

NEWSLETTER



Fall 2021

According to Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, the single most common factor for children who develop resilience is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult.
That, at its core, is what volunteer Bigs do for the youth in our program.

A message from Executive Director Jesse Mahugh and Board Chair Melinda White:

Thank you to our community for your incredible support! We had a phenomenal year building organizational strength and unity, increasing sustainable funding, and last but not least, serving more youth.

Did you notice something different about this newsletter? Over the past year we deliberated over a proper name for our organization, given that we have a potential service area that includes 19 counties and stretches from Granite County to Phillips County, and from Jefferson County up to the border with our friends in Canada. Going forward, we are now **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Montana! Same people, same mission – bigger name!** We have updated our website to www.bigcentral.org and combined our social media accounts for Helena & Great Falls into a new consolidated account – follow us for updates at @bigcentralmt on Facebook and Instagram.

Along with updating our name, we have spent the past year reevaluating our funding strategies to ensure long term stability and future growth. A strong foundation has been built for sustainable growth with nearly \$30,000 of combined multi-year pledges and recurring giving already secured. To help us increase our recurring-giving base, **we have a generous donor who will donate \$50 for each new monthly donor we enroll now through the end of December. Please help us leverage this gift to its fullest!** You can read more about our recurring gifts program inside.

High School Buddies Program Re-opens!

We have started already at Capital High School in Helena with students matched with kindergarten, 1st grade, and 5th grade students at Rossiter and Kessler Elementaries! We are in communication with the Great Falls Public School District to re-open High School Buddies at Great Falls High School and C.M. Russell High School in January 2022.

In the year ahead we will launch a Big Recruitment Committee made up of community members, board members, and staff to help drive the volunteer recruitment necessary to serve more youth in 2022. At the same time, we are launching an Annual Campaign to continue building the necessary sustainable support. We would love to have you participate!

We are excited to announce that we have re-opened our office in Great Falls in a beautiful space at the Columbus Center. More importantly, we are thrilled to restart our High School Buddies program - see box above! If you have a connection to another school that would like to have our school-based program, please contact us. While we remain focused on growing in Cascade, Lewis & Clark and Jefferson Counties, we are aware that there are youth outside these counties who could benefit from our program and that is why we are committed to sustainable growth through sustainable funding.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support,

Jesse

Melinda



Match Story - Stephanie & Aubrey

Aubrey was matched as a "Little" with "Big" Sister Stephanie on December 18, 2020. We anticipate they will be a long-term match due to the fun they have together and their goals for the future. Although Aubrey and Stephanie have been matched for a little less than a year, these two have so much fun doing lots of different activities such as visiting the Elkhorn Ghost Town, touring the Edgewater Farms Corn Maze near Townsend, going on the boat ride at the Gates of the Mountains, swimming at Broadwater Hot Springs, carving pumpkins, watching movies, going for picnics, bowling at Sleeping Giant Lanes, and they LOVE to do their nails.



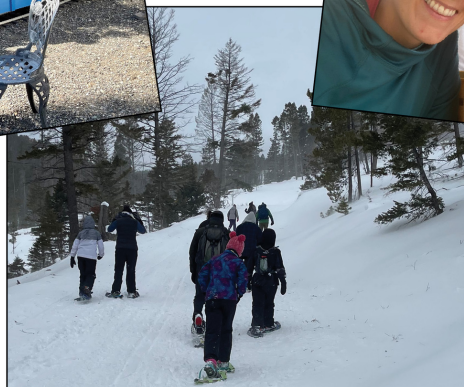
When Aubrey was asked what her favorite activity is to do with Stephanie, she said, "Just spending time with her." And on a scale from 1-10, Aubrey says their relationship is 1,000!

We at BBBS are certainly blessed to have Aubrey and Stephanie in our program. Stephanie decided to become a Big because she saw first-hand the good this program does. "When I moved to Helena I wanted to find a way to get involved in the community and BBBS was the perfect route to follow." When her friends ask how she fits BBBS into her busy schedule, Stephanie says that it's not hard. "It's just like scheduling an appointment every week for a couple of hours."

