

BBBS MUSKOKA SUPPORTER UPDATE



As we mark Big Brothers Big Sisters Month 2021 we want to celebrate each of our donor's, supporters, and funder's contributions to the success of our agency. We recognize that our work is only possible with you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The future is bright for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka with many opportunities on the horizon. We are so proud of the work we have done this year and are excited about the future.

We have much to look forward to but it is important to take this time to look back on the year that has brought us to this point in celebration of all that has been and all that is to come!

As a supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka, we invite you to enjoy the following report of all we have accomplished over the last 12 months. From new matches to virtual programming to match graduations, there is much to celebrate!

BIG SISTER Kirsten



Kirsten is a bubbly, active person with a go-getter attitude. She is a long-time Bracebridge resident who has spent many years engaged in sports in the community. She is currently fulfilling a Bachelors of Education at Nipissing and hopes to stay connected to youth during her virtual learning adventure. Kirsten was inspired to become a Big Sister during a BBBS Muskoka presentation in the community.

The Match - May 12, 2021

Both Kirsten and Sarah have vibrant personalities that allow them to chat endlessly! A typical topic is the challenges they face as virtual learners. They relieve the stress that this brings by being creative and making different crafts. It has given them both the practice and skills to maintain a great virtual match in our community-based program. Additionally, the two bond over their big families and love for dance!

LITTLE SISTER Sarah



Sarah initially joined BBBS Muskoka's virtual In-School Mentoring program this year. However, she was left wanting to continue building her confidence when her match had reached their commitment date. Now, Sarah is thrilled to join the community-based program to keep building on the social skills she has learned. She is an outgoing girl who loves being creative and helping others.

BIG BROTHER Hayden LITTLE BROTHER Ruben

Hayden is a Big Brother who is ready to do big things with a Little. He has had many experiences coaching young people in both hockey and football. His active lifestyle is a great selling point for a young person who is hoping do athletic activities with their Big. Hayden is not only fun, he is extremely kind and patient. He has the temperament of a person who is able to ride the waves that come with adversity. For all of these reasons, Hayden makes a solid candidate for a Big Brother.

Ruben is one of the most energetic kiddos to grace BBBS Muskoka with his amazing personality! He may be young, but he is mighty and not afraid of anything. His past-times include water skiing, downhill skiing, swimming and anything that is an adrenaline rush. Ruben is looking for a male role-model who is willing to celebrate his emotions and get active with him. He will be a Little Brother worthy of keeping up with!

The Match - June 2, 2021

Hayden and Ruben are a great example of a relationship built on common interests. The two find comfort in doing fun things together that are both familiar or challenging.

