



# ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
OF SOUTH HURON

# WHAT'S INSIDE

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESS

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Last year, I focused my report on reminding us all of why we are here. Why we work so hard, why we are so passionate and why we believe in the value of mentoring. I would like to reiterate and remind us all of that again this year. We can easily get caught up in the day to day of planning the next fundraiser, applying for grants, answering e-mails, training new volunteers, supporting our families, planning programming, ensuring every Little that needs it has a gift under their tree on Christmas morning, etc. etc. (the list is truly endless). This AGM report will show you all we have accomplished this past year, I don't need to summarize that for you, that work is already done. What I'd like to focus on is why do our amazingly dedicated staff do all of this and why do our volunteers choose to give their time to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron.

Here is my why, here is the need: mentorship ensures that every child gets an equal opportunity to realize their full potential. We base our work around the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets (DAs) framework. The DAs are 40 research-based, positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development, helping them to become caring, responsible and productive adults. After all, they are our future! The more assets that young people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to thrive and reach their full potential. For over 100 years, the Big Brothers Big Sisters movement has been championing the health and wellbeing of youth. We step in to help prevent the physical and mental effects of adverse childhood experiences. We ensure that youth ages 6 to 18 are supported by caring adults, helping them to do better in life and build resilience – physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and academically.

Supportive Relationships + Skill-Building Opportunities  
+ Positive Experiences = **Resilience**

I would like conclude by Thanking our amazing, dedicated and flexible staff. We would not be where we are today without them! This year we have grown so much with the success of grants, that we have doubled our staff! Double the staff, means double the reach. Each staff member within the Agency, and within The Little Shop go the extra mile to make sure we reach the need listed above. I continue to feel truly fortunate to have such a hands-on Board of Directors supporting the work that we do; your vision and guidance continues to help us grow and help us make a difference – Thank You! Finally, Thank You to our incredible crew of volunteers (71 in 2023 to be exact) for giving their time and energy to help tie it all together. Every role within this Agency compliments each other. I want you all to realize the impact that your time gives.

You are all helping to make us #Bigger**Together**. Thank You!

*Amy Wilhelm*

Sincerely,  
Amy Wilhelm (she/her)  
Executive Director



# BOARD PRESIDENT ADDRESS

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To the BBSSH Community,

It's hard to believe another year has passed, and we are reflecting back on 2023 and all of the amazing work and impact created by our staff, volunteers and board members. This was another year of complexity and change for our organization, but one that has brought us even further in providing mentorship programming for young people in our community.

The biggest change in 2023 was the growth of our staff! Through granted dollars, we were able to grow our team this year to include a volunteer coordinator and a fund development coordinator. These roles have been instrumental in expanding our impact and reaching more people in our community. Stronger support for our volunteer community has been a focus for this year, as staff develop new ways to engage our community and make our organization a top choice for people looking to give back. Fund development has also been a key to our success. BBSSH receives minimal program-specific government funding, so the overwhelming majority of our operating dollars must come from grants, fundraising and community donations. The creation of a formal fund development strategy will ensure our sustainable success for years to come.

From a program perspective, 2023 was a year of continued growth. Requests for service continue to increase year over year, and group programs like Big Bunch and Go Girls! are being offered in more communities than ever before. This work is the foundation and focus of what we do – connecting kids to positive mentorship relationships and helping them to foster their own potential and prosperity. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that the programs we offer kids in our area are inclusive, safe, and reflective of our community. We cannot thank them enough for their ongoing commitment to our vision for positive change.

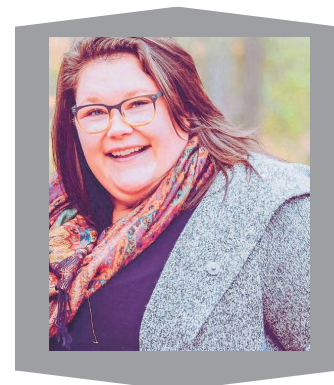
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who believes in and supports the work that we do every year. Our amazing Littles, Bigs, staff, program and Little Shop volunteers, community partners, funders, donors, and our broader community – thank you! We wouldn't be celebrating 45 wonderful years of service without the support of each and every one of you!

Forward in prosperity to 2024!

With Thanks,



Lauren Beer (she/her)  
Board President



# OUR MISSION AND VISION

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## Mission

We enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the **power** and **potential** of young people.

