



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®  
COLUMBIA NORTHWEST

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dear friends and partners,

On behalf of the board and staff of Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, thank you very much for your generous support in 2020. It was a challenging year for our organization in many ways. However, 2020 was even more difficult for the youth and families we serve. The COVID-19 pandemic, the racial injustice around the country, and wildfires so close to our backyards tested the resiliency and stability of everyone in our community.

I had the opportunity to submit a guest column to the Portland Business Journal recently. This is the best way for me to share the story of 2020 and how we adapted and innovated to help kids and families in Oregon and SW Washington.

In service,

Beach Pace, CEO



## EXCERPT FROM PORTLAND BUSINESS JOURNAL

Children are the silent victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overnight, kids in the Portland area lost connection with lines of support and pillars of stability in their lives—teachers, coaches, mentors, counselors, friends, advocates, and routines. For at-risk youth, many of whom live in single-parent households or come from underserved communities, this isolation has created an emergency situation in need of immediate response.

That's where Big Brothers Big Sisters comes in. For 18 years, the Columbia Northwest affiliate of the national organization has provided these kids with one-to-one mentorship in order to help empower them in school and in life. They currently serve 500 Portland-area kids, many of whom come from families that are struggling to make ends meet, keep food on the table and a roof over their heads, all while working hard to give their children a good life.

When the pandemic hit, these ongoing struggles became urgent crises. One year ago, roughly 10% of the kids that BBBS Columbia Northwest serves were trying to navigate food insecurity, housing insecurity, and/or domestic violence. When COVID-19 hit, that number skyrocketed to 75%.

"As a team, we had never seen the kids we serve—and their families—in such an overwhelming state of crisis," said Pace. "We had to reengineer the way we delivered on our mission, overnight."

So that's what they did. The BBBS professionals usually responsible for vetting Bigs, processing donations and managing programs refocused their time and resources into a new goal: help the family of every Little in whatever way they could.

Following strict safety protocol, they deployed into the community to knock on doors and assess the needs of their families, which are often single-parent households. They assisted with critical resource connections like helping parents manage the eviction moratorium, apply for rental assistance, secure remote learning tools for their children, locate food for their families, and navigate the unemployment system. All in all, around 250 BBBS families needed and accepted assistance from the emergency response team.

While working to stabilize the home lives of the children they served, BBBS staff doubled down on making sure no child fell through the cracks. While many matches (one Big, one Little) were able to maintain weekly connection through phone calls, video chats, or socially-distanced meetings when the weather was nice, the organization took on the responsibility of expanding their offerings even further, specifically in the area of scholastic support. Because many of the children they serve weren't equipped for remote learning, BBBS worked to get them the resources they need.

Addressing the needs of Littles and their families holistically, and with the support of

Bigs and parents BBBS has made a massive impact in the lives of the children they serve. The organization poised itself to handle acute emergencies of children at-risk of harm, as well as to offer kids a moment of normalcy, through playing games, or taking a walk.

During a weekly Zoom call with his Little, one Big was met with a black screen. It wasn't that the camera had turned off—the Little was hiding under his bed. The trauma of living through a global pandemic on top of the day-to-day struggles of growing up had become too much. His Big was able to talk him through the moment and stayed with him until his Little felt ready to come out.

Another Little came to their Big with a life-changing announcement—they were transgender and did not have a home life that would support their reality. The only people they trusted was their Big and BBBS. Using the organization's LGBTQ+ protocols, BBBS helped the pair navigate that moment. Weeks later, the child shared that had the Big and BBBS not stepped in, they would have considered suicide as the only way out of what they felt was a hopeless situation. It was the words of their Big that had changed everything: "Thank you for telling me. I love you no matter who you are. I'm going to help you."

This is the mission of BBBS—to empower children, support their communities, and do whatever it takes to help them thrive now, and in the future.





Out of nearly 250 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies nationwide, BBBS Columbia Northwest was one of only 5 that was recognized as a 2019 Pinnacle Award Winner at the 2020 Big Brothers Big Sisters National Conference in June.

