



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
Of Island County**



BIG Brother Cameron & LITTLE Brother Anthony



BIG Sister Tanzi & LITTLE Sister Zoey

Changing lives on
Whidbey Island
one **LITTLE**
at a time.

COMMUNITY REPORT 2017

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OUR PROGRAM IS **FREE**
OUR PROGRAM CREATES **GENERATIONAL CHANGE**
OUR PROGRAM IS **FOREVER**



BIG Brother Don & LITTLE Brother Colton

Mission

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

Vision

***For all children
to achieve
success in life.***

Accountability

By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community, we are accountable for each child in our programs achieving: higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships; avoidance of risky behaviors; and educational success.

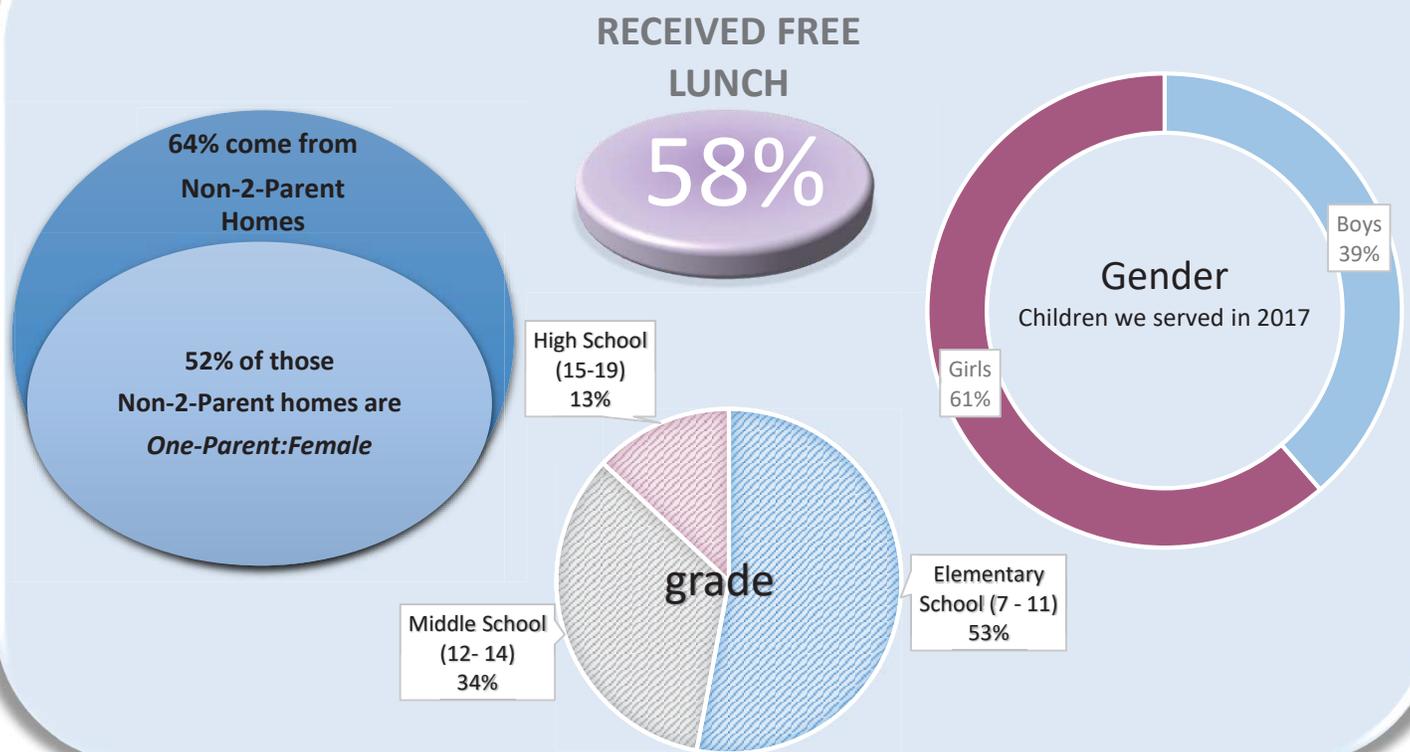
HOW we serve...

We serve our youth and their families in Island County by providing children ages 6 through 14 with a healthy 1-to-1 mentoring relationship that will inspire them to reach their full potential and overcome adversity in order to obtain a brighter and more successful future.

