

Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report January 2022

Participants:

- # of School Based Matches - 0 - but will start program at 3-4 schools soon (COVID pause)
- # of Community Based Matches - 51. Waiting List - 59 (recently updated)
- # of Work Place Mentoring Matches - 0 (COVID pause)

Program Highlights:

- Because we have received no indication from the schools that we partner with that we can resume in-person programming at their facilities, we have shifted our focus to servicing students through remote programming. C.A.S.E. - (Collaborative. Academics. Social. Enrichment.) is a project that is being spearheaded by school-based mentor manager William Gore that will offer on-line academic/social enrichment, collaborative learning and skill development activities. Students from several schools that we typically partner with have been invited to join in. Sessions will be led by William once a week, generally for 1 hour. All participants will be closely monitored by William and qualified assistants to ensure safety and quality.
- We continue to have a steady flow of volunteers coming to us through the volunteer app. We are also getting a fair number of applications for littles.
- Plans for a winter carnival in March, a fishing event in May and a 2nd annual giant kickball game in June are being reviewed at this time.
- We are pleased to announce the addition of Todd Arnold to our Advisory Council. Todd has previous experience in BBBS during his time spent in Michigan and is currently a big in our program. Welcome aboard, Todd.

Upcoming Events:

- Advisory Council Mtg. Tuesday Feb 15th at 5:30. Zoom

Success Story:

Bonnie Belcher, long-time school based mentor manager in our program, passed away unexpectedly in mid-December. Bonnie was with PEACE Inc. BBBS for 16 years and was truly passionate over her work with her bigs and littles. She spent most of her BBBS time working with schools located in some of the most challenged neighborhoods of CNY. Bonnie treated all of her students as if they were own and in many cases she had worked with older brothers and sisters in previous years. The families of her clients trusted her wholeheartedly and generally regarded her as a “go to” person when they were in need of food, clothing and school supplies. She worked tirelessly for her kids and spent

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many hours, above and beyond what she logged onto her time sheet, preparing program activities and snacks. Bonnie was at her best when working with those kids who came from the most disadvantaged circumstances. She was a champion for those who did not have much...of anything. Her presence will be sorely missed, not only within the confines of our BBBS office, but throughout the Syracuse community and within the schools that she was so committed to.

Even though we are sad not to have Bonnie in our lives any more, her work and what she has accomplished in these 16 years is to be celebrated. We will always remember her for her devotion to our program and her students and will do our very best to continue the level of excellence that she has achieved.

This is truly a success story.