If you have thought about becoming a Big and wonder about the specifics, please contact our office to learn more!

Match Activities

We coordinate a variety of activities throughout the year for our Matches and families! Some activities this year included a star party and kayaking with the Montana Discovery Foundation and Montana Outdoor Learning Center, snowshoeing on MacDonald Pass, complimentary Helena Tour Train tickets and more!



Ways to Give - Monthly Giving

Ready to set up a recurring or one-time donation?
Please visit www.bigcentral.org to get started,
or scan the QR code below!



Sustainable (recurring) giving allows our donors to spread out gifts throughout the year in increments that are comfortable for them, and allows us to plan for our future through more predictable revenue throughout the year. **Sustainable giving is one of the most important components of our budget** as we reduce reliance on events and focus on individual giving. We have named our sustainable giving partners **Matchmakers**, as that is exactly what they are doing! You can set up a recurring gift through our donor portal using a credit or debit card. We can also set up a direct draft from your bank account through ACH – please contact Kelly McDermott, Director of Development at 406-204-7403 or kelly@bigcentral.org if you'd like to create a recurring bank draft.

Ways to Give - Qualified Charitable Distributions

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) are a unique tax strategy that allow individuals who are at least age 70½ and have Traditional IRAs to distribute up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (like Big Brothers Big Sisters!) with no federal income tax consequences. Here are a few facts about QCDs and how they may help you meet your financial goals:

- QCDs may satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or exceed it.
- QCDs are IRA distributions that would otherwise be taxable; therefore, Roth IRA distributions may or may not qualify. If the IRA contains after-tax basis, the QCD is considered to come from the taxable portion first. Please talk with your tax professional for further guidance.
- QCDs are not included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), so using this strategy can lower your income and may possibly decrease the tax you pay on your Social Security income. This may also have a positive effect on your taxes with regard to deductions, exemptions, and tax credits. Check with your tax advisor to determine how lowering your AGI may benefit you.
- Remember that the financial institution will need to make the check payable directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity to have this strategy work for you.
- QCDs require no special reporting by your IRA custodian; you will receive an IRS Form 1099-R for the distribution. Please provide this form to your tax advisor during tax preparation time. Any questions should be referred to your tax professional.

Please consult your tax advisor to determine if this is the right strategy for you.

Mark your Calendars for your Favorite Events!



SK For Kids' Sake

Join us the entire months of **February and March** as we hit the slopes in support of our program, with fun challenges and lots of sweet prizes!

Details coming soon!

DUELING PIANOS

FEBRUARY 26 - HELENA



Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel

Check the Events tab on our Facebook page
[@bigcentralmt](https://www.facebook.com/bigcentralmt) for details and updates!

Wine Crush - May 14, 2022

Golf Fore Kids' Sake - August 2022





**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**

OF CENTRAL MONTANA

**Administrative Office &
Helena Match Support Office**

1434 N Roberts
Helena, MT 59601

Great Falls Match Support Office

1601 2nd Ave N
Columbus Center Room 519

406.442.7479

www.bigcentral.org



@bigcentralmt

Follow us for updates!

Our Littles - a Breakdown



Matches spend an average of
6-8 hours together each month



100% FREE to the
families we serve



Our Bigs and Littles come
from a variety of backgrounds

After being matched for at least one year, our Littles report:

85%

Improved classroom behavior

95%

Increased self-confidence

93%

Demonstrated more trust

82%

Improved academic
performance

86%

Improved relationships with
their peers

89%

Improved relationships with
their family

SEEKING NEW MATCHES!

Do you know a child that could benefit from an adult mentor?

Are you interested in serving as a mentor?

Contact us today to find out more!

Corporate & Foundation Partners

Thank You to these partners that made a year-long commitment to BBBS in 2021!



Want to be on this list for 2022? Give Kelly a call at 406-204-7403 to learn more about our Corporate Partnerships.

And Thank You to our Major Investors



Lithia Subaru of Great Falls



Division of Glacier Bank

**DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION**



**Herb Waltermire
Community Enhancement
Foundation**



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana**