The Pinnacle Award recognizes the very best agencies for meeting these metrics, year over year, for two or more consecutive years:

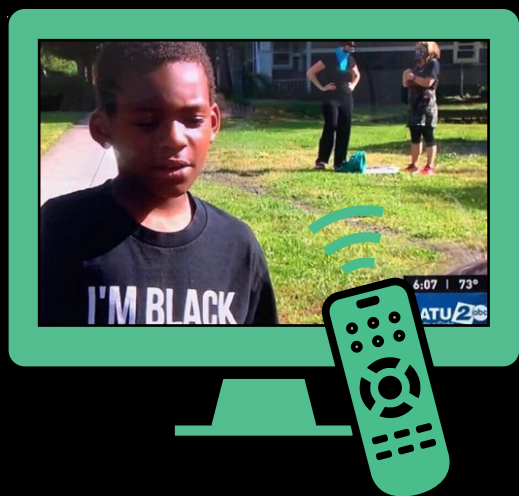
**Increasing revenue**

**Growing overall number of matches**

**Achieving match retention rates higher than the national average**

# LITTLE BROTHER

**INSPIRED TO SUPPORT BLACK LIVES MATTER**



In June of 2020, Little Brother Aidan could not find any local, family-friendly Black Lives Matter marches for kids. So, with help from his Big Brother Jerry, he organized his own protest march. Aidan, who is only 10 years old, organized the march, created and distributed the fliers, got the logistics in place and then led this powerful march. It was a big success with over 1,000 people attending and getting news coverage as well. He was even featured on the cover of TIME for Kids!

To see our Big Brothers Big Sisters matches, like Aidan and Jerry, supporting the BLM movement together really moved us and affirmed our role in advancing racial equality & supporting the Black community.



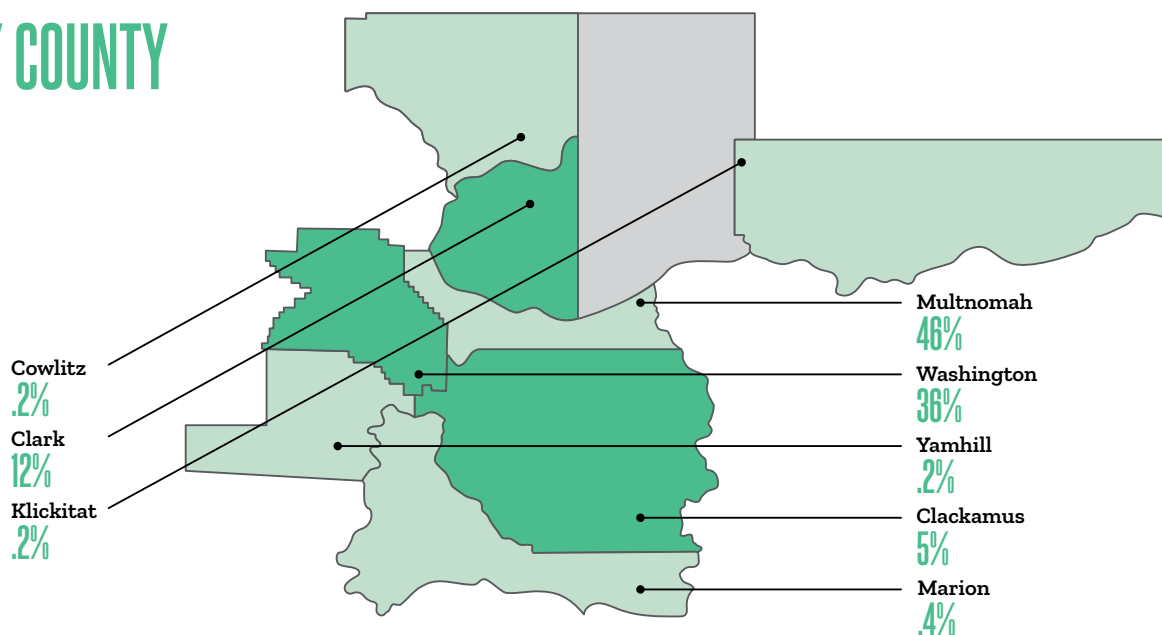
## MISSION STATEMENT:

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS CREATES AND SUPPORTS ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS THAT IGNITE THE POWER AND PROMISE OF YOUTH.

