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Vision

As Canada's leading child and youth mentoring charity, Big Brothers Big Sisters facilitates life-changing relationships that inspire and empower children and youth to reach their potential, both as individuals and citizens.

Mission

We strive to enhance the healthy development of children, youth and their families through positive mentoring relationships. Our Vision is every child who needs a mentor will have a mentor.



2019 Board of Directors

President – Vernon Boyd

Vice-President – Cheryl Weaver

Secretary/Treasurer – Camille McLaughlin

Director – Holly Sorgen

Director – Jesse Arduini

Director – Nicole Markin

Director – Tai Chabot

Director - Katie Kennedy

Director – Gurman Arora (resigned)

Agency Staff

Executive Director – Corinne Patterson (2018)

Community Based Mentoring Coordinator – Tiersa Rast (2018)

Site Based Mentoring Coordinator – Claudia Fuentes (2019)

Community Mentoring Coordinator – Erika Gilroy (2019)

Site Based (ISM) Coordinator – Stephanie Cloutier (2019)



President's Report

Another year has come and gone for our agency. In my thirteenth year as Board President I continue to feel honoured to have the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself. I have come to appreciate that 'life is about people, not stuff.' This statement is more profound now than ever before.

So far 2020 has been a year of upheaval filled with unique challenges. In my lifetime I could never have imagined the altered reality of COVID-19. Will social distancing, online shopping, and Zoom meetings become our new normal? Will we see companies emerge to increased automation? Will grocery stores become the next drive-thru service?

Every business and not for profit agency will encounter challenges with adapting to operating in the new world in which we find ourselves. I envision companies reducing their need for the traditional brick and mortar, as they have discovered the advantages of working from home. I believe not for profit agencies will have to be innovative in their fundraising efforts. One thing I know and am very confident about, is that no matter what lies ahead, our BBBS agency will survive and adapt in these difficult times, just like we have in the past.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the current Board of Directors. In 2019 we were fortunate to be able to replace our resigned Directors with fresh faces and vibrant personalities. I cannot say enough about our current Directors, their new ideas, and the integral role they play within BBBS. They have all shown great passion for this agency and our role in the community. Their support and guidance to Executive Director Corinne, and the staff, has been essential. To our incomparable board members, know your dedication has not gone unnoticed and I THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

THANK YOU also to the frontline staff who make it all happen and keep making it happen during this trying time. Our current employees Erika, Stephanie, Leah, and all our previous employees who have played their part in our agency's success. And of course, the best for last, we cannot forget our amazing ED – Corinne Patterson. Corinne has led this Agency to greater heights the past 2 years and will lead us through these unsettled times!
THANK YOU, Corinne.

Each of you are so committed and truly believe that we can make a difference in the future of the 'Littles' in the program. Because of this, BBBS GP is increasingly



becoming more recognized in our Community which has led to more partnerships and fundraising endeavors. We are constantly receiving new opportunities for raising funds and awareness – Great Work!

We are proud to report, that once again, our major fundraiser, the 12th Annual **Ultimate Escape**, held on January 17, 2020, 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 our generous sponsors and especially our presenting sponsor, New Horizon Co-op and the hospitality sponsor, Pomeroy Lodging. We are looking forward to another successful year!

I would like to take a moment and thank our major funders for their continued support: United Way Alberta Northwest, NTL Pipelines, the City of Grande Prairie/FCSS, The Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta and the Government of Alberta. It is also very important to recognize the following generous supporters: WestJet, Rotary Clubs of Grande Prairie, Mr. Mikes Steakhouse and Canadian Tire.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CANADA NETWORK

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada's national office works in partnership with 100+ accredited agencies across Canada to provide access to quality mentoring programs for diverse populations of children and youth in more than 1,100 communities.

