



Contents

	Page #
1. Board of Directors and Staff List	2
2. President's Report	3-4
3. Executive Director's Report	5
4. Our Vision and Mission	6
5. About Us – Big Brothers Big Sisters	7
6. What If ... Wouldn't That Be Something?	8
7. A BBBS Grande Prairie and Area 'Year in Review'	9-12
8. Statistics Summary	13
9. Financial Statements (separate document)	
10. Major Sponsors	14-16

**START
SOMETHING
BIG**



Big Brothers Big Sisters



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2016 Board of Directors

President – Vernon Boyd

Vice-President – Cheryl Weaver

Secretary – Sasha Huhn

Treasurer – Connie Nooy (resigned)

Director – Barb Metituk

Director – Camille McLaughlin

Director – Daniel Drake

Director – Debbie Isley

Director – Julie Juniper (resigned)

Director – Trevor Healing

Director – Wade Pilat

Agency Staff

Executive Director – Amy Mohr

Community Based Mentoring Coordinator – Timothy Hines

Community Based Mentoring Coordinator – Kailee Kirkland

Site Based Mentoring Coordinator – Denine Rodger



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President's Report

I am very proud to have served as Board President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie and Area (BBBSGP) since 2007. One of the most important things I have learned as a volunteer with the agency is that **'Life is about people, not stuff'**. I've learned the value of community and that is a truly humbling thing. It has been an amazing ten years with this agency and my time as a Big Brother was equally as rewarding.

I would like to say a special thanks to the current Board of Directors and our dedicated frontline staff: Timothy, Kailee and Denine. The care and attention these three show our Littles, their families and our volunteers is amazing. We wouldn't have the quality matches we do without their devoted efforts and our very passionate Executive Director, Amy. The growth of the Agency over the past five years under Amy's leadership has been remarkable.

BBBSGP has continued to work really hard to make advancements in our community; becoming more recognized by other not-for-profits, charities, businesses, service clubs (i.e., Rotary), the Chamber of Commerce, City and County of Grande Prairie, to name a few. We are proud to be involved in the many community events, partnerships and fundraising endeavors that our community has to offer. We are constantly receiving new opportunities for raising funds and awareness; we are truly blessed to call Grande Prairie home.

In 2016, our Agency served approximately 100 children and youth – a huge impact on this community as many Little's grow up understanding the value of volunteering and continue to do so through their lives. Throughout our varied mentoring programs, our Little's benefited from the positive role modeling of approximately 80 teen and adult volunteers. These generous and committed volunteers gave their time and talent to the important work of mentoring and building confident futures for their mentees. As an Agency, we are pleased to be able to report this success as we continue to build on our strengths.

We are proud to continue to report that our major annual fundraiser, the Ultimate Escape, held on January 20, 2016, was again very successful. This event goes a long way in supporting our mentoring programs and the children and youth in our community. Thank you again to all of our generous sponsors and especially our long-standing Presenting Sponsor Canadian Tire and Hospitality Sponsor, Pomeroy Lodging. We are looking forward to another successful year!



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I would like to take a moment and thank our major funders for their continued support – United Way Alberta Northwest, Government of Alberta, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) and the City of Grande Prairie/FCSS. It is also very important to recognize the following generous supporters: Canadian Western Bank GIGIC Campaign, Aquatera, The Muttart Foundation, WestJet, Rotary Clubs of Grande Prairie, Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual and the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta. We are grateful to the many individual donors and those that gave to us in memory of a loved one. BBBSGP is extremely fortunate to have the ongoing support of our funding partners and this great community – thank you for helping children and youth realize their full potential.

BBBSGP would also like to highlight our successful, longstanding partnerships with the Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357, Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools and Peace Wapiti School Division No 76. 2015 was the start of something great...a pilot project Teen Mentoring program with Grimshaw High School and Kennedy Elementary School. This new partnership with the Peace River School Division was successful and very beneficial for the mentees and mentors of the community.

