

# BIG RESULTS

2023–2024  
ANNUAL REPORT



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters®  
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY







# OUR WHY



## OUR MISSION

We create and support one-to-one mentoring **relationships** that ignite **the power and promise of youth.**

## OUR VISION

Our vision is that **all youth** achieve their full **potential.**



## OUR JEDI COMMITMENT

We recognize, affirm, and celebrate the diverse backgrounds, lives, and experiences of all of our stakeholders, **including youth, families, donors, volunteers, and staff.** For our community, we are committed to providing opportunities for all voices and perspectives to be **heard and honored.**

**Every young person** in our community—regardless of ability, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender identity and expression, race, or sexual orientation—should have the opportunity to **reach their full potential.**

# OUR LEADERSHIP



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

**Peter Davidson**  
King and Society

**Ryan Cass**  
Boeing

### TREASURER

**Luke Sears**  
Elliott Davis

**Nikki Kuniej**  
Charleston Radio Group

**Cynthia Legette**  
Diversified Trust

### BRAND COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Tyler Heffernan**  
U.S. Club Soccer

**Daniel Lynch**  
Pierce, Sloan, Kennedy  
& Early LLC

### SECRETARY

**Stephen Kohn**  
Excel Real Estate

**Julia Miles**  
Synovus

**Keonitá Ramsey**  
Eloquence Unlimited, LLC

### BIG LEAGUE CO-CHAIR

**Jaymes McCloud**  
J.H.W. Enterprises Property  
Management, Inc.

**Genna Shelnett**  
Buffalo Groupe

**Dannielle Dixon Thomas**  
Dannielle Thomas:  
Allstate Insurance

## TEAM LEADERSHIP

### INTERIM CEO & PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Ryan Vrba**

### DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**Grecia Hamilton**



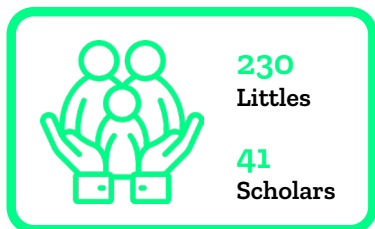
# WHO WE SERVE

## WE HAVE THEIR BACKS

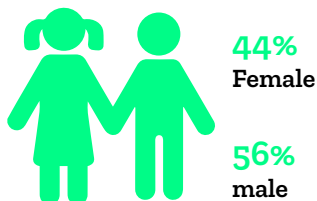


Our mentoring model is designed to be both **PROTECTIVE** and **PREVENTATIVE**. The presence of a caring, consistent adult is proven to make a **significant difference** in the trajectory of a child's life. We help children develop a plan for the future while providing them with an extra friend in life. We recruit, train, and coach safe, caring adult mentors **for the life of the Big/Little relationship**.

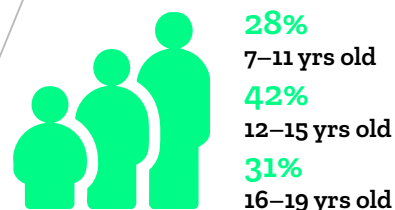
### YOUTH IMPACTED



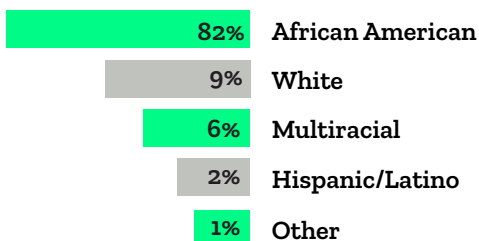
### GENDER



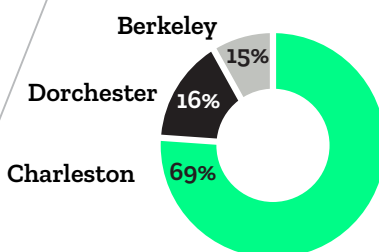
### AGE



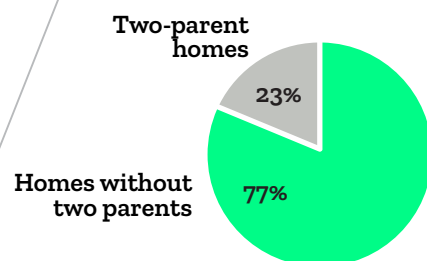
### ETHNICITY / RACE



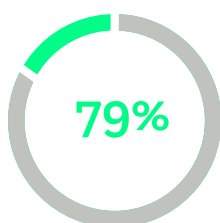
### RESIDENCE (County)



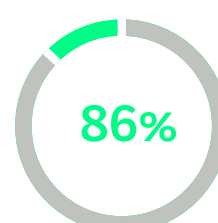
### AT HOME



### FREE / REDUCED LUNCH



### LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS





# COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM



## GROWING SUCCESS

### Messiah & Hunter



more confident and comfortable being himself. Liz shared that she's seen Messiah "open up more and be more comfortable as himself around Hunter," who has helped her son tremendously.