BIG SISTER Leeann LITTLE SISTER Anna

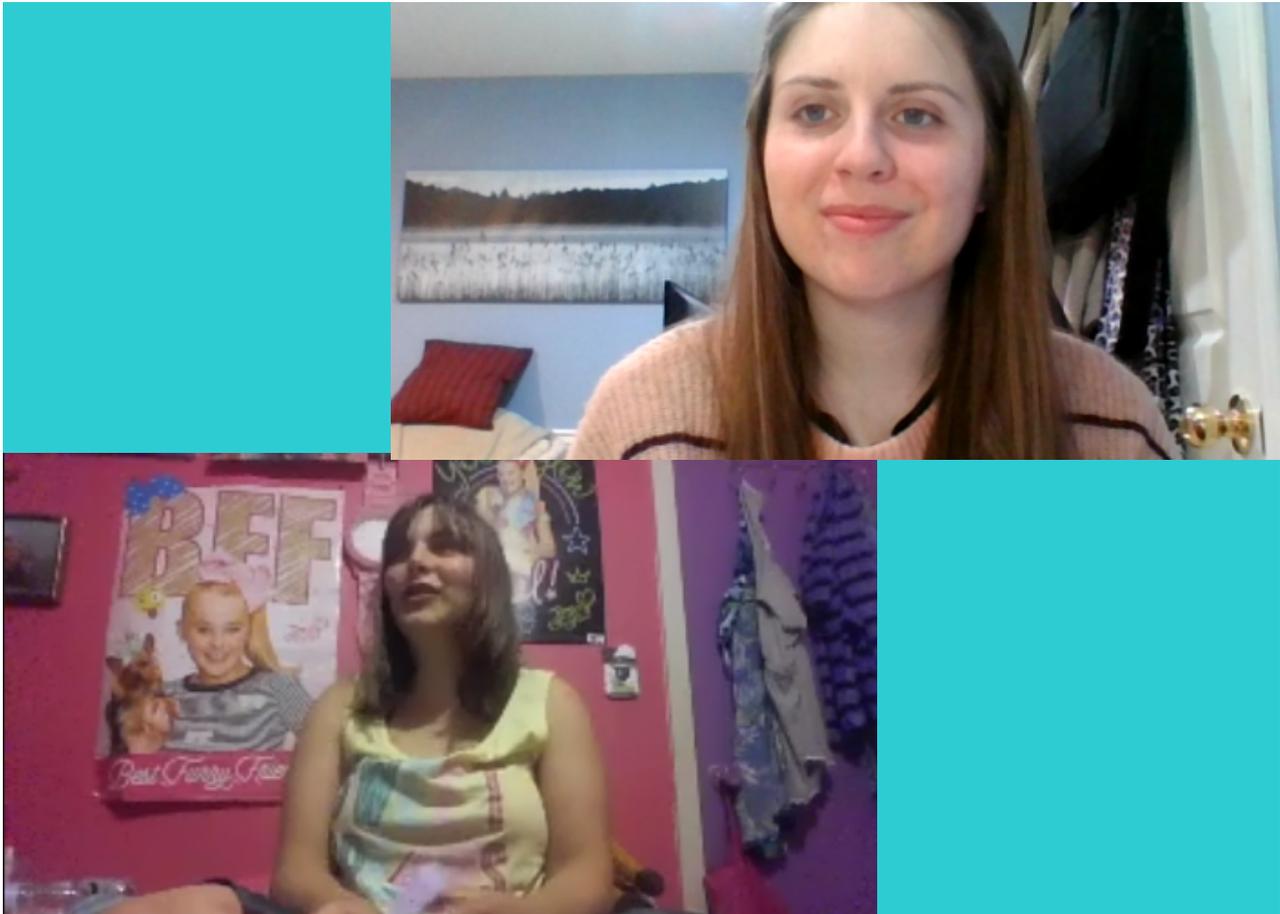
Leeann is an absolute pleasure to build a relationship with. She is easy-going, empathetic and so much fun! She likes to take fun adventures around her new city with her sidekick Apollo (her big cuddly dog). Leeann's career is based on helping children with exceptionalities thrive regardless of their challenges. This, along with her love for animals, her willingness to be silly and her all-around warmness, make Leeann a great fit for mentorship!

Anna took part in the BBBS Muskoka virtual In-School Mentoring program this year. Throughout our time with her, Anna has shown us how to think outside of the box in every capacity! She is larger than life with a personality that is unmatched. Anna's curiosity also makes her a joy to be around. Her love for animals and being creative are just two more highlights of this fun mentee.

The Match - May 28, 2021

It was difficult to imagine matching a mentee with a mentor who suits her as well as her ISM counterpart. Leeann has fulfilled this tall order by providing Anna with a stable, fun and safe environment that she benefits from. The two connected instantly during their match introduction and have been bonded ever since. They often chat about Anna's desires, visit Starbucks and laugh a lot! This match will be one that is impactful and easily hits the marks of developmental relationship.

BIG SISTER Meaghan



LITTLE SISTER Jacqueline

Meaghan is thrilled to give back to her community as a BBBSM volunteer mentor! Meaghan loves animals including her own cats. She also enjoys being creative and is great at holding a conversation. She is committed to nurturing her relationships which makes her a great choice as a Big Sister!

Jacquelyn has been on our mentee waitlist for over 3 years! She is spunky, outgoing and full of life. Her passions are being creative and animals. Jacquelyn likes horses and hopes to be able to go horseback riding again soon. She is creative and loves to share about herself! These characteristics make her a great match for Meaghan!

The Match - June 9, 2021

Meaghan and Jacquelyn are both energetic chatters! They easily share the things that are happening in their lives with each other. Although their match has just recently begun, the two have a great amount of fun together! This is built on doing creative activities together and exploring new spots in Jacquelyn's city. These two are truly building a lasting relationship from the ground up as they explore their common interests.