Along with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, our agency commits to Canada's young people that we will be leaders in providing them with the highest quality, volunteer based mentoring programs. Across the country, there are currently, over 40,000 children matched with volunteers in our mentoring programs. Our challenge, along with many other agencies, continues to be finding matches for the thousands of youths on our waiting lists. Having served Canadian families for over 100 years, BBBS has earned the position as one of the most well-known and respected brands in the charitable sector. With 108 local agencies operating in over 1,100 communities; together we mobilize over 21,300 volunteers and that works out to nearly: 2.2 million volunteer hours each year!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vernon Boyd'.

Vernon Boyd



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Executive Director's Report

Coming to work every day is a pleasure when you work for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Knowing the power of mentoring and the positive impacts it has on children, families, volunteers and the community as a whole, truly means having best job in the world. Our agency has created so many fantastic friendships over the last year and that would not have been possible without the passion, dedication and energy of our most important asset – our Mentoring Coordinators. Timothy, Kailee and Denine continue to go above and beyond to ensure each Little and Big that walk through our doors are treated with the respect, dignity and attention they deserve. Thank you from myself, the Board, the Littles, the Bigs and the community.

Our Board of Directors once again deserves a standing ovation, their tireless efforts of guiding the agency and assisting in fundraising and awareness initiatives is so very much appreciated. Each and every one is a champion for mentoring and our agency. Thank you: Vernon, Cheryl, Sasha, Trevor, Dan, Barb, Connie, Debbie, Julie, Wade and Camille.

2016 was quite the year of recognition for our agency – over the course of the year we were honored to win The Passionate Heart 'Exceptional Team' Award in February, Vernon was awarded the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada's Alumni Award in July and one that the agency is most proud of is winning the Chamber of Commerce 'Employer of Choice' award in the fall! This award has never been presented to a not for profit in Grande Prairie and the honor was completely unexpected. It was exceptional to simply be nominated; winning seemed impossible when up against so many deserving candidates. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie and Area is a great place to volunteer and a great place to work and we are immensely proud of the great work that we do.

There were numerous highlights to the year; it was full of generous donors, exciting events and activities and memorable awards. However, the focus has always been and will always be, providing the highest quality mentoring programs to the children and youth of Grande Prairie and area. We know we are extremely lucky to live and work in such a caring, supportive and generous community. Thank you to our parents for sharing your wonderful children with us, thank you to those Littles for showing us how to be kids again, thank you to our Bigs who give of their time and positivity so freely, thank you to our funders, sponsors and donors for keeping our mentoring programs alive, thank you to anyone who has helped spread the word about our agency, attended an event, and supported our matches in any way. You are a BIG deal to us.

With gratitude,

Amy Mohr



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Our Vision

Every child who needs a mentor will have a mentor.

Our Mission

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie and Area strives to enhance the healthy development of children, youth and their families through positive mentoring relationships.

Hang Out.
**Change
a Life.**
Yeah.
It's That Simple.



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About Us

We're Big Brothers Big Sisters

We believe every child should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential – both as Individuals and citizens – that by doing so, they will not only do well, they will also do good.

We believe that by changing the course of young lives we can in turn be changing the course of a community's future. That it could lead to a reduction in poverty and unemployment, to safer schools and neighborhoods and to a renewed optimism for growth. That it could even lead to change on a broader, more far-reaching scale.

We believe that opening a child's eyes to what is – opens their mind to what could be.

For 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been making a positive difference in the lives of our nation's youth by developing and implementing a wide range of mentoring programs – One-to-one and group programs – for both in school and outside of school.

Serving as role models, our mentors teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, of staying in school and of having respect for family, peers and community. Each time we pair a child with a mentor, we start something incredible – a life changing relationship built on friendship, trust, and empowerment.

Witnessing the transformation of a child into a confident, concerned and motivated young person is a remarkable thing. Ushering them into adulthood, seeing them grow into a successful, responsible member of their community and society at large is even more satisfying. Proudly, it's something our staff, volunteers and donors help bring about every day, and we are very grateful for their generosity and support.

Whether it's in the form of time or money there is no more important investment we as individuals can make than in helping our nation's children realize – and share – their full potential.

We're Big Brothers Big Sisters and we believe in the value and the values of mentoring.



