

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin Summary

Number of employees: 16

Number of volunteers: 500

What is your Mission Statement?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. Since 1972, communities in Northeast Wisconsin have been enriched by Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?

Contributions are our largest source of funding. Approximately 35% of our entire agency's budget comes from contributions.

What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?

We serve the entire county.

Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.

Mentoring changes lives. A caring adult can support the potential that lives in every child by simply being present, listening to their stories, supporting them through challenges, and encouraging their dreams. Our program operates within two models: the community-based model and the site-based model.

Community-based matches spend time together in the community doing activities they both enjoy. Each match develops and cultivates a unique relationship that empowers Littles to navigate life's challenges and celebrate personal success. Littles enrolled in our site-based mentoring program receive the same life-changing benefits as in our traditional program, but instead of meeting in the community, matches meet at a consistent time and place throughout the school year. Each match partakes in the Youth Outcomes Development Plan. Agency staff develop a development plan at the start of the match and use the plan as a guideline to coach the match toward desired outcomes. Staff must review the plan annually with match participants to assess progress made and make any necessary adjustments. Our program has significant outcomes and is a desirable program for families in our community.

In addition, all matches are welcome to join REACH activities. REACH provides our mentoring matches with structured activities that meet critical youth development competencies in five areas: Recreation, Education, Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement, and Health.

How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?

Big Brothers Big Sisters is serving some of the most vulnerable youth in Door County. These are youth with incredible potential but face significant challenges.

In 2022, our agency served 89 youth in Door County. We provide mentoring services to these youth through community-based mentoring and site-based mentoring. Within our community-based model, matches enjoy activities in the Door County Community. Our site-based mentoring takes place at a child's school, within the school day. Our agency provides site-based mentoring to Southern Door Elementary, Southern Door Middle School, Sunrise Elementary, Gibraltar Elementary, and Gibraltar High School.

In 2022, our matches made the following improvements:

- 90% of youth in the program indicated that they plan to finish high school and have career/secondary education plans after they graduate.
- 25% of youth reported significant improvements in relation to depressive symptoms. 58% reported slight improvements in depressive symptoms after spending a year with their Big.
- 67% of youth reported a significant improvement in their overall life satisfaction after spending a year with their Big.
- 15% of youth reported significant improvement in emotional regulation while 75% indicated slight improvements. Youth shared that they are able to relax when they feel tense, they can control themselves when they get angry, they can keep their feelings from getting out of control, and they can make themselves feel better when worried.
- 100% of youth indicated that their Big is an adult they can trust and is someone who cares about them.

The Role of Risk study, which also involved a number of Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies among other providers, determined that not only could mentoring programs provide meaningful services to youth with serious mental health needs and other elevated risk factors but that the strongest and most consistent finding for participating youth was a reduction in their depressive symptoms.

Mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based practice and, uniquely, is both a prevention and intervention strategy that can support young people of all demographics and backgrounds in all aspects of their lives. Even when trained properly, mentors can deliver effective light mental health interventions – which has important implications when there is an unprecedented need for mental health support for youth.

What is your annual budget?

\$88,900

If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?

A donation from 100+ WWC would be used to support our current matches and provide deeper case management, and recruit, train, and support new matches in Door County within our community and site-based model. Particularly creating new matches in Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, and Gibraltar School District.