



# Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016/17**



**It starts here...**

## Our Mission

We provide quality mentoring relationships to young people in need, helping them reach their potential.

## Our Vision

To provide quality mentoring programs to every young person in need.



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# EXECUTIVE ADDRESS



This past year was one of great transition. We saw executive leadership change at Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area as our C.E.O., Matthew Chater left the role to join the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada team as their new Vice-President of Service and Organizational Development.

While our board of directors mobilized to find our next leader the entire staff team at BBBSOLA not only continued to deliver services to children, youth and families but continued to move our Strategic Plan forward in new, fresh and exciting ways.

We saw great movement in the area of services to hard to reach communities, one of the areas of development. We were thrilled to not only sign a partnership agreement with the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration, but execute and deliver the first adapted BBBS programs (Go Girls! And Game On!) to Syrian refugee students in London.

We have seen movement on a dynamic and focused storytelling and fund development campaign. We have listened to our community about the need to understand better about what we need to share with our community about what Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area does for families.

Finally we were thrilled to find our new Executive Director, Jessie Rodger. Jessie brings years of service delivery experience at BBBSOLA, as well as dynamic experience as a social worker. With her leading the organization we are moving our work in a new and exciting direction that champions the strengths of our families with the dedication, time and generosity of our volunteers and donors.

In this next year we are excited to continue our new partnerships with the City of London, Rock the Park and the Muslim Resource Centre. 2017-2018 will bring new opportunities to share our story, impact families and engage the London community in meaningful engagement.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I invite you to join us in supporting the incredibly important and dynamic work of BBBS of London and Area as we walk towards a new and exciting year.



Trev McAninch, Board President



Hello Friends,

This past year has been one of great changes at Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area.

As our leadership saw changes our service delivery team not only kept delivering services, but actually saw significant growth. Our service delivery team continued to incorporate thoughtful community development strategies into their everyday.

Our Community Based programs continued to see more matches being made this year as well as exciting developments for our London based program CONNECT2Mentoring.

Our School Based programs grew to serve over 900 children and youth this past academic year- a new record for our organization! Through our school programs we saw an increase in some of our most exciting and innovative mentoring programs.

Further to this we saw the launch of the Ethno Racial Youth Mentoring Program. This program, designed to serve newcomer youth and their parents begin in January 2017 and has already seen immense growth. We are thrilled that we have been able to take direction from our current strategic plan and deliver more thoughtful and engaging mentoring programs to newcomer families in the London area.

On a personal note this past year has been one of great excitement and change for myself. Taking the leadership role of Executive Director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area was truly one of the most exciting moments of my professional career.

The 2017/18 year will be another year of great growth and change for Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area. We look forward to launching new initiatives in our community and expanding our ever growing and increasingly popular mentoring programs to serve more children in the London-Middlesex community.



Jessie Rodger, Executive Director

## Our Core Values

### CULTIVATE QUALITY SERVICE

*As an organization we provide excellence in service. We are committed to maintaining high standards of quality and professionalism in our service delivery by utilizing feedback to assess effectiveness. Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area strives to make a difference by being responsive and empathetic, creating a culture where young people are put first.*

### CHAMPION POTENTIAL

*As an organization we believe that every person has limitless potential. We seek to champion individual strengths in all who engage with Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area; the young people who haven't yet been given the opportunity to see what they are capable of; the mentors who are realizing their capacity as role models; our donors and community partners whose collaboration, enthusiasm, and support is needed to help us build sustainable programming; and the families, volunteers, and staff whose skills and knowledge help guide and grow our service and organization.*

### STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

*As an organization we work to be advocates for a strong community. Our team commits to identifying barriers and strengths of our work as a means to build resiliency. Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area endeavors to create a community that is diverse, inclusive and accessible.*

### NURTURE EVERY RELATIONSHIP

*As an organization we value each and every relationship. We continuously nurture our relationships within every interaction by consistently delivering excellence in service and meaningful engagement. Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area is committed to building and maintaining lasting relationships so that we can support, empower and highlight the potential in each person who is part of our organization.*

## Our Strategic Priorities



# Our Matches

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we strive to match a Big and Little based on factors including common interests, age, and location. For our One to One matches, we expect and support match commitments of at least one year, however, we have many Bigs and Littles who develop relationships that last for several years. Whether it's one year or seven years, we want to celebrate those commitments and the relationships that have been formed! Congrats!



