



# 2023 Annual Report

## MISSION

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise in youth.



# THE EVOLUTION OF A MATCH

Big, Diane, and Little, Zaria, have been matched for many years. From their first meeting, Diane describes Zaria as bubbly and outgoing and added that she liked to talk about school. Diane quickly found that Zaria was a very capable student. They planned many activities as they began their long relationship.

During the years since their introduction, Diane learned that Zaria was interested in cooking and sewing. They have spent many afternoons baking cookies, which Zaria skillfully decorates. One of Zaria's favorites is banana bread that she proudly bakes and brings home to share with her family. Another afternoon was spent sewing a set of French Seam Pillowcases. Using each of their own handpicked fabrics, they set up sewing machines on Diane's kitchen table and spent the afternoon measuring, cutting, sewing, seam ripping then resewing. The project finished, they each walked away with a beautiful set of handmade pillowcases.

## TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

The Big Brothers Big Sisters experience has truly provided both Diane and Zaria the opportunity to challenge themselves and do things outside of their comfort zones. They have each grown and learned from each other and have given each other opportunities that they would not have had if not for being paired together. Diane volunteered to become a Big because she felt she had the time and skills that a Little would appreciate. She subsequently found that not only was she able to share her skills and time, but Zaria has been able to push her to try new things.

Zaria convinced Diane to participate in a tubing event at Stratton Mountain. She hesitantly had the tow machine drag her to the top where the starting position was. Looking down the mountain, Diane admits that she briefly questioned her sanity, but jumped on and followed Zaria. They both screamed at the top of their lungs down the mountain. Thrilled, they went again and again until they were both too tired to continue.

## LIFE CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS

*"I have seen us both grow through this experience and match. We have both pushed ourselves to try new things. Some were easy and some were challenging, but between the two of us, we overcame our fears and learned to trust in each other. I think back to navigating the local corn maze last fall. The maze consisted of many stations with challenging questions to be answered in order to provide the correct path to the finish. As an adult, I trusted in a teenager to think through the questions and figure out the answer. We exited an hour later, having conquered the maze and building our bond a little stronger.*

*This match has shown me that one person can truly make a change in a person's life. We have both learned, grown and appreciated this match. 'What was the best part of your day' was a question I had to answer for Zaria at each of our meetings. A question initially asked out of curiosity but, eventually, with a true interest in the answer." - Diane, BIG*



# 2023 Statewide Impact

# BBBSVT needs you to serve more youth!

## Program Highlights

6,288 Volunteer Hours 26 Months Avg. Length of Match

In 2023, we served more children than in recent years - 131!

It cost us on average \$1,500 to make and support EACH mentoring match in 2023. There is no cost to families or volunteers. We rely on the support of foundations, individuals, and businesses.

By partnering with parents, guardians, volunteers, and others in the community, we are held accountable for each child in our program to achieve higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships, avoid risky behaviors, and attain educational success.

## Financial Highlights

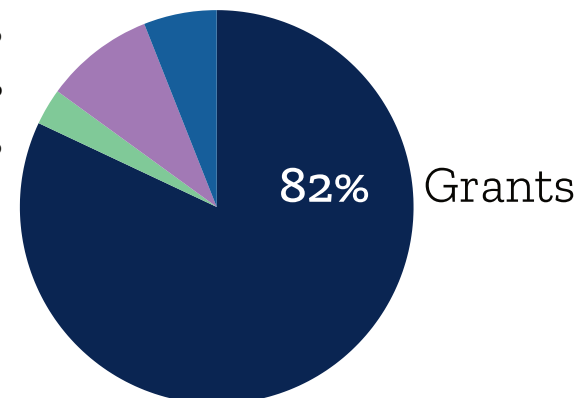
### Contributions

### 2023 Recap

- 98 Individual Donors
- 28 Business Donors
- 3 Monthly Donors

#### DONATIONS

Corporate 6%  
 Individual 9%  
 Towns 3%



You know someone who could be a great mentor. There are more than 150 youth on our waiting list seeking a mentor and nearly 75% are boys. With the number of volunteer inquiries down since the pandemic, we need mentors now more than ever to meet the rising demand.

## Myth-Busters Age, Training & Time

Did You Know that nearly 15% of our mentors are 60+? Empty nesters make some of the best Bigs! At BBBSVT, a mentor can be 18 or 88 and everything in between.

All BBBSVT volunteers receive pre-match training. Volunteers are fully supported by a professionally trained staff member for the duration of their match including: regular check-ins and communication, guidance through certain scenarios, ongoing training opportunities, additional support resources, and referrals to other organizations.

Do you spend four hours each month enjoying the outdoors, going to sporting events, fishing, making crafts, or visiting the library? Then you have the time to mentor! Matches spend time together for a minimum of four hours a month during times that work best for them enjoying activities of their choosing within their local community. BBBSVT also offers regularly sponsored activities for matches to try something new.

Not sure mentoring is right for you but still want to help? Consider supporting our mission through our Impact Circle with a monthly contribution of your choice. The Impact Circle members provide sustainable revenue upon which we can rely to provide more Vermont youth with mentors. By joining the Impact Circle, your regular monthly contribution helps Vermont youth achieve their greatest potential.



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