WHO we serve...

The youth and families we serve all have varying stories and needs when they walk through our door. We listen and pay attention in order to serve them to the best of our abilities. Furthermore, we find it important to analyze the client demographics to better understand who our program is reaching and aiding. As a result, we learn, grow, and continue quality service through implicating best practices for the betterment of our community.

The children we served in 2017:



WHY we serve...

Because we are making a difference! Little Brothers and Little Sisters in our program show better grades and education outcomes, improvements in their relationships with family and peers, and a decrease in risky behaviors like using drugs and alcohol.

Our **Littles** are Showing **Big** Improvements

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County is committed to producing life-changing results for the children and families we serve, and we hold ourselves accountable for making a difference. In order to do just that, we track our agency's impact. We collect data to measure positive growth and advancement of our Littles. Through our 1-to-1 mentorship programs, our Littles are facing brighter futures, and we have the numbers to prove it.

Community-Based

In 2017, 54% of our program was Community- Based matches. Our Community-Based program consists of 1-to-1 mentoring relationships that flourish out in the community they live in. These matches meet 2-3 times a month on outings of their choosing. As a result, a trusting friendship is formed that positively impacts our youth's future.

School-Based

In 2017, 46% of our program was School- Based matches. Our School-Based program consists of 1-to-1 mentoring relationships in an academic setting/environment. Bigs meet with their Littles at their school, and whether it be during class, lunch, or recess, their presence fosters educational and social improvement.

57%

Improved or consistently maintained their attitudes towards receiving an education and continuing their education in the future.

73%

86%

Improved or consistently maintained their sense of parental trust.

88%

57%

Improved or consistently maintained their attitudes towards avoidance of risky behavior (alcohol, drugs, physical violence).

67%

97.5% of all our matches improved or maintained their grades.

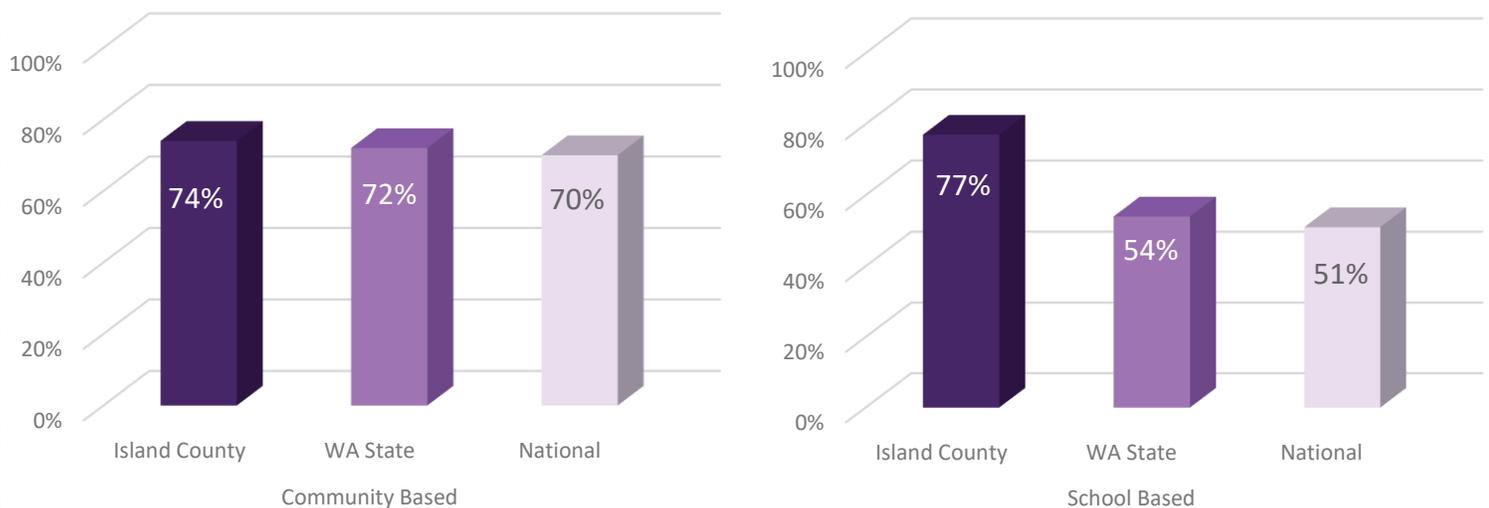
100% of all our matches showed an improved sense of social acceptance.