Our facilitator, catalyst, and steward roles include:

- Strategic Planning
- Brand Management
- Quality Assurance/Improvement
- Program Development
- Research and Knowledge Mobilization
- Fund Development
- Marketing and Communications
- Public Policy and Government Relations
- Systems Support

WE NEED TO STEP UP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hundreds of thousands of youth in Canada are facing adversities in their lives.

When exposed to adversities such as violence, poverty, or crime in the home or the community, identity challenges, or mental health issues, these young people risk not having the opportunity to realize their full potential.



This can lead to continuing cycles of poverty, crime, drug use, and unhealthy living. These costs are borne by the young person, and by society. Worse still, facing prolonged adversity creates toxic stress, which can impact childhood brain development.

MENTORING IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Neuroscience tells us that a nurturing, caring relationship with a stable adult is critical for buffering the impact of toxic stress on a child's brain. The common denominator of successful adults who experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is the presence of a mentor. The evidence is clear. When we provide young people facing adversity with a committed mentor, we are decreasing their risk factors and igniting their potential.

BBBS OF CANADA NATIONAL PARTNERS

Chairs Circle \$250,000 +:

Bain & Company – to invest \$1 Billion in pro bono consulting over 10 years

Barkley – connecting brands with modern consumer since 2019

Boston Pizza – since 2013 supported expansion of mentoring

RBC – since 2013 for Newcomer Canadian Youth Program

Westjet- Cares for Kids Program/Mentoring Matters Day/ Youth Day on the Hill

ScotiaBank - \$3.1 Million Donation towards One-to-one mentoring

Presidents Circle \$100,000 - \$249,000:

BMO since 1996-2011 \$750,000 in support of our Go Girls & Game On;

Cadillac Fairview since 2007 in-kind office space for BBBS of Canada;

The Keg Spirit Foundation - long term supporter of over \$1,400,000;

Rogers since 2017 for scholarship fund partner for 20 people annually.

In closing, a huge THANK YOU to all the National Partners for BBBS of Canada.

BBBS of Canada Anti-Racism Statement June 2, 2020

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada is dedicated to supporting life-changing mentoring relationships for thousands of children and youth across the country. Many of the young people we serve and the mentors we support represent communities across Canada that are and have been affected by Anti-Black and Anti-Indigenous racism and the vestiges of colonialism. As an organization dedicated to building Developmental Relationships with young people, we must not stay silent in the face of the tragedies of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, here in Toronto and of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Their deaths highlight the systemic racial injustices



faced by people of colour in America and here in Canada. After years of these injustices, their deaths sparked protests across the country for people standing in solidarity for them and the many who came before them in a call for justice in a system that has thus far been unjust.

We acknowledge that these historical and present racial injustices affect the communities we serve and the lives of children and youth who face societal barriers and adversities. We acknowledge that our communities are showing up for each other and are showing up in solidarity even during the time of a global pandemic. As stated by Dr. Weiston-Serdan, mentoring organizations need to step up to “purify the water and clean the air”, by undertaking systemic advocacy with an equity, diversity and inclusion lens that acknowledges we will never reduce racial inequities with race-neutral approaches. We renew our commitment to anti-racism and to improving the lives of children and youth, especially those from Indigenous communities, from newcomer, immigrant and refugee communities, from Black, African and racialized communities. We are #BiggerTogether.

Thank you,

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

Vernon Boyd
Board President
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie & Area



Executive Director's Report

I am honored to be able to present this report to you from what has been another great year for Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Grande Prairie & Area. This year would not have been such a success without the dedication and hard work of the Board, the staff and all of our wonderful volunteers. Since I first started as a Board Member with the organization 3 years ago, I am still amazed at the dedication of the staff and volunteers.

While we have enjoyed much success in both our fundraising and the growth of our programs, we have also faced challenges too. Filling staff positions and our perpetual search for qualified volunteers has kept us all on our toes! Difficult decisions had to be made to improve the cohesiveness and team atmosphere that we know leads to a more productive team, and I am so proud of the team we have in place now. The positive work environment that we have created in our office speaks to that hard work. We have fun at work and we are helping to change the lives of local youth, what more can we ask for? I would specifically like to thank our Board of Directors for their guidance and support. Thank you for being such great ambassadors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie & Area.