What if ...
every child fulfills his or her potential?

What if ...
every child is set on the right path today?

What if ...
every child in Canada finishes high school,
goes to college or university, gets a job and
gives back to their community?

Wouldn't that be something?



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2016 – A BBBS Grande Prairie and Area ‘Year in Review’

The 9th Annual Ultimate Escape kicked off 2016 and once again the event exceeded everyone’s expectations. All funds raised that evening stay in our community and directly help match children and youth with positive, safe and quality mentors.

In February, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie and Area won the ‘Exceptional Team’ Passionate Heart award for outstanding contributions in the area of social services in the region. We were honored to win and congratulations to the other deserving nominees.

April 9th marked our first annual Curl for Kids’ Sake event. A BIG thank you to the Grande Prairie Curling Centre who hosted the event and truly went above and beyond to make the fundraiser a success. Grass skirts, lei’s and all things Hawai’ian ensured guests were having ‘fun in the sun’. Thanks to the generous businesses who donated great raffle and balloon pop prizes. Grande Prairie Pipe and Drum piped in the kids and local mascots to give the event an authentic feeling.

Quickly summer approached and June was a busy time for our agency. Our family barbecue is a yearly favourite for mentors and families involved with the agency; pouring rain didn’t stop a few brave souls from delicious hotdogs and hamburgers donated by Costco. The annual Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Sale, also held in June, was a perfect opportunity for a ‘Lemonade for Littles’ stand and a sandbox treasure hunt for children stopping by.

Kailee and Denine represented the agency at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada’s National Convention in Toronto. Both returned with great ideas, mentoring best practices and new friends.

We were proud to show our appreciation to this supportive community by hosting a free barbeque at The New Horizon Co-op in July. It was at this event that our very own Vernon Boyd won the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada’s National Alumni Award. We didn’t think we could keep it a secret but somehow we succeeded. Vernon’s Little Brother of 25 years, Matthew, was unable to attend but wrote a letter that was really something special. Our agency was also proud to recognize our Canadian Western Bank branch for their long-term support of Big Brothers Big Sisters in the form of their annual Greater Interest GIC campaign. The event ended as we drew the winning WestJet Cares for Kids



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Summer Getaway Raffle. The lucky winner was in the crowd and more than happy to accept the prize.



August saw Big Brothers Big Sisters participate in the 'End of Summer Block Party' at Evergreen Park. This meant a return of the 'Lemonade for Littles' stand and great visibility for the agency within the local community.

The return of the successful '10 Mentors in 10 Days' volunteer recruitment campaign in September had an exciting partnership with Morguard Properties this year. Prairie Mall and the agency worked together to launch BeYou Girl – a campaign aimed at increasing the self-esteem and self-confidence of young girls; a perfect complement to our Go Girls! Mentoring Program. We were excited to host ten days of diverse and fun events for girls from the community to participate in. The campaign resulted in a lot of fun, some new friendships, the learning of new skills and several new mentor applications.

When September arrived we received two sets of season tickets to the Grande Prairie Storm. Many Bigs and Littles had a great time cheering on the Storm! Two really lucky Littles had the adventure of a lifetime as they went on a free one-day trip to Disneyland compliments of the Air Canada Foundation's Dreams Take Flight program. Magical Memories were created that day!





In October, the United Way's annual fundraising campaign was in full swing and Big Brothers Big Sisters helped out by having a community bake sale which raised over \$500.00. Thank you to everyone who helped us eat all those delicious treats. Another highlight of October was the surprising win by our agency at the 2016 Small Business Grande Prairie Chamber Awards – Big Brother Big Sisters of Grande Prairie and Area won the Employer of Choice Award and we couldn't be more excited. What an honor to be among such high caliber nominees – congratulations to everyone.

In November, Timothy and Amy headed to Banff to attend the three-day National Mentoring Symposium. Hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, the Symposium allowed for great networking with other professionals and new learning that we could implement at home.