## A BIG congratulations to our recent match graduates!

Chris Kylindris & Andrew  
Samantha Lines & Ashley  
Ambre Kostyria & Brianna  
Erin Pollett & Cheyenne  
David Zwambag & Dillion  
Kate Ball & Janet  
Jenna Smith & Jenna

Jordan Williams & Jordan  
Sandra Gowdy & Larissa  
Heather Biernaski & Hailey  
Nichole Krigner & Luisa  
Meagan Guy & Lyndee  
Alyssa Barnett & Rachel  
Adeleke Akinyele & Ryan

Emma Ferguson & Shaquiera  
Steve Barry & Shawn  
Marissa De Oliveira & Shelby  
Aaron Simkovich & Teddy  
Thomas Westlake & Tristan

# WHAT ARE WE?

## Program Spotlight: Work with Newcomer Youth

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area, we place a large emphasis on innovation in mentoring, and always knowing the changing landscape of our community in order to meet the needs of its children and youth.

Over this past year, it became clear to us that there was a large group that had little to no access to support services they so greatly needed: newcomer and refugee children and youth.

As London became a new home base for displaced Syrian families and other newcomer youth from places including Nepal, South Korea, and Bhutan, we responded quickly to a growing need for meaningful support that only mentoring can provide.

As a result, and thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the City of London, we were happy to launch the Ethno-Racial Youth Mentoring Program to meet these needs. The program is designed for newcomer mentees between the ages of 9—13, engaging and slowly develop relationships of trust, where resiliency of youth and families can be celebrated. In addition to working with newcomer youth, the program also engages the mothers of the youth through mentoring relationships to assist them with their own process.

In addition to adding the Ethno-Racial Youth mentoring program to our list of services, we have also seen our Conversation Club program continue to grow and expand, due to the needs of our newcomer high school students.

Established in 2012, Conversation Club is a program mean to meet the needs of newcomer students who require assistance with their conversational English. Students benefit from the supportive companionship of fellow newcomers, as well as young adult mentors (aged 18-24).

In the last 2-3 years alone, BBBSOLA has seen a jump in Conversation Club attendance, from an average of 30 mentees, to now almost 100. We would not be able to do this work and reach so many new young people if it weren't for the support of our friends at RBC, who committed \$15,000 over the last two years to support this much needed program.

Lastly, we were thrilled this year to create a strong partnership with the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration, in order to bring culturally modified Go Girls! And Game On! Group programming to local elementary schools with a large population of ESL students.

We are so thrilled to have had the opportunity to listen to our community and work together to ensure that all children and youth are given the tools to reach their potential.