Marita is a hard-working, motivated woman who loves adventure and experience life. She has entered mentorship with the hopes of giving a young person a friend to rely on. She has learned lots about young people when traveling solely for the purpose of volunteering and giving to others. Marita loves animals, the outdoors and trying different foods. She has built her own resilience throughout the challenges in her life and is looking to pass this along to her mentee.

Marijka is a mentee who has been on our waitlist for most of the three years that she has spent with the agency. She is looking to be re-matched with a Big Sister who is committed to being the ultimate role-model. She would like to use this relationship as an opportunity to come out of her shell. Marijka loves building things and letting her imagination run free. She has no fear, except for bugs, and is an absolute joy to chat with for hours.

The Match - July 16, 2021

Marita and Marijka had instant chemistry upon meeting. The two found it effortless to strike up a conversation about their pets and their favourite foods during their match introduction. They plan to fill their match with days of swimming, building with Lego and drinking bubble tea. Their openness to trying new things and even challenging things, makes them the perfect pair for each other. This match will be one of great growth and a true symbol of a young person's resiliency.

2021 MATCH GRADUATIONS

What is a **match graduation**? A match graduates the Big Brothers Big Sisters program when they feel they can maintain their relationship without the support of the agency. This is not a sad event - it is a time for celebration! We are so proud of our graduating matches who have created unbreakable bonds that will be maintained for years to come.

Match graduations are also a great thing for the agency because it frees up spots for our mentoring coordinator to support new matches. Once a match is self-sufficient it can graduate and this frees up time for **new matches** to be made and supported by our team. We can then focus on supporting these new matches so they can grow strong and eventually graduate as well!

Carol and Olivia

Carol and Olivia were first matched as part of our In-School Mentoring Program in January 2016! During their time together they talked, played games, and built an incredibly strong bond! After five years in the program this match decided it was best to continue their relationship as friends without the support of the agency. We are so proud of Carol and Olivia for the relationship they've created and know they will be there to support each other for years to come!

Sarah and Leeya

Sarah and Leeya began their match in January 2018 through our In-School Mentoring program! Year after year they enjoyed spending time together and continued to meet on school grounds for 3 years! Even through COVID-19 when they had to meet virtually, they kept their bond strong! We are so proud of this match and congratulate them on their graduation from the program!

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

With the support of our funders like the United Way, Muskoka Community Foundation, and Kawartha Credit Union, we held online group events to help our Littles stay connected! We also provided a virtual in-school mentoring program and activity kits to all our matches.

The events we hosted included:

- Bagel Pizza Night
- Paint Night
- Ice Cream Social
- Green-Thumb Get Together
- Candy Chemistry
- Born to Fly Science Night
- Virtual Christmas Party
- Good Clean Fun Experiment
- Up, Down, All Around Science Night

PENDING MATCHES

This year we have been lucky to have over 40 potential volunteers inquire about our programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka! Of these initial inquiries, 15 volunteers have moved forward with the interviewing, training, and matching process!

We currently have 6 pending matches that we foresee moving forward with match introductions by December 2021!

Once these pending matches are made, we will have 25 community-based matches active within our agency.

We will also see our match numbers increase as our in-school mentoring begin. This program sees the agency serve between 10-15 Littles in a site-based setting within the schools or virtually. This program also brings in 3-5 new volunteers to the agency annually between placement students and community volunteers.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Muskoka, we are working diligently to innovate our programming to serve our community in new and exciting ways.

Recently we have been working to kick-start two brand new programs including our Across Generations Intergenerational mentoring program and group programs called Go Girls! and Game On!

Across Generations is a new one-to-one mentoring program that matches intergenerational mentors with a mentee who needs their friendship and support!

Go Girls! and Game On! are group mentoring programs for youth ages 11-14 that focuses on physical activity, balanced eating and self-esteem. The single, most important goal of the program is to positively shape the lives of young people by helping them build a positive self-image – setting them on a path to reach their full potential in life.

We Need You!