I am very proud of some of the accomplishments of our entire team! The number of youth that we were able to serve in 2019 was the largest number in our agency history. We once again had a record setting year for our 12th Annual Ultimate Escape Fundraiser. This year was sponsored by New Horizon Coop. We also had a great showing at our annual Curl for Kids event in April, thank you to David Crouse and Jesse Arduni from Crouse's Cleaners for sponsoring this fun, family centered day for us. We hosted the 2nd Annual Hayes Fry Law Charity Golf Tournament with much success and Leah and Nathan Hayes Fry have pledged a multi- year commitment to this event out at Bear Creek Golf Club. I would also like to give a huge thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Grande Prairie for their ongoing support.

We are so fortunate to live in a community that values volunteering and 'giving back'. We would be nowhere without the commitment of our valuable mentors and volunteers. On behalf of our Little Brothers & Sisters, we send out a huge thank you to all for you that gave us you time and your compassion.

With Gratitude,
Corinne Patterson



About Us

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 over 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.

2019 – A BBBS Grande Prairie and Area ‘Year in Review’

The 12th Annual Ultimate Escape kicked off 2019 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. This event grows in size and community support each year and we look forward to that trend continuing in 2020 as we brainstorm new ideas to keep the event fresh and the crowd entertained.

April 7th marked our 6th annual Curl for Kids’ event. A BIG thank you to the David Crouse and Jesse Arduini of Crouse’s Cleaners for stepping up to sponsor this family event. We asked curlers to use their imaginations to dress up and we were not disappointed in the results! We had the honor of hearing from Canadian Olympic Curler, Kristie Moore, she did a slide presentation and even brought her Olympic Medal to show the kids. This fascinating presentation included pictures and a first hand account of what it is like to attend the Olympics as an athlete and stay in Olympic Village. Thank you Kristie! Thanks to the generous businesses who donated great raffle and balloon pop prizes.



June is always a busy month for our agency. Our family barbecue is a yearly favorite for mentors and families involved with the agency, another great turn out this year! We also have our Battle Royale at Splatter Paintball on Father’s Day in June, another great fun, family centered event. We cannot forget our summer Westjet raffle, thank you Westjet Cares for your ongoing support.

In July this year, we partnered with Rotary to help out with RIBFEST, we hope this event will continue to grow and become an annual fundraiser for the Agency.



During Big Brothers Big Sisters Month in September, we partnered with Morguard Properties to coincide with their BeYou! girls empowerment project. The week was filled with activities for young ladies including a wood working project night at Home Depot and a sleepover with crafts, specialized games for the girls and breakfast the next morning. The feedback from this collaboration was outstanding, we are hoping for an even better event in 2020 if circumstances allow. The event even resulted in several new mentor applications.



Shout out to the Grande Prairie Storm for providing us again with a set of season tickets for our mentors and their little to use to enjoy a hockey game together.

In September we were lucky to be able to send 2 of our youth on the trip of a lifetime to Disneyland in California sponsored by Dreams Take Flight. The memories made on this day will surely last a lifetime. September & October also saw the kick off of the annual United Way campaign, Big Brothers Big Sisters is grateful to be a recipient of their generous support.

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. This is in addition to the Cash & Camping lottery that we were lucky enough to participate. We also had many volunteers set up to help with the Prairie Mall's gift-wrapping station.



A special year-end treat for our agency is the Christmas Party. This year we were so fortunate to have many local business step up to allow for gifts for all the children in the family. Of course we must thank you Santa Ken again for helping hand out gifts to all our Littles which were generously donated by the Big Toy Box/Q99/Big Country.