# *In Memoriam*

## **BETTY ANN WIDDRINGTON**

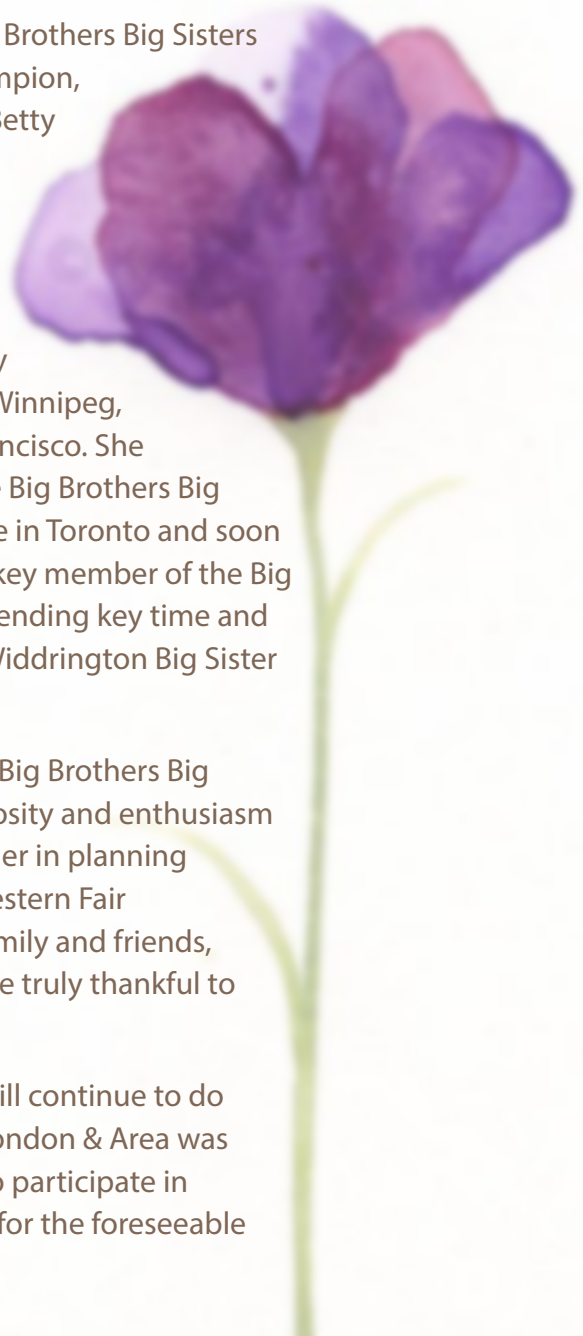


On May 20th, 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters lost a tremendous champion, supporter, and friend, Betty Ann Widdrington.

Betty Ann was involved with our organization from the beginning, as a new face to the city after living in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and San Francisco. She became involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters movement while in Toronto and soon after moving to London with her family, became a key member of the Big Sisters organization as a Board member, and even lending key time and resources in establishing the Peter and Betty Ann Widdrington Big Sister House.

Betty Ann was a tremendous advocate, not just for Big Brothers Big Sisters, but for others in the community. Her generosity and enthusiasm was unmatched; her claim to fame being a key leader in planning and executing the Big Sisters annual gala, at the Western Fair raceway. She loved to have a good time, be with family and friends, and give back to her community, and for that we are truly thankful to have known her.

She touched our organization tremendously and will continue to do so after her passing, as Big Brothers Big Sisters of London & Area was gifted with a bequest that will allow our matches to participate in arts-based activities that Betty Ann was so fond of, for the foreseeable future.



# Notable Happenings!



## The Big Bash

April 1, 2016 at London Hunt and Country Club

## The 28th Annual Barbara Rankin Golf Classic

September 16, 2016 at East Park



## The Big Bash

March 31, 2017 at London Hunt and Country Club

*\*Due to the scheduling changes of some of our events this year, BBBSOLA hosted two Big Bash events within the same fiscal year. Bowl For Kids Sake (normally a winter event) was moved to take place in the Spring of 2017.*

## Kids Tri for Kids

On May 29th, 2016, our team was happy to cheer on and support the young people in our community swimming, running, and biking their hearts out, all thanks to our friends at Scotia McLeod. This year, BBBSOLA was awarded with a cheque of \$30,000 thanks to the event participants, organizers, and sponsors.

We are so fortunate to have been a part of this event for the past three years and thank everyone- volunteers, staff, and participants- for helping to make such a big impact.





## Rock the Park

From July 13-16th, 2016, BBBSOLA was fortunate to help execute the concert-goer experience at the annual Rock the Park music festival! Thanks to event organizers, Jones Entertainment and the hundreds of volunteers who stayed on their feet night after night, Big Brothers Big Sisters received \$37,886 toward community and school based mentoring programs.



## West Jet Cares For Kids

On September 30th, 2017, a small group of our 'Littles' got the opportunity to learn what it's like to work at an airport! Thanks to WestJet and their WestJet Cares for Kids program, Littles got to hang out at London International Airport with the Westjet crew, helping to check people in, getting a tour of the airport, and learning about what it takes to keep the skies safe! Thanks Westjet!

## Gift Wrapping 2016

Beginning in November, Big Brothers Big Sisters had the opportunity to wrap gifts full-time once again at Masonville Mall during the holiday season! Thanks to the over 100 volunteers who dedicated their time and wrapping skills, we were able to bring home \$12,000 for the agency!

## Family BBQ

On July 16th, 2016, we welcomed over 100 Littles, mentors, and their families to help us celebrate summer!