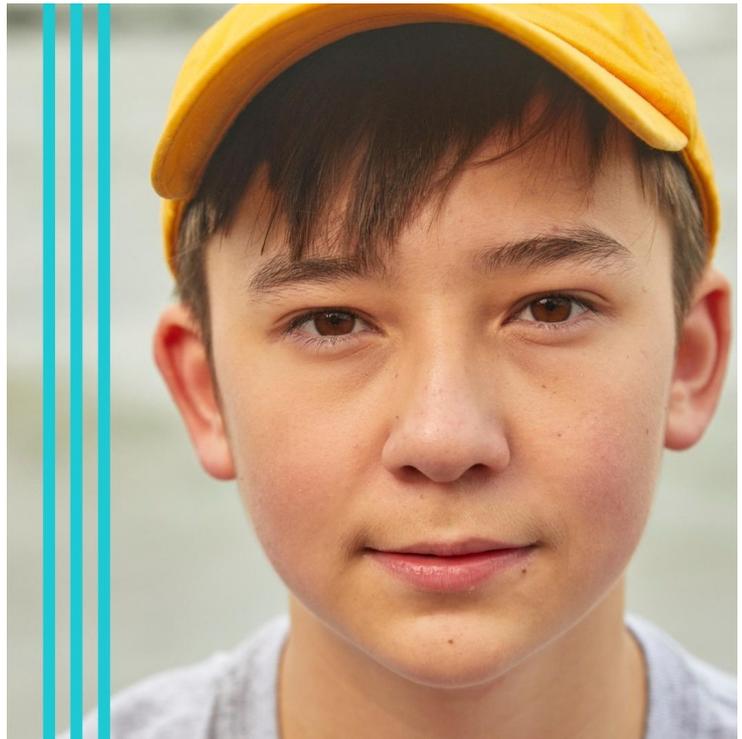
TO COUNTERACT TOXIC STRESS

ACEs stands for "Adverse Childhood Experiences. These experiences can include abuse, neglect, social isolation, racism, and identity discrimination. ACEs can cause toxic stress which has long-lasting adverse effects on the mind and body.

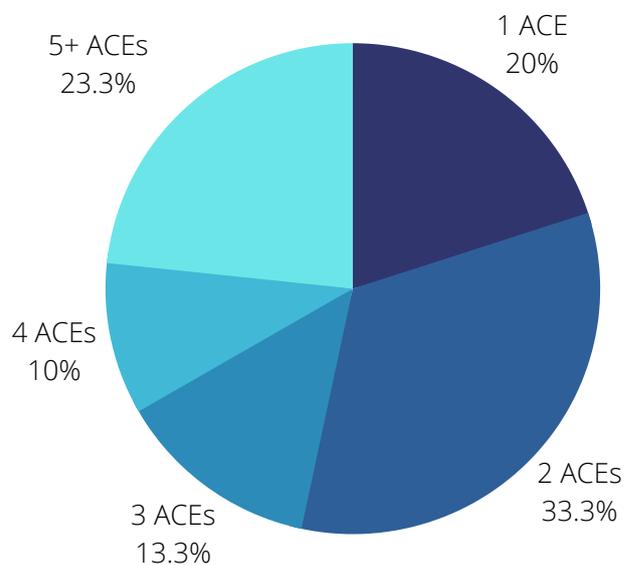
The more ACEs a child experiences, the more likely they are to suffer from depression, anxiety, heart disease, diabetes, and substance abuse issues throughout their lifetime.

80% of the youth we serve have 2 or more ACEs. Even a score of 2 or 3 can increase a person's risk of falling behind and facing future health issues.

We need you to help reduce the effects of ACEs and toxic stress on the youth of our community. Together, through volunteerism, we can create meaningful developmental mentoring relationships



BBBSM ACEs SCORES



The good news is, there are steps we can all take to help reduce the consequences of ACEs in young people's lives.

According to the CDC, some of the best ways to do this include actions such as teaching healthy relationship skills and connecting youth with caring adults and activities. Knowing this confirms how important the work of organizations

like BBBSM are in this process. The work BBBSM does with children and youth across Muskoka won't get rid of ACEs in the Little's life, however, it can help to mitigate the side effects of these ACEs. Throughout the programming that our agency runs, our Bigs work with young people on a wide range of skills and provide support.

VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TODAY!

BIGGER TOGETHER

This year we have been working diligently to decrease our waitlist and start more matches. To do this we have increased our community outreach through advertising, speaking at meetings, and posting more on social media.