## Vision

All young people realize their full **potential**.

# OUR CORE VALUES

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# OUR SERVICE AREA

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron provides service to Ailsa Craig, Bayfield, Brucefield, Centralia, Clinton, Crediton, Dashwood, Egmondville, Exeter, Grand Bend, Granton, Hensall, Holmesville, Huron Park, Lucan, Parkhill, Seaforth, Vanastra, Zurich and surrounding areas.

# WE IGNITE POTENTIAL



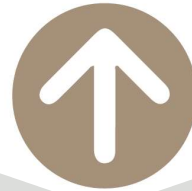
204

Number of youth served in our mentoring programs



71

Number of volunteers supporting our mentoring programs



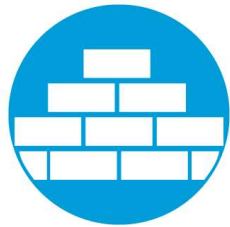
23:1

Every \$1 invested in our programs, \$23 goes back into the community.

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



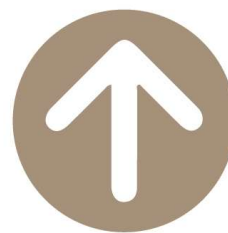
Increase our Impact



Increase Revenue



Increase Programming



Increase Staffing



Increase Brand Awareness

- 1** *We believe* that every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a healthy and safe environment.
- 2** *We believe* that collaboration between staff and volunteers in service delivery allows us to help young people and their families in limitless ways.
- 3** *We believe* in a mindset of maintaining the highest standards; and a constant pursuit of impact allowing us to drive creativity in the design of new and meaningful mentoring programs.
- 4** *We put forth* our commitment to do better for young people by serving the local community and ensuring our programs reflect it's diversity.

# THE POWER OF THREE

Potential is everywhere! We're stepping up today to support this potential, so that together, we can shape the community of tomorrow.

South Huron may be small but our vision is **BIG**: That all young people realize their full potential.

Our plan is clear: The Family, The Organization, The Mentor.

These are the three players that come together to forge a new path forward. We stand together now, because we know the simplest acts create the biggest impact. These acts can empower potential everywhere!



## IGNITE POWER AND POTENTIAL

Big Brothers Big Sisters works with young people in our community who are in need of an additional consistent developmental relationship.

Many young people struggle with societal barriers and face adversities in their lives like poor living conditions, family violence, risk factors for mental health, school issues and identity challenges.

These circumstances have nothing to do with the value of who they are or who they can become, but because of these situations, they risk not having the opportunity to live up to their full potential.



# THEORY OF CHANGE



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters

## OUR MISSION

To enable life-changing mentoring relationships to **ignite** the power and potential of young people

## WHO DO WE SERVE?



Young people who face adversity AND are in need of an additional consistent and supportive Developmental Relationship<sup>1</sup>

## HOW DO WE IGNITE POTENTIAL?



- » By intentionally recruiting based on the needs of a community's young people
- » By matching young people with a professionally screened volunteer mentor
- » By monitoring and supporting that match with a professional caseworker
- » By training and supporting the mentor, the mentee and the family
- » By building a Developmental Relationship between the mentor and the mentee that: Expresses Care; Challenges Growth; Provides Support; Shares Power; and Expands Possibilities
- » By graduating the match relationship towards natural support

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT?



Young people graduate our programs with measurable outcomes:

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE

- » Relationship skills
- » Social awareness
- » Responsible decision-making
- » Self-management
- » Self-awareness

### MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

- » Positive identity
- » Mental wellness
- » Social inclusion & empowerment

### EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT READINESS

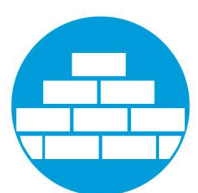
- » School connectedness
- » Commitment to learning
- » Enhanced constructive use of time

<sup>1</sup> "Developmental Relationships Framework" © 2018 Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN. [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

# THEORY OF CHANGE

## OUR VISION

All young people realize their **full potential**





# MATCH HIGHLIGHT

## Meet Linda and Brooklyn

I have been a Big Sister to Brooklyn for 4 1/2 years. I reached out to BBSSH after a friend told me she had a Little Sister as well and she found it very rewarding. I was looking for something to give my life more purpose after my husband died.