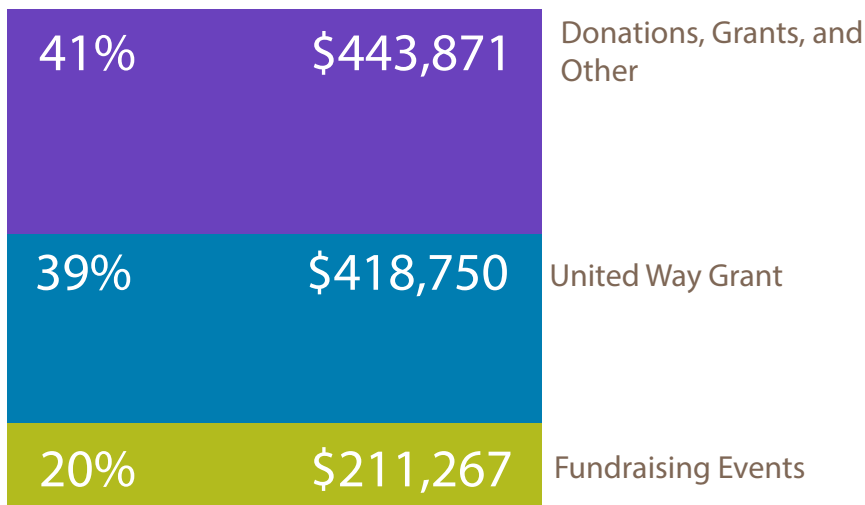


# Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

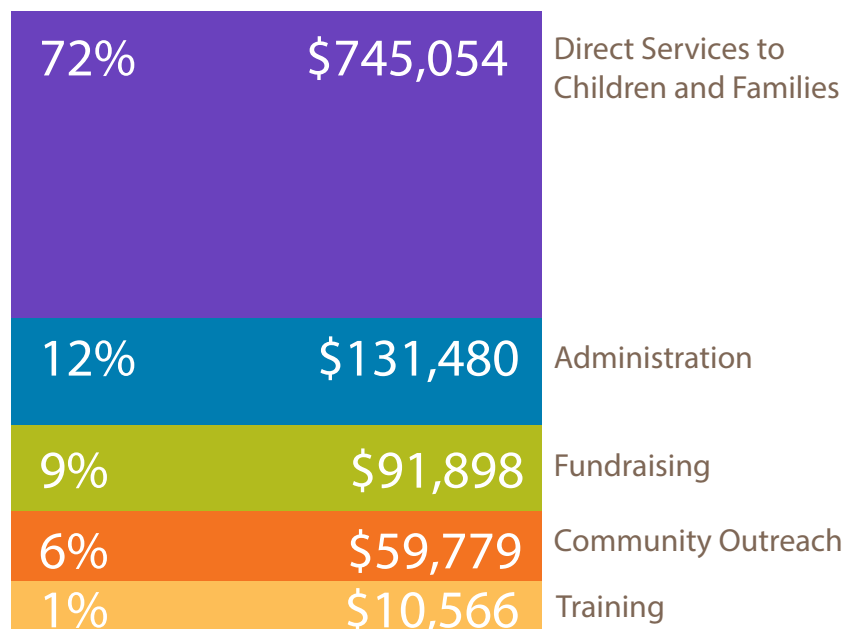
## Revenue

**TOTAL \$1,073,888**



## Expenses

**TOTAL \$1,038,777**



Big Brothers Big Sisters of London and Area is a community supported organization that raises funds from many different sources in order to meet the expanding needs of the children and families we support throughout London and its surrounding communities. As demand for our services increases, so does the need to increase our funding. Our primary funding sources include the generous support of United Way of London & Middlesex, successful fundraising events, personal and corporate donations, as well as program development and enhancement grants.

This past fiscal year we managed to have a surplus of \$35,111 due to increased revenue from our fundraising events- namely hosting two Big Bash gala events within the fiscal year. Due to re-organization of timing in order to better suit our community, Bowl For Kids sake was not hosted within this fiscal year, opting for a late Spring 2017 date instead. Next year we will resume our normal routine.