Liz is excited about Messiah's growing success in academics, sports, and hobbies. For Messiah, the experience is just as transformative. Although he initially couldn't pinpoint why he wanted a Big, the joy of spending time with Hunter is undeniable. Whether playing football, video games, fishing, or planning future rock-climbing adventures, Messiah appreciates how Hunter supports him in achieving goals and taking accountability.

This match exemplifies the core mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters: to foster meaningful relationships that enrich the lives of young people in our community.

Hunter and Messiah's journey is just one of many stories of impact made possible by the support of our volunteers, donors, and families LIKE YOU.

**Thank you!**

Liz first reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters because she wanted to find her son, Messiah, a male role model and a mentor to help him navigate life's lessons and offer a guiding hand.

She describes Messiah's personality as a "funny class clown," and she was thrilled when he was matched with Big Brother, Hunter.

Messiah is someone who enjoys having conversations and discussions, and he loves anime, football, and gaming. Since being matched with Hunter, Messiah has become

Hunter volunteered a good bit in his past, and he wanted to continue doing so when he moved to Charleston. He decided to volunteer as a Big so that he "could make an impact in the community on an individual level." He's found his experience as a Big Brother profoundly rewarding and has seen Messiah grow in confidence and openness, sharing both joys and challenges.

Their shared interests in math and movies, including a memorable outing to see the latest King Kong movie, have deepened their connection.

**"I most admire Messiah for his transparency, honesty, and vulnerability. Messiah does not hold back."**

**- Big Brother, Hunter**

# AFTER 12 MONTHS

## IN OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM



### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



**90%** say doing well in school is important

**85%** say they are doing well in school

**94%** are sure they'll graduate high school

**82%** avoided detention or suspension

**100%** of seniors graduated high school

### IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS & BEHAVIOR

**91%** Feel they can lean on their Bigs when something is bothering them

**94%** Say their relationship with their Big is very important to them

**80%** Believe they can make and stay friends with other kids

**91%** Feel good about their relationships with their parents

**97%** Avoided risky behavior like drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping

**98%** Had no contact with law enforcement





# THE **BIG** BEYOND SCHOLAR PROGRAM

## BUILDING HER FUTURE

Rayshell Lessington

BIG Beyond Scholar Program 2024 graduate, Rayshell Lessington, was selected to serve as one of two Charleston market Bank of American Leadership Program participants. As part of the honor, she was assigned a summer internship at the International African American Museum. Her role was to assist in building the foundation of the organization's children/family section of the website. Rayshell's shared that building the children/family section of the website was challenging but rewarding. She gained skills in web design and formatting content to increase customer interest.

Rayshell characterized her time in Washington D.C leadership as fun and vigorous. Summit participants gained leadership skills, networked, made new friends, witnessed the bill voting process at the House of Representatives, toured the Supreme Court, and saw celebrity, Chris Evans (Captain America). Rayshell was also excited to have met Maxwell Frost, a former Bank of America Student Leader and the youngest member of Congress at the current age of 25. Rayshell remarked, "He is just like me."

Rayshell is attending Technical College where she will pursue an associate's degree in science. She will also complete her pre-requisites to apply for MUSC Pharmacy School, where she will study for four years and eventually pursue a Ph.D. She plans to work at MUSC in cardiology pharmacy.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HOSA – Future Health Professional Member**

**Accepted in the 2024 Bank of America Student Leadership Program**

**Vice Secretary of the BIG Beyond**

**Licensed Pharmacy Technician**

"The BIG Beyond has helped me accomplish my goals and achieve my dreams. It's helped me shape my future into reality."