Brooklyn and I enjoy each other's company. Some of the activities we do together are...getting ice cream together every week (it's become a tradition), baking, taking my dog Moose on walks, visits with my dog to the local nursing home, planting a garden and playing games (like UNO, Go Fish and Tenzi). Most recently we went together to different businesses to get birthday cards signed for a lovely lady who turned 105 at Queensway. Brooklyn also got about 100 cards made by children at her own school.

When I asked Brooklyn how the 2 of us have grown during our time together, she said, "we've got older and celebrated birthdays together" :) I think the longer we've known each other, it's easier to talk about different things. We have shared many conversations about her family and mine.

I am grateful for Brooklyn and consider her part of my family.

~Big Sister Linda



WE IGNITE  
POTENTIAL



Matched since  
October 2019

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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**We Offer:** Traditional Mentoring, In-School Mentoring, Big Bunch and Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

**Be A:** Big Brother, Big Sister, Couples for Kids, Big Family, In-School Mentor, In-School Mentor Co-op, Big Bunch Volunteer or Go Girls! Volunteer

**Get Involved:** Board Member, Fundraising Committee or Little Shop Volunteer

204 LITTLES SERVED

61 VOLUNTEERS

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10 BIG BROTHER/LITTLE BROTHER MATCHES

22 BIG SISTER/LITTLE SISTER MATCHES

3 CROSS GENDER MATCHES

10 IN-SCHOOL MENTORING MATCHES

19 IN-SCHOOL MENTORING CO-OP MATCHES

111 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN GO GIRLS!  
HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS

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17 LITTLE BROTHERS WAITING

15 LITTLE SISTERS WAITING

---

44 BIG VOLUNTEERS

9 BOARD MEMBERS

8 FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS

10 LITTLE SHOP VOLUNTEERS

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[SOUTHURON.BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA/VOLUNTEER/](https://southhuron.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/volunteer/)



# SERVICE

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## 39 BIG BUNCH SESSIONS OFFERED

10 SCHOOLS SERVICED WITH GO GIRLS! HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS

17 LITTLES EXTRA CURRICULARS SUPPORTED

## 78 BACKPACKS PROVIDED TO YOUTH

47 FAMILIES/131 YOUTH RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

# FUNDRAISERS

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## WINTERFEST SOUTH HURON

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE

THE LITTLE CRAFT SHOW

SMILE COOKIES (GRAND BEND)

EXETER'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

HARVESTING HOPE

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

HOLIDAY SMILE COOKIES (EXETER, GRAND BEND AND PARKHILL)

## 3RD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

- ALOETTE (DIANNE BIGGAM)
- AMDSB CHRISTMAS LUCHEON
- AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION DRESS DOWN DAYS
- COMMUNITY DINNERS WITH TRIVITT ANGLICAN CHURCH
- EXETER FAMILY DENTAL BBQ
- EXETER LIONS LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS
- KAYAK NIGHT (SUSAN HAYTER-RIDDELL)
- PIN-UPS
- ROBINSON'S CHEVROLET
- SAVE A TAPE (HANSENS)
- SEXSMITH AIRPORT CORN ROAST 50/50
- YARD SALES (JACK AND SULLY YOUNG, SHEONA BAKER)
- 100 PEOPLE WHO CARE

[SOUTHURON.BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA/EVENT/](http://SOUTHURON.BIGBROTHERSBIGSISTERS.CA/EVENT/)



# THE LITTLE SHOP



June 2023  
The Little Shop  
celebrated  
**4 years in business!!!**

Selling gently used children and teen clothing, toys, equipment, books, games and more! Newborn up to size 16, including maternity

All proceeds raised through The Little Shop support the programs and services offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron



332 Consignors  
in 2023



 THE LITTLE SHOP  
 THELITTLESHP\_SH

# BOARD AND STAFF



Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron has a group of dedicated individuals who work both front line and behind the scenes to ensure we do our best for the young people and their families in South Huron and surrounding areas. Thank you to all those who believe in our mission and what we do in our communities.