Donations from corporations and individuals increased from the previous year, as did our grant revenue. We were the successful recipient of a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, for which we lead a feasibility study for Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations throughout Southwestern Ontario, exploring ways we can work together to increase the impact on our community through a more efficient use of our resources.

As the need for our services in the communities we serve continues to grow, we are continuously exploring our funding relationships with existing and new partners in order to raise the funds required to meet those needs.

# Partner Recognition

## United Way of London & Middlesex



**United Way**  
London & Middlesex

BIG thanks to UW for their continued support of our organization and the impact they have on the community! Congratulations to them on raising over \$9 million in 2016/17 fiscal year. We are so proud of the ongoing partnership and grateful for the support of the United Way of London & Middlesex, a true community mobilizer!

## Ontario Trillium Foundation

Thank-you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their tremendous support in strengthening our school-based programs through our Outreach Mentoring Coordinator position. Thanks to this grant, we have been able to nurture our relationships with First Nations communities, and both London school boards for the past three years.



**London**  
CANADA

## City of London

Big thanks to the City of London for believing in the value of mentoring and nurturing our newcomer youth. Thanks to a multi-year grant beginning this year, we have launched the Ethno-Racial Youth Mentoring program, designed to engage, and develop trust and resiliency in young newcomers.

## Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board



We are so thankful for TVDSB & LDCSB for believing in the work that we do and its value inside our community schools. Without their support and partnership, we would not be able to serve those young people who need it most.



## Westminster College Foundation

A BIG thank-you to the Westminster College Foundation for allowing us to explore our newcomer support further and helping us to deliver programming to our Syrian newcomer youth in particular.



## RBC

We would like to extend a BIG thank-you to our friends at RBC for believing in the work that we do with newcomer youth and for helping to support our Conversation Club program.

## Board of Directors

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Trev McAninch, President  
Ian Rigg, Vice President  
Paul Kensit, Treasurer  
Matthew Thuss, Secretary  
Matthew Horst  
Samantha Kohn  
Alfonso Dietrich  
Ali Rankin-Nash  
Emily Assini  
Lynn Sutherland  
Brian Degroote  
Alison Webb

## Finance Committee

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Matthew Chater  
Paul David  
Paul Kensit  
Laurie Koenig  
Trev McAninch  
Jessie Rodger

## Big Bash Committee

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Ali Rankin-Nash, Chair  
Jennifer Wall  
Jonathan Kochis  
Trev McAninch  
Cale Sutherland  
Carrie Martin  
Ashley Senuita  
Melanie Wood  
Holly Doty  
Katerina Frattas  
Anne-Marie Rodger

## Barbara Rankin Golf Classic Committee

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Barbara Rankin  
Jennifer Coston, Co-chair  
Emily Assini, Co-chair  
Al Green  
Phyllis Brady  
Stephen Troyer  
Holly Doty  
Katerina Frattas  
Anne-Marie Rodger

## Staff

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### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Matthew Chater/Jessie Rodger, Executive Director  
Paul David, Finance & Administration  
Natalie Graves, Administrative Coordinator  
Chad Callander, Public Relations Coordinator  
Anne-Marie Rodger, Development Supervisor

### ENROLLMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Evan George, Enrollment Navigator/Evaluation Specialist  
Emily Sereda, Family Enrollment Coordinator  
Laurel Teall, Engagement Coordinator  
Mandy McDonough, Supervisor, Innovative Mentoring Programs  
Brendan Fysh, School-Based program support and C2M Facilitator

### COMMUNITY-BASED

Kim Young, Community-Based program supervisor  
Jackie Anger, Mentoring Coordinator  
Fergus Vaughan, Mentoring Coordinator  
Crystal Elliott, Mentoring Coordinator

### SCHOOL-BASED

Laura Asafo-Adjei, School-Based program Supervisor  
Danielle Wadia, School-Based Program Coordinator  
Beth Ann Hill, School- Based Program Coordinator  
Chanra, School- Based Program Coordinator

## Bowl For Kids Sake Committee

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Alfonso Dietrich, Chair  
Brian DeGroote  
Zach Armstrong  
Mike Robertson  
Maira Byrne  
Holly Doty  
Katerina Frattas  
Anne-Marie Rodger



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
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