Way
Winnipeg

Bowl For Kids' Sake

Bowl For Kids' Sake has been our signature fundraising event for many years. This year, just weeks before our event, the COVID-19 pandemic came to Canada, as such the 2020 event looked much different than in years past. Rather than gathering at Uptown Alley for a fun day of bowling, we transitioned to virtual Bowl at Home event.

Despite these challenges, we are truly grateful to our sponsors at *Payworks*, *Manitoba Egg Farmers*, and *Wawanesa Insurance* for their continued support. We would also like to extend a special thank you to all those individuals and teams who fundraised for this event!

We have decided to phase out the *Bowl For Kids' Sake* event after 2020, but have replaced it with new events, *Golf For Kids' Sake & One Big Night*. Stay tuned for more details!

Payworks



 **Manitoba
Egg Farmers**



Wawanesa
Insurance



Corporate Circle

Visionaries - \$20,000+

Government of Manitoba
Kinsmen Club Of Winnipeg
United Way Of Winnipeg

Leaders - \$10,000+

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada
City Of Winnipeg
Graham C. Lount Family Foundation
The Thomas Sill Foundation
Tommy & Ruth Fund

Champions - \$1,000+

Brookside Renovations Inc
Canada Life Assurance Company
Carte International Inc
Club 373
Crosstown Civic Credit Union
Domo Gasoline Corporation Ltd
Ibex Payroll
Number TEN Architectural Group
Payworks
Shelter Canadian Properties Limited
The Ian & Rochelle Laing Family
Foundation Inc.
Veron Consultants Inc
Wawanesa Insurance

Friends - \$500+

Cargill
Charities Aid Foundation of Canada
FWS Group of Companies
Manitoba Egg Farmers
PayPal Giving Fund Canada

Supporters - \$20+

City Councillor Shawn Nason
Davinder Jassal Medical Corp
Deloitte Canada
IBM Canada Employees' Charitable Fund
Red River Cooperative Ltd
Scotiabank
University of Manitoba
Value Village

Donor Circle

Visionaries - \$20,000+

Willem Smit

Champions - \$1,000+

Greg Unger*
John Loewen
Karen Fonseth
Ruth Hastings
Stephen Chipman

Friends - \$500+

Daniel Levin
Dorothy Johannson
Gerry Price
Jenny-Lynn Tkach
Kathleen Martinuk
Kirk Nario
M Haddock
Stephen McMillan*

Supporters - \$20+

Aidan Piwmiuk
Andrew & Andrea Aikier
Anson Martin
Antonia Steinger
Anthony Hyde
Ashley Jarvie
Ashmead & Jozianne Khan
Audrey Schmidt
Bradley Krentz
Brenda & Michael Evans
Brenna Bacchus
Brent Bailey
Brian Hunter
Brian Tinkler
Bruce Jaeger
Candice Smith
Carol Fraser
Charanjeet Singh
Charlene McCrea
Charmaine Barnhardt
Cherie Lukas
Chris Joyce
Chris Mattern
Cindy Hopper
Clancy Doiron
Dan Hutton
Daniel Bubis
Dave Burke
David & Diane Johnston
Debb Roeke
Dennis & Janet Woodford
Desai Mau & Nivtree Hansa
Diane & Bill Hlady
Donna Pacholok
Duane Dahl
Earl & Cheryl Barish
Edith Ugrin
Evan* & Dustin Maydaniuk
Frances Pollard
Freddy Knunzimana
George McRobb
Gordon Munro
Grant & Sheila Woods
Gregg & Mary Hanson
Gwen Krahn
Heather Laube
Iris Trager
J & J Braun
Jane Marshall
Jason Dueck
Jeff Schachter
Jeremy Dick
Jordan Bronsdon
Joyce Berry
Kathleen Parsons
Kathleen Sass
Kathryn Joy Winchell
Kevin Allum*
Kevin Wirth
Kirsten Dent*
Kirsten & Matt Davidson
Kristie Pearson
Kristin Farkas
Larry Rado
Lauren Corman
Lauren Hill
Leanna & Raymond Senez
Liam Riddell
Lois Unger
Lori Larkin
Madeline McKenzie
Margo Stevenson
Marjorie Ritchie
Martin Bajt
Mathieu Yahiro
Matthew Lane
Melissa Chung-Mowat

Melissa Gawryliuk
Michael Rathwell
Neil Friesen
Olive Cote
Pat Hodson
Paul & Margaret Brett
Rene de Rocquigny
Rick & Marilyn Klimczak
Rob & Liz Duerksen
Rob Boyko
Ron Martin
Rosemarie Todaschuk
Sandra Beattie
Sanjay Bhroat
Sara Bleackley
Scott McDonald
Sonya Barnhardt
Stephanie Bevacqua
Stephen McLean
Susan Tinsley
Tom Grainger
Tori Timlick
Vicki & Kenton Rohrig
Vince Jonk
Walter Pyl
Wes & Laurie From
William & Carol Mackay
William & Carol Potter
William Woodson

In Memory

Beverly Buddick

From Debb Roeke

Dyanne

From Ron Martin

Evelyn Zaboroski

From Duane Dahl
From Bruce Jaeger

Linda Muliyl

From Cherie Lukas

In Honour

Barb Sommerville's Father

From Leslee Silverman

Brian Forbes

From Cindy Hopper

Doug Timlick

From Tori Timlick

Eric Pollard

From Kristie Pearson

Jordan C

From Brenna Bacchus

*Board & Staff



ANNUAL REPORT

STAYING CONNECTED.

2020 2021

2020 - 2021 FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Assets		
Cash	\$486,613	\$228,839
Accounts receivable	\$43,844	\$69,484
Prepaid expenses and inventory	\$35,121	\$31,323
Capital assets	\$1,959,684	\$2,000,730
	\$2,525,262	\$2,330,376
Liabilities and net assets		
Accounts payable	\$56,178	\$86,551
Deferred contributions - capital assets	\$749,540	\$745,572
Deferred contributions - programs	\$215,602	\$56,389
Lines of credit	\$183,799	\$192,548
Mortgage payable	\$874,943	\$893,615
Net assets: invested in capital assets	\$151,402	\$168,995
Net assets: future operations	\$293,798	\$186,706
	\$2,525,262	\$2,330,376

Statement of Operations	Year Ended March 31, 2021	Year Ended March 31, 2020
Revenue:		
Government program funding	\$234,773	\$269,734
United Way of Winnipeg	\$287,898	\$340,406
Fundraising and other revenue	\$358,934	\$241,150
Big Smiles Collection Crew	\$214,036	\$630,980
Amortization of deferred contributions	\$42,545	\$35,380
	\$1,138,186	\$1,517,650
Expenses:		
Direct program costs	\$89,987	\$111,422
Central operating expenses	\$116,115	\$159,408
Fundraising expenses	\$2,576	\$8,439
Big Smiles Collection Crew	\$185,684	\$465,283
Amortization of capital assets	\$74,568	\$65,231
Staff salaries and benefits	\$574,241	\$652,026
	\$1,043,171	\$1,461,809
Difference between revenue and expenses before gain on disposal	\$95,015	\$55,841
Loss on disposal of capital assets	\$5,516	-
Difference between revenue and expenses	\$89,499	\$55,841

*A full copy of the audited financials statements for the year ended March 31st, 2021 are available on our website at www.bigwinnipeg.com





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Big Sisters**
OF WINNIPEG

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WWW.BIGWINNIPEG.COM



532 Ellice Ave. Winnipeg, MB
Treaty No.1 Territory