## BOARD



**PRESIDENT** Lauren Beer  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Dianne Biggam  
**TREASURER** Anna Tangelder  
**SECRETARY** Brenda Winhold  
**Director** - Tracey McPherson  
**Director** - Gar Penhale  
**Director** - Katelyn McClure  
**Director** - Stephen Troyer  
**Director** - Melanie Miller

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Amy Wilhelm  
**Mentoring Coordinator** Meghan Hartman  
**Volunteer Recruitment** Laura Ross  
**Fund Development** Sarah Harron  
Angie Steckle  
**Summer Student** Cassie Schwartzenruber  
**The Little Shop co-manager** Carolyn Gower  
**The Little Shop co-manager** Laura Hull

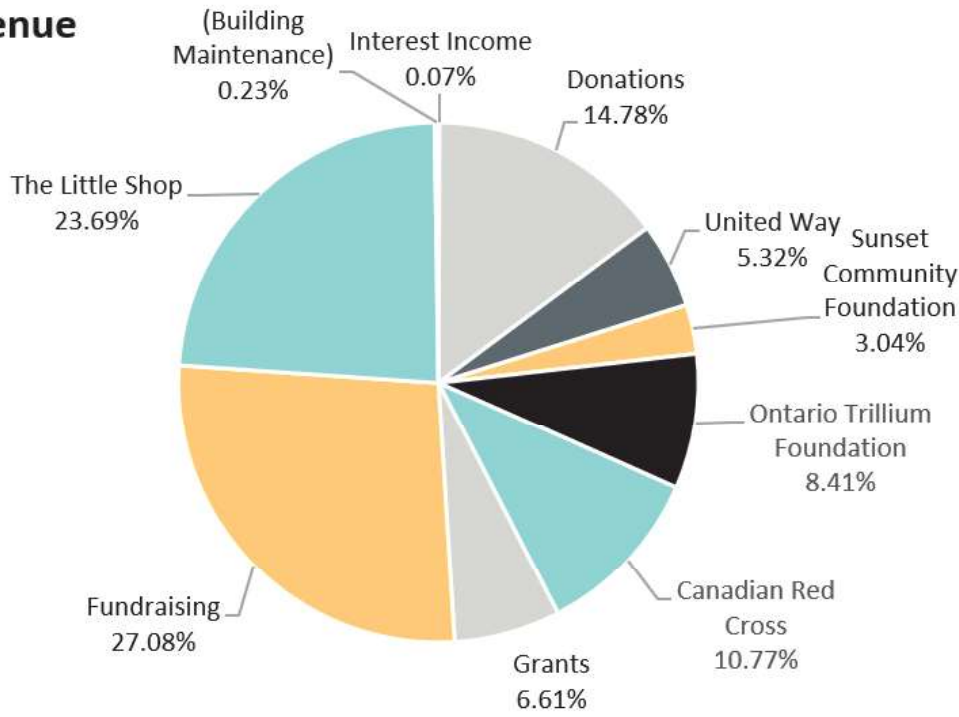
## STAFF



# FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE



## Revenue



2023  
Revenue



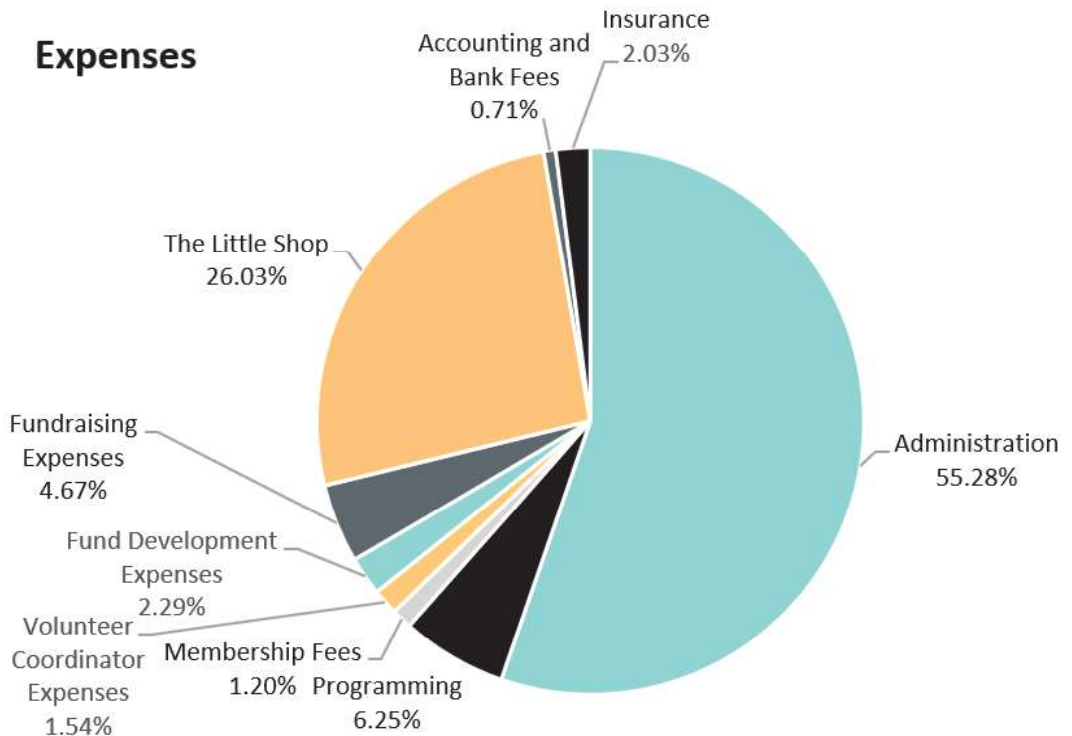
45%  
from 2022

## Expenses

2023  
Expenses



50%  
from 2022



# STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SOUTH HURON**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES**  
 See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

| For the year ended December 31         | 2023              | 2022              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                         |                   |                   |
| Donations - community                  | 48,348            | 33,603            |
| Donations - in memory                  | 296               | 2,058             |
| United Way                             | 17,529            | 18,200            |
| Sunset Community Foundation grant      | 10,000            | 10,000            |
| Ontario Trillium Foundation grant      | 27,700            | -                 |
| Canadian Red Cross grant               | 35,437            | -                 |
| Other grants                           | 21,746            | 14,701            |
| Fundraising - Bowl for Kids            | 13,762            | 8,433             |
| Fundraising - Harvesting Hope          | 27,093            | 17,108            |
| Fundraising - other                    | 48,262            | 29,466            |
| The Little Shop consignment store      | 77,963            | 74,945            |
| Reimbursement for building maintenance | 762               | -                 |
| Forgiveable portion CEBA loan          | -                 | 20,000            |
| Interest income                        | 250               | 472               |
| <b>Total revenue</b>                   | <b>329,148</b>    | <b>228,986</b>    |
| <b>Expenses</b>                        |                   |                   |
| Program Support                        |                   |                   |
| Wages                                  | 148,172           | 98,425            |
| Travel                                 | 4,662             | 3,279             |
| Professional development               | 86                | -                 |
| Volunteer resource                     | 2,577             | 911               |
| Public relations                       | 901               | 959               |
| Activity fund                          | 3,959             | 4,440             |
| In school mentoring                    | 1,431             | 231               |
| Big Bunch                              | 6,401             | 4,787             |
| Go Girls!                              | 4,337             | 2,157             |