# 2020 PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

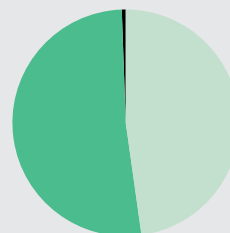


## LITTLES BY COUNTY



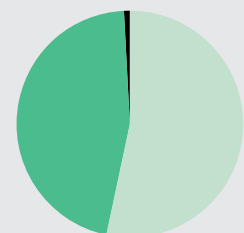
## LITTLES LIVING SITUATION

One Parent Household	322	56%
Two Parent Household	193	34%
Grandparents/Other Relatives	29	5%
Foster Home	10	2%
Other	15	3%



BIGS GENDER

Female	295	51.85%
Male	272	47.8%
Genderqueer/Nonbinary		.35%



LITTLES GENDER

Female	260	51.85%
Male	303	47.8%
Transgender Female	1	.2%
Transgender Male	3	.5%





MATCH SUPPORT CALLS

5,589

CHILDREN SERVED

569

COMMUNITY-BASED

matches lasted an average of

48.8  
MONTHS

SITE-BASED

matches lasted an average of

15.5  
MONTHS

LITTLES AVERAGE AGE

13

BIGS AVERAGE AGE

40

## LITTLES RACE & ETHNICITY



### BIPOC:

Hispanic	28%
Black or African American	18%
White and Hispanic	9%
Black and White	8%
Other Biracial	5%
Native American or Alaska Native	2%
Three or more races	2%
Pacific Islander	.8%
Asian	.5%
Middle Eastern or North African	.2%

BIPOC ( Black, Indigenous, People of Color )

White or Caucasian

BBBS staff became case managers and social workers overnight

Beyond School Walls workplace mentoring went virtual.

BBBS mentors were the only adults - and pillars of stability - Littles connected with outside the household.



## BIG SISTER KRYSTAL ANDERSON AND LITTLE SISTER ELISA

Big Sister Krystal and Little Sister Elisa were matched on Leap Day in 2012. Nine years later and their relationship is stronger than ever. Krystal has been there throughout Elisa's journey starting a new life in the United States with her mom and two sisters from Mexico. She has helped Elisa overcome shyness and learn how to express herself through art. She also helped her get accepted to the very competitive Zoo-Teens volunteer program at the Oregon Zoo.

For Krystal, Elisa has given her more beautiful experiences than she could have ever imagined. "I love having Elisa's youthful energy in my life. I feel like we have a genuine friendship which I have come to realize is kind of rare and special for someone in her 30's to share with a teenager." Elisa will be a senior at Roosevelt High School this year. She wants to attend Oregon State University for pre-med and then attend medical school.



OREGON BIG/LITTLE  
SISTER OF THE YEAR



## OREGON BIG/LITTLE BROTHER OF THE YEAR

## BIG BROTHER SEGUN DESILVA AND LITTLE BROTHER MASON

Big Brother Segun and Little Brother Mason were have been matched for three years. In this short time, they have been through a lifetime of shared experiences and struggles that have bonded them together forever. Sharing a meal is always one of the suggested activities to start a mentoring relationship. Segun took this a step further and helped Mason embrace his Hawaiian culture. He introduced Mason to fellow Hawaiian's, shared traditional foods, took him to his first play and helped him when he struggled with racist behaviors by others.

Even though Mason loves playing basketball, Segun is not capable of playing, so instead they bonded as fans watching games. Segun and Mason have also both lost close family members. Dealing with trauma and grief was initially hard for them, but it has now brought them together. Spending time together as friends has also helped Mason overcome his struggles in school and reflect on being a better person from decisions he has made in his young life. Segun says that "Mason can tell me anything, he knows I won't judge him, and we'll focus on simply him being the best Mason and I'll still try to be the best me. It's a perfect match."

## NOMINEES ARE CHOSEN FOR THESE CHARACTERISTICS:



The match has demonstrated significant impact for the Little and the Big has helped their Little overcome obstacles to achieve positive outcomes.



The Little has shown progress in reaching their potential and the Big has helped ignite, empower, or defend that potential in an identifiable way.



The Nominee has been highly engaged in the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters.



The Big has shown excellence as an advocate for Big Brothers Big Sisters.