- Scholar, Rayshell



# THE BIG BEYOND SCHOLAR PROGRAM



Sessions twice a month



Financial and digital literacy education



Quarterly in-person activities



Social and emotional education



Summer internship, employment,  
or apprenticeship placement support

## AFTER 12 MONTHS IN THE PROGRAM



**95%** say doing well in school is important  
and are sure they'll graduate high school

**99%** avoided risky behavior like drugs,  
alcohol, tobacco, and vaping

**89%** say they are doing well in school

**99%** had NO contact with  
law enforcement

**81%** avoided detention  
or suspension





# #TEAM500 INVESTORS

Corporations  
& Foundations

# BIG THANK YOU

## IGNITE POTENTIAL

BECU Foundation	Advanced Technology International
Panera Bread Foundation, Inc.	HCA Healthcare, Inc.
The Leon Levine Foundation	

## DEFEND POTENTIAL

Coastal Community Foundation	Daniel Island Community Fund
Enterprise Holdings, Inc.	Patrick Family Foundation, Inc.
Boeing Employee Credit Union	

## EMPOWER POTENTIAL

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation	Henry and Sylvia Yaschik Foundation
Kuznik Charitable Foundation	Jack & Anne Glenn Charitable Foundation
T-Mobile	King & Society
The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company	Moovila
Bank of America Charitable Foundation	Publix Super Market Charities
Boeing Employees Community Fund	TD Charitable Foundation
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP	The Kennedy-Herterich Foundation

## SPONSOR A MATCH

Charleston Tour Association	Ledford's Termite & Pest Control
JHW Enterprises Property Management, Inc.	Low Country Case and Millwork
Greystar Carolina Development	Motley Rice LLC
Saul Alexander Foundation	Nucor
Weidemeyer Giving Fund	Pierce, Sloan, Kennedy & Early LLC
Patrick Properties Hospitality Group	SEJ Services, LLC
Ingevity	SouthState Bank
Diversified Trust	Synovus Financial Corp.
First Choice by Select Health of South Carolina	The Lovely Law Firm Injury Lawyers
AT&T	United Community Bank, Inc.
	Universal Broker & Installation

## KICKSTART A MATCH

Kohn Household	Elliott Davis LLC
Foundation For The Carolinas	Family Advocacy Law Firm, LLC
Boeing South Carolina	Molina Healthcare, Inc.
Frontier Lounge	Palmetto Parking, Inc.
Coastal Carolina Security Solutions	Signal of Charleston

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

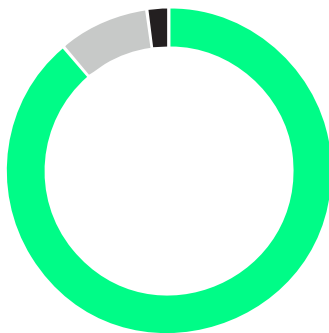


In our fifth year of operation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry aims to achieve organizational stability long-term.

At the end of 2023-2024, we took a big step towards delivering our promise. We set up a dedicated operating fund, and we established a policy requiring 3-6 months of cash reserves at any time. Further, we have launched a Big Dreams Endowment.

We take YOUR financial trust in us seriously, and we will continue to be good stewards of funds.

## TOTAL REVENUE

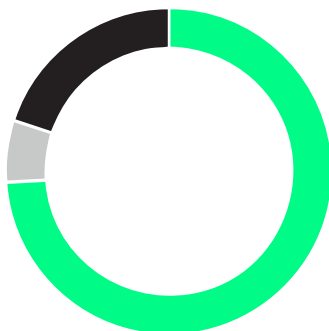


89%	■ Contributions & Grants	\$734,471
9%	■ Fundraising Events	\$74,750
2%	■ Miscellaneous & Interest	\$37,813

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TOTAL REVENUE	\$847,034
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## ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES



74%	■ Programs	\$589,440
6%	■ Administrative	\$48,997
20%	■ Fundraising	\$159,186

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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$797,623
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We exemplify industry best practices with more than 74% of funds used for programmatic purposes. Given our age and growth projections, our auditors confirm we are operating well within appropriate ratios.



# IMAGINE THE **IMPACT** OF 500 KIDS DISCOVERING THEIR **FULL POTENTIAL**

This fiscal year, we will serve **350 Littles and Scholars**, bringing us one step closer to our goal of empowering 500+ youth annually.

Will you help us grow  
**#TEAMKID?**



**DONATE TODAY!**

3324 Rivers Avenue, Suite 101  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 401-3556



**2021-22**

200 Youth Served

**2022-23**

254 Youth Served

**2023-24**

271 Youth Served

 **2024-25**

Our Current Fiscal Year Goal:  
350 Youth Served

**2025-26**

400+ Youth Served



# Big Brothers Big Sisters®

OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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/bbbslowcountry



**Ignite Potential.**  
**JOIN #TEAM500**

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[development@bbbslowcountry.org](mailto:development@bbbslowcountry.org)