| Camp                                   | 2,067             | 2,040             |
| Parent/Child/Volunteer                 | -                 | 2                 |
| Office supplies & postage              | 5,813             | 6,887             |
| Membership & fees                      | 3,999             | 2,892             |
| Telephone/fax/internet                 | 4,210             | 1,420             |
| Rent                                   | 15,956            | 7,200             |
| Utilities                              | 2,312             | 2,197             |
| Building maintenance                   | 1,557             | 902               |
|  | <b>208,440</b>    | <b>138,709</b>    |
| Volunteer Coordinator                  |                   |                   |
| Administration                         | 2,712             | -                 |
| Equipment                              | 1,868             | -                 |
| Travel                                 | 624               | -                 |
|  | <b>5,104</b>      | <b>-</b>          |
| Fund Development                       |                   |                   |
| Administration                         | 2,595             | -                 |
| Software                               | 2,244             | -                 |
| Office equipment and supplies          | 2,445             | -                 |
| Travel                                 | 323               | -                 |
|  | <b>7,607</b>      | <b>-</b>          |
| Fundraising                            |                   |                   |
| Bowl for Kids                          | 1,774             | 946               |
| Harvesting Hope                        | 4,950             | 3,786             |
| Other                                  | 8,782             | 4,050             |
|  | <b>15,506</b>     | <b>6,782</b>      |
| The Little Shop expenses               |                   |                   |
| Consignor payouts                      | 40,467            | 31,306            |
| Store expenses                         | 383               | 481               |
| Wages                                  | 32,465            | 30,453            |
| Advertising                            | 182               | 960               |
| Office supplies                        | 1,004             | 1,421             |
| Interest and bank charges              | 325               | 278               |
| Utilities                              | 2,312             | 2,197             |
| Telephone/fax/internet                 | 585               | 967               |
| Rent                                   | 7,200             | 7,200             |
| Building maintenance                   | 1,557             | 839               |
|  | <b>86,480</b>     | <b>76,102</b>     |
| Other expenses                         |                   |                   |
| Insurance                              | 6,746             | 6,496             |
| Accounting                             | 1,533             | 1,873             |
| Interest and bank charges              | 819               | 482               |
|  | <b>9,098</b>      | <b>8,851</b>      |
|  | <b>332,235</b>    | <b>232,444</b>    |
| <b>Surplus (deficit) for year</b>      | <b>(\$ 3,087)</b> | <b>(\$ 3,458)</b> |