2019 Statistics Summary

Community Program

YEAR	VOLUNTEERS			FAMILIES			# OF		Community Based
	INQUIRIES	IN SCREENING	APPROVED	INQUIRIES	IN SCREENING	APPROVED	PRESENTATIONS	MATCHES	
2019									
JANUARY	14	22	1	12	11	5	1	47	
FEBRUARY	14	20	9	12	6	4	0	57	
MARCH	27	22	3	7	7	3	1	59	
APRIL	17	18	5	4	7	0	1	61	
MAY	4	16	2	5	12	8	1	63	
JUNE	3	3	5	2	5	5	1	63	
JULY	5	5	2	3	2	2	1	63	
AUGUST	6	6	1	3	1	1	1	63	
SEPTEMBER	10	4	0	6	8	0	0	61	
OCTOBER	8	5	1	6	1	8	0	61	
NOVEMBER	6	9	3	10	7	7	1	59	
DECEMBER	5	3	3	4	2	2	0	58	

In-School Program

YEAR	VOLUNTEERS			FAMILIES			# OF		Site Based
	INQUIRIES	IN SCREENING	APPROVED	INQUIRIES	IN SCREENING	APPROVED	PRESENTATIONS	MATCHES	
2019									
JANUARY	14	22	1	12	11	5	1	47	
FEBRUARY	14	20	9	12	6	4	0	57	
MARCH	27	22	3	7	7	3	1	59	
APRIL	17	18	5	4	7	0	1	61	
MAY	4	16	2	5	12	8	1	63	
JUNE	3	3	5	2	5	5	1	63	
JULY	5	5	2	3	2	2	1	63	
AUGUST	6	6	1	3	1	1	1	63	
SEPTEMBER	27	27	2	8	28	28	3	52	
OCTOBER	51	51	13	18	18	13	1	49	
NOVEMBER	7	40	34	5	34	34	2	49	
DECEMBER	1	4	37	2	2	14	0	67	



2019 Major Sponsors & Funders

100 Women Who Care
2Day FM
97.7 Rock
Air Canada Foundation
Affordable Elegance
ATB Financial
Aurora Eye Care
Auto Exotic Trim & Signs
BMO Bank of Montreal
BW Berch Concrete
Better Than Freds
Big Country XX
Birchcliff Energy Ltd.
CCSI
Canadian Tire
Canadian Western Bank
Canfor
City of Grande Prairie
Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta
Costco
County of Grande Prairie No. 1
Devco Developments
Doug Marshall GM
Evergreen Park
FYI Doctors
Gas Drive
Gateway Sunrooms & Shades
GP Auto Group
Grande Prairie Live Theatre
Grande Prairie Rotary Club
Grande Prairie Stompede
HWD Construction
Hayes Fry Law
Hammerhead Resources
Health Hut
Holloway Lodging Corporation Inc.
Keddies Tack & Western Wear
Ken Sargent GMC Buick Ltd.
Huron Resources
Ignite Marketing and Productions Ltd.
Investors Group Financial Services
Kaymor Welding
Ken Sargent GM
KMSC Law

Madhatters
McNabb Lucuk Accountants
Meyers Norris Penny
Monarch Homes
Morguard (Prairie Mall)
Mr. Mike's Steakhouse Casual
Nevada Bob's
New-Horizon Co-op
Nitehawk Adventure Park
Northstar Hydrovac
Northern Doors
NTL Pipelines
Off-Track Motorsports
OK Tire
Revolution Place
Pasco Maintenance
Pomeroy Lodging
Q99
Redline Powercraft
Regional EMS Foundation
Remax
RocDog Contracting
Rotary Club of Grande Prairie
SLR Consulting
Servus Credit Union
Seven Generations Energy
Splatter Paintball
Swan City Rotary Club
TD Canada Trust
Teepee Creek Stampede
Tenille
Uniglobe Total Travel
Unique Home Concepts
United Way