About Us

Since 1967, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff (BBBSF) has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life.

Our Vision

That all children achieve success in life.

Our Mission

To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Staff

Kelly Elliott - Executive Director
Claire Halligan - Program Director
Jaelynn Valencia - School-Based Mentoring Coordinator
Darnell Allen - Step Up Mentoring Coordinator
Carson Pynes-Kullos - Grants and Program Specialist
Austin Laster - Customer Relations and Match Support Specialist
Aaron Natonie - Clothes for Kid's Sake Manager
Our Mentoring Programs

Matching
We make meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles), ages 6 through 18. One-to-one matches between Bigs and Littles truly empower youth and strengthen communities. In 2020, our average Community-Based Mentoring Match Length was 22.2 Months.

Community-Based Mentoring
Bigs are matched with a Little in a one-on-one mentoring relationship. Bigs and Littles meet once a week for 2 to 4 hours and participate in activities they both enjoy.

School-Based Mentoring
Bigs are matched with a Little in 1st - 5th grade at one of five local elementary schools. Matches meet after school once a week for ten weeks in the fall and spring semesters. Matches are supervised by a facilitator.

Step Up Mentoring
A collaboration with Coconino County Juvenile Court Services that connects local teens to positive resources with the help of appropriate adult mentors. Weekly group mentoring sessions explore teens' interests and provide unique opportunities.
Defending Potential

In 2020, we made a BIG impact by serving 313 youth.

162 in Community-Based Mentoring
21 in School-Based Mentoring
130 in Step-Up Mentoring

Youth Outcomes

BBBSF strives to ensure that all Littles served in our programs experience quality mentoring relationships. We track outcomes that are proven predictors of long-term success. We define success by measuring positive youth outcomes.

92% of youth improved their social skills.
92% of youth improved their educational expectations and academic performance.
83% of youth improved family relations.
Littles are ages 6-18 from various backgrounds, including but not limited to; single-parent families and those living at or below the poverty level. In many cases, these children have incarcerated parents, encounter bullying in school, and face other challenges that increase their susceptibility to negative outcomes.
Living Situation

One Parent: Female 49.6%
One Parent: Male 4.3%
Two Parent 29.1%
Unknown 11.1%
Foster Home 0.9%

Household Income

Less than $10,000 26.5%
$10,000 to $19,999 14.5%
$20,000 to $29,999 12.8%
$30,000 to $39,999 12.8%
$40,000 to $59,999 6.8%
Unknown 24.8%

54% of families reported living at or below the federal poverty level ($26,200 for a family of 4).
Bigs are ages 16+ and come from varying backgrounds. Volunteers make a one-year commitment to meet on a weekly basis and mentor youth in a wide variety of settings. Volunteers are assessed for suitability as a mentor, trained, and supported by BBBSF staff throughout their match.
Our Supporters

2019 -2020 Board of Directors

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Amy Aylor
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Chris Whitney - Vice President
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Debra Garrity
Greg Cooney - President
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Shelagh O'Connor
Stephanie Gerst
Travis Joralmon
Tyler Mark - At Large
Victoria Payne
Get Involved

There are many ways to support the mission of changing children's lives for the better, forever.

Volunteer

Being a Big is one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling things you'll ever do.

Give

BBBSF is an Arizona Qualified Charitable Organization. The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit is a dollar-for-dollar tax credit allowing you to donate to qualified Arizona organizations and claim a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit of up to $800 if married filing jointly, or $400 if filing individually!

Donate to Clothes for Kids' Sake

BBBSF partners with Savers thrift store to generate vital funding for our mentoring programs. All items we collect are either re-sold or recycled.