How long is our program?

The national Big Brothers Big Sisters agency mandates that each match should aim to last at least one year. Based on those national standards, our agency has excelled above both the national and Washington state average. However, our matches are encouraged to last as long as they like within our age guidelines. As soon as any of our Littles turn 18, the match is then closed; but that doesn't mean the friendship has to end there!

Though our matches may come to an end, their impact is **forever**.

2017 Retention Rates



How it's calculated: Percentage of new matches made in 2016 that made it to the 12 month mark.

74% of our community-based matches made it to the 12 month mark.

77% of our school-based matches made it to the 12 month mark.

Our **Bigs** come from a variety of backgrounds, but they all have one thing in common: they share an eagerness to make a difference in a child's life, and it's evident in their dedication to the children in our programs.

They show up, and it shows they care.

2017 Featured Friendship:

Big Brother John, **Big** Sister Therese

& **Little** Brother Jeremy



September 2011

"I'm so glad we stepped out of our comfort zone and volunteered for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program... I know that we can look forward to a lifetime of love and friendship. This is one of the best things Jon and I have done in 30 years of marriage." Big Sister Therese

Over six years ago...

John and Therese made a decision to become Bigs. John was a newly

retired police officer and the pair of them had just relocated to the Whidbey Island area away from their children and grandchildren. They had something to give and they chose to do so through mentoring a child.

Nine months later they were matched as a couple with Jeremy. Jeremy had a tumultuous childhood up to that point. By his 12th birthday, he had lost his father in a car accident and was left by his mother with his grandparents. He also didn't have many friends, and he had established a fear for police officers due to his parents having negative interactions with the law in the past. With John's prior work history as a police officer and the couple's overall giving and kind-hearted nature, they seemed like perfect Bigs for this deserving Little.

In all facets of life, the transition from strangers to acquaintances can be a bit awkward at times, but in this case, John and Therese's first match outing with Jeremy was an instant hit. The trio went on a casual walk that turned into a few hours of chatting. They wanted Jeremy to feel comfortable with them, and fortunately that was immediately the case. The whole outing felt very natural. Did they know when they dropped him off that evening that their walk was just the beginning of a life-changing friendship? That is always the goal, but to what extent they had no idea.

Fast-forward to present day. Jeremy, now 18, is approaching graduation and he does so with confidence. Over the last six years, much has changed, but one thing remained constant: his friendship with his Bigs John and Therese. It's because of their unwavering friendship that he is no longer afraid of law enforcement and wishes to pursue a criminal justice degree after high school. He is also active in his church and is more socially confident. All of these outcomes are what we strive and hope for as an agency; however, one outcome of his path we did not anticipate. On October 23rd, Jeremy was adopted by a couple from his church. His family has grown by two more.

Over the last six years, Jeremy has gained new friends and family but most importantly he acquired confidence to face the bright future that lay ahead of him. John and Therese are to thank for that. Our Bigs change lives.



"When I first met them and we talked, it felt like we all had something in common and that John and Therese could help me grow into the man I am now." Little Brother Jeremy

November 2017

Giving starts with YOU.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County, we appreciate all supporters, from donors to volunteers to advocates. Your donations help us make and sustain matches between Bigs and Littles – and instantly make you a part of our family.

It's not just a donation, it's an investment in a child's future.

Your financial support helps us provide our programs on Whidbey Island so we can develop more COLLEGE GRADUATES, COMMUNITY LEADERS, and the future ENTREPRENEURS of our communities.

Your support goes far.

Your financial support starts:

- Recruiting new Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers
- Covering the costs of background checks, while ensuring trained professionals match Littles to responsible Bigs
- Enabling ongoing supervision and relationship support for every Big, Little and Little's family
- Providing cultural and social activities to enrich the opportunities for children

Do Whidbey Island a service.

Start a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters today.

In making an impact on Island County children, donors make an impact close to home. If it weren't for our generous donors, we couldn't make the Big / Little matches that lead to life-changing results.

Make it your business to get involved.

Start Something BIG!

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Little Moments. Big Magic.™

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