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Each year, the South Huron and surrounding community proves that mentoring matters to them. Opening their hearts and supporting the programs at Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron has allowed our programs to continue to grow, evolve and expand to meet the needs of our community.

## *A Big Thank You goes out to our supported partners*

Funded by the  
Government of Canada's  
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada



Ontario

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



SUNSET  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



a Supported Partner of  
**United Way**  
Perth-Huron

## Thank You to the following Businesses for your financial support

Albert Street Dental Clinic  
Becker Power & Leisure Products  
Cobblestone Design Inc.  
Exeter Family Dental  
Gaiser Elliot Insurance  
GC Financial Solutions Group  
Hay Communications  
HMS Insurance & Financial Services Inc.  
Hyde Brothers Farm Equipment Ltd.  
Masse Market  
MTS Environmental Inc.  
Quadro Communications Co-operative  
Smith-Peat Roofing and Sheet Metal Ltd.  
TCC Communications  
Tim Horton's - Grand Bend

Axiom Mutual Insurance Company  
Canadian Tire - Exeter  
Dashwood Diner  
Forever Furniture Galleries  
Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Limited  
Gregus Millwork Ltd.  
Hansen's Your Independent Grocer  
Huron Tractor  
Kenpal Farm Products  
Miller Plumbing and Electric  
Premium Transportation  
Robinson's Chevrolet  
Sutton Group Small Town Realty Inc.  
Tim Horton's - Exeter  
Tim Horton's - Parkhill

Unifor Local 2458

## Thank You to the following Service Clubs and Churches for your financial support

A.B.A.T.E. - South Huron Chapter 7  
Blessings Community Store  
Centralia Faith Tabernacle  
Dashwood Men's Club  
Exeter Lions Club  
Independent Order of the Oddfellows Lodge #67  
Lebanon Forest Lodge  
Optimist Club of Kirkton Woodham  
Precious Blood Catholic Women's League  
Royal Canadian Legion - R E Pooley Branch 167  
Seaforth Lions Club  
South Huron Vitality Fund

Beta Theta Sorority  
Catholic Women's League  
Clinton Kinette Club  
Dashwood Seniors  
Hensall Legion Branch 468  
Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council No. 7  
Optimist Club of Clinton  
Optimist Club of Lucan  
Rotary Club of Grand Bend  
Seaforth & District Optimist Club  
South Huron Optimist Club  
Thames Road Elimville United Church

Trivitt Memorial Anglican Church



## Thank You to all the businesses who donated prizes/provided discounts to the following fundraisers and events

Activity Card for our matches

Exeter's 150th Birthday

The Little Craft Show

Bowl for Kids Sake

Harvesting Hope

## Thank You to the following for your Community Support

AI Chiropratic Health and Wellness

Avon Maitland District School Board

BDO Canada LLP

DollarTree

Egmondville United Church

Exeter Produce

Hayter's Turkey Farm

Huron Perth Catholic District School Board

Journey Haven

London Catholic District School Board

Maple Leaf Fresh Foods

MyFM

Noah's Ark/Exeter Pentecostal Tabernacle

Schwartzentruber Music Services

Sexsmith Airport

St. John's by the Lake Church

The Barn Restaurant and Pub

Toys for Tots

White Squirrel Restaurant

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Bayfield Library

Clinton Library

Donnelly Café

Exeter Lakeshore Times Advance

Havasu Coffee

Huron County Foodbank Distribution Centre

JOLT Fitness

Lambton Kent District School Board

Lucan Library

Municipality of South Huron

No Frills

Salvation Army

Seaforth Library

Sobey's

Thames Valley District School Board

Town and Country Bowling Lanes

Track 21 Graphix

Zion Lutheran Church

Zurich Library





Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron



bbbs\_southhuron



@BBSSouthHuron

<https://southhuron.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>