The holiday season came up rather quickly and it's a busy time for many of us. The agency's staff, Board members, families, and volunteers once again joined together to sell tickets at the Prairie Mall to help make the Cars for Christmas lottery fundraiser a success. Many volunteers also helped wrap their hearts out at the Prairie Mall's gift wrapping station. A special year-end treat for our agency is the annual holiday party in which gifts, generously donated by the Big Toy Box, Sears and Calendar Club, were handed out by Santa himself. A BIG thank you to some very energetic WestJetters who planned this year's party and really made it a fun afternoon; it was a great way to wrap up 2016.

Matches – They are a BIG deal at Big Brothers Big Sisters and the staff and Board work hard to support each match in the best ways we can. Several new matches were made throughout 2016 including the introduction of an In-School Teen Mentoring program partnership in Grimshaw, Alberta between Grimshaw Junior/Senior High School and Kennedy Elementary School. Six matches were in place for the 2015-2016 school year.





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2016 Statistics Summary

	Matches Made						
	BB/LB	BS/LS	Cross Gender	ISM	ISM Teen	Go Girls	Total
Year Total	6	6	1	23	6	1 group	43

	Children Matched From Waitlist					Children's Applications Approved				
	LB	LS	ISM	Go Girls	Total	LB	LS	ISM	Go Girls	Total
Year Total	6	6	23	4	39	8	8	23	4	43

	Volunteers Matched From Waitlist					Volunteer Applications Approved				
	BB	BS	ISM	Go Girls	Total	BB	BS	ISM	Go Girls	Total
Year Total	5	7	4	2	18	5	10	4	2	21

	Multi-Year Matches				
	BB/LB	BS/LS	Cross Gender	ISM	Total
Year Total	3	7	4	3	17

2016 Financial Statements

The financial statements for the agency are available in a separate document.



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Major Sponsors

Air Canada Foundation	Canadian Tire
Affordable Elegance	Canadian Western Bank
Alberta Lands	Canfor
All Peace Petroleum	Carol and Gordon McLevin
Amy Mohr	Christ Lutheran Church, Sexsmith
Arc Resources	City of Grande Prairie
Aquatera	Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta
ATB Financial	County of Grande Prairie No. 1
Aurora Eye Care	Costco
b.fick Photography	Curry's Jewellers
Bear Creek Golf Club	Delta Lodge at Kananaskis
Better Than Freds	Eastlink TV
Black Stone Mountain Lodge	Encana Events Centre
Big Country 93.1 XX FM	Fairmont Spa
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.	FYI Doctors
Bone and Biscuit	Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club
Builders Electric Co	Grande Prairie Live Theatre



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Grande Prairie Stompede	Hansen Ford Lincoln
Happy Trails RV	Mike Levesque Realty
Health Hut	Morningview Park Golf Course
Holiday Inn & Suites West Edmonton	Mr. Mike's Steakhouse Casual
Holloway Lodging Corporation Inc.	Muttart Foundation
HUB International	New-Horizon Co-op
Huron Resources	Nevada Bob's
Ignite Marketing and Productions Ltd.	Nilsson Construction
Investors Group Financial Services	Nine 10
James Morrison Band	Northern Doors
Jasper Chamber of Commerce	Off-Track Motorsports
Julie Juniper	OK Tire
Keddies Tack & Western Wear	Pasco Maintenance
The Keg Steakhouse & Bar	Pomeroy Lodging
Ken Sargent GMC Buick Ltd.	Prairie Mall
Keurig Canada	Q99
KMSC Law	Recycle Plus
Leonard Brezac	Roch Dallaire



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Madhatters Dine Drink Dance	Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse
McGovern RV	Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre
Scott Mason Chartered Accountant	Tenille
Sears	The Dunes Golf and Winter Club
Servus Credit Union	The Print Shop
SGB Law LLP	Uniglobe Total Travel
Snowy Owl Sled Dog Tours	Unique Home Concepts
Sparkling Hills Resort	United Way
Splatter Paintball	Via Rail Canada
Strasdin Sangha Orthodontics	Westcan Feed and Grain
Stryker Energy Services	Westkey Graphics
Swan City Rotary Club	Weyerhaeuser
Tangled Bobbin	Willsey Davis & Co. LLP
Teepee Creek Stampede	