# 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Anne Donovan**  
Secretary

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Director of Client Operations | Diversity & Inclusion

Korede Alabi

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Yakima Products, Chief Financial Officer

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Jon Shervey

The Standard, Senior Director CTA

Sheldon Warmington

Senior Manager, IT Internal Audit, Intel

Nick Warren

Parker, Smith & Feek, Principal

# STAFF\*

**Amaya Gustave**  
Intern

**Beach Pace**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Beatrice Serrano**  
Beyond School Walls Coordinator

**Carolina Adrianzén**  
Program Director

**Cynthia Thompson**  
Chief Development Officer

**Cynthia White**  
Administrative Assistant

**Ellie Goldman**  
Beyond School Walls Coordinator

**Elisabeth Chun**  
Beyond School Walls Coordinator

**Erika Manzo**  
Program Manager –  
Enrollment & Matching Specialist

**Erin Coffin**  
Program Manager –  
Beyond School Walls

**Jaasyel Monroy**  
Match Support Specialist-  
Bilingual

**Jamee Shermer**  
Match Support Specialist

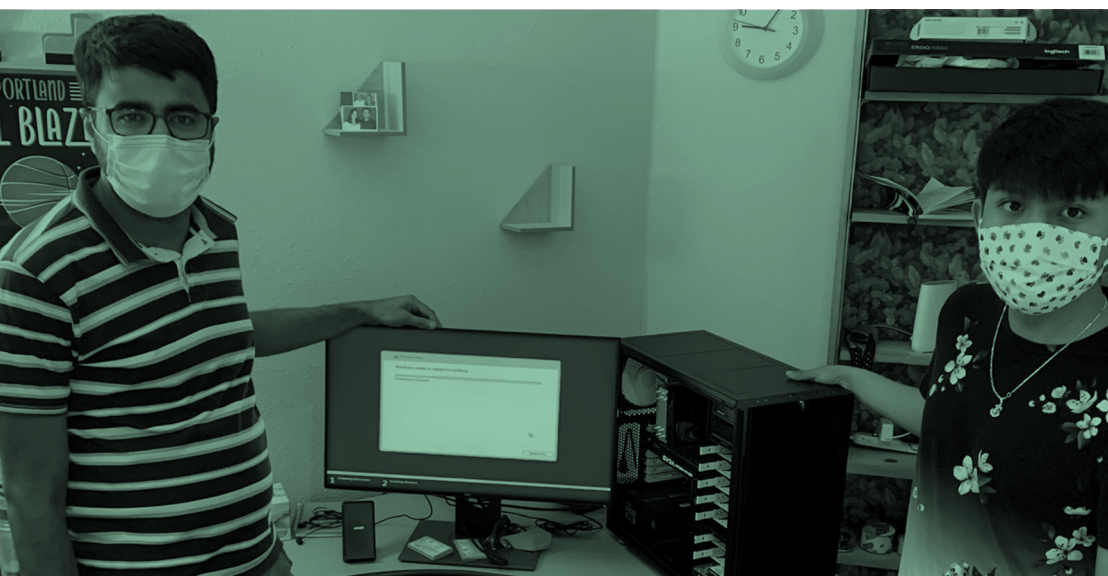
**Jessica Hunt**  
Finance Manager

**Mickey Lieberman-Burak**  
DEI (Diversity + Equity +  
Inclusion) Intern

**Monty Zach**  
Database Coordinator

**Ninfa Rodriguez**  
Match Support Specialist -  
Bilingual

\* BBBS Columbia Northwest  
Staff Roster as of March 10, 2021  
Alphabetical by first names





**96%**  
of the seniors in the  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
program graduated from  
high school in 2020.



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®**  
COLUMBIA NORTHWEST

To get involved,  
email [bbbsinfo@bbbsnorthwest.org](mailto:bbbsinfo@bbbsnorthwest.org).

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Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97221

Tel: 503-249-4859

[ItsBigTime.org](http://ItsBigTime.org)

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## GET INVOLVED

### Become a Big

We serve youth in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties in Oregon and in SW Washington. Bigs volunteer two to four times a month as mentors to Littles who need a caring adult to defend and ignite their potential.

### Donate

Every dollar donated is an investment in our matches, providing academic support, conducting culturally responsive training, and igniting the accomplishments of youth in our community.

### Become a Corporate Partner

We have numerous events and opportunities that showcase our supporters, engage employees, and connect people with the power of mentoring. Companies can build racial equity in their community as a BBBS corporate partner.