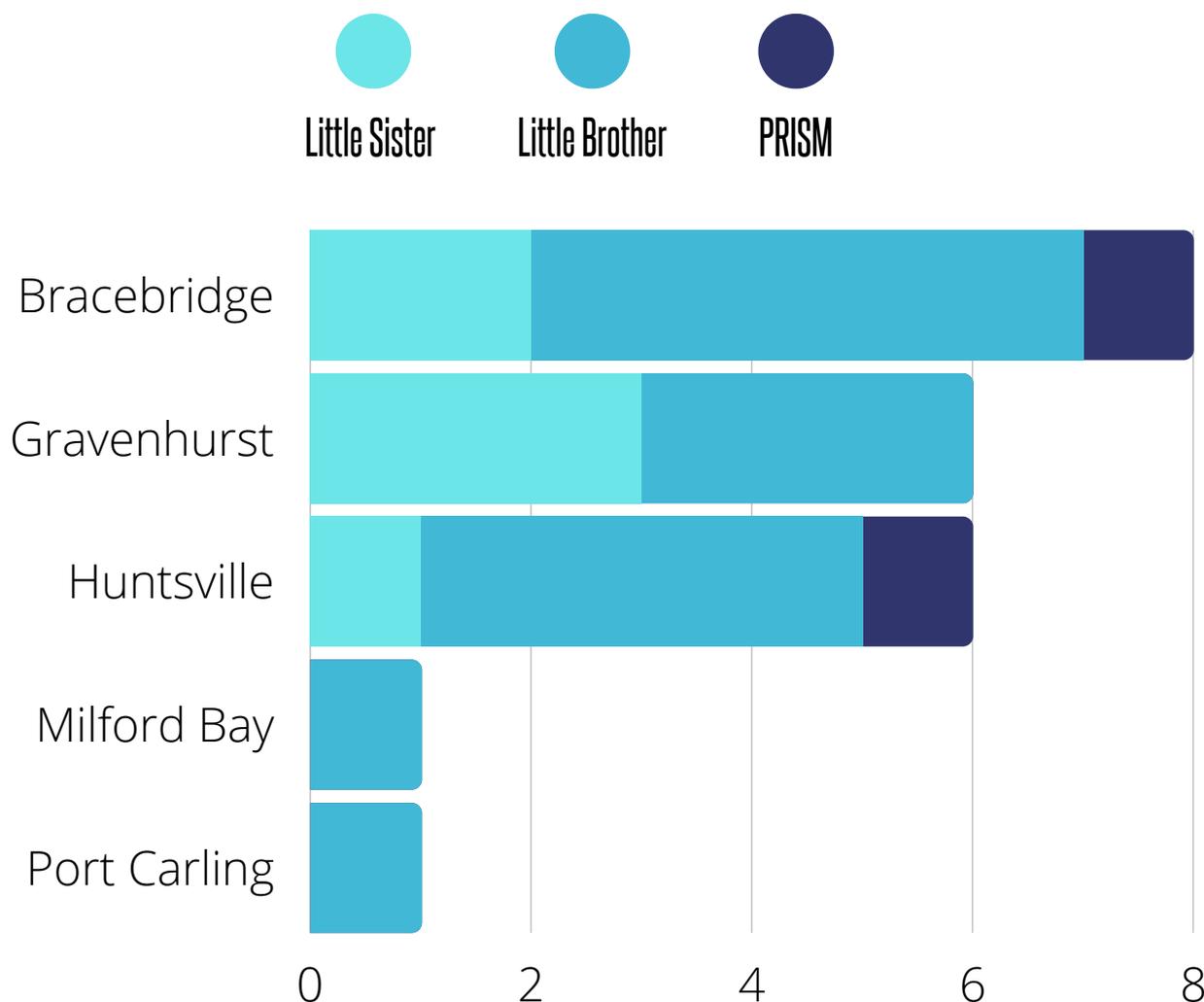
We couldn't be more thrilled with the new volunteers we have recruited and thank them for their hard work so far in creating meaningful developmental

relationships with their mentees!

Our volunteers' drive to support their Littles is unmatched. They are working to create a more connected community for us all and it is an amazing thing to foster and support!

We are striving to recruit even more volunteers to decrease our waitlist and provide this wonderful support to the youth in Muskoka who needs it most!

CURRENT WAITLIST



FUNDER RECOGNITION



BRACEBRIDGE
The Heart of Muskoka



GRAVENHURST
GATEWAY TO MUSKOKA



**LAKĒ
OF BAYS**
• MUSKOKA •



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**United Way
Centraide**
Simcoe Muskoka



SUPPORTER RECOGNITION

