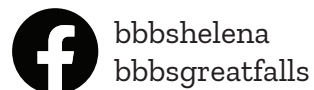




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SEEKING NEW MATCHES!

We have the capacity to serve up to 25 more Matches right now!
Do you know a child that could benefit from an adult mentor?
Are you interested in serving as a mentor?
Contact us today to find out more!



HELENA

January 29 & 30,
and February 5

GREAT FALLS

March 5-7

We will be adhering to all health dept protocols to ensure a safe and enjoyable event! Look for details soon on our webpage and Facebook!

NEW FOR 2021 - SKI FOR KIDS' SAKE

Similar to BFKS- so grab your buddies, wax those skis and start FUNdraising!
Stay "tuned" for details!

DUELING PIANOS

FEBRUARY 27 - HELENA



Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel
Tickets on sale Dec 1! Check the Events tab on our Facebook page @bbbshelena for details and updates!



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

A message from Executive Director/CEO, Jesse Mahugh:

We have set high expectations for our organization for the next three years because we are passionate about our work and have a strong belief in our mission. Our new strategic plan focuses on three key areas. First, we want to serve more youth and focus on having high quality matches. Second, we want to build upon the strength and unity of our organization. And finally, we are focused on securing sustainable funding that will allow expansion to meet the needs of our community. Our program is too important to suffer a funding crisis.



Our mission is to create and support mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. In the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 37.6 percent of high school students in Cascade County reported feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing usual activities. Over 22 percent seriously considered suicide. In Lewis and Clark County, the results were 42.3 and 28.9 percent, respectively. There are many young people in our community who could use a mentor.

Our program impacts youth by providing them with a mentor that helps them navigate a broad spectrum of risk behaviors and factors including suicide, delinquency, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and school dropout. Our evidence-based programs build social and emotional support, confidence and resilience that help to ensure young people are college and career ready and have a healthy physical and mental wellbeing. During the pandemic, our program is more important than ever. Our matches continue to meet in person and virtually while following safety guidelines and we continue to make new matches.

Here are two ways you can help:

- First, consider becoming a Big yourself. It takes an hour or two per week and helps ignite potential for your Little. Enroll in our Community Program and do activities like hiking, baking cookies, or meeting for hot cocoa. Or enroll in our new eMentoring Program and offer help virtually with academics, college, and career preparation while developing a mentoring connection with your Little.
- Second, look at the giving options in this newsletter and become a monthly or annual donor. By helping us build sustainable support, you will make a substantial impact on the future of this community.

Thanks for all you do, *Jesse*

Jesse Mahugh was previously Executive Director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County where he helped double the organization's budget and staff and served on the Nationwide Leadership Council with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.



Ways to Give - Planned Giving

Contact Development Coordinator Kelly McDermott at 204-7403 or kelly@bbbs-helena.org for more details on all the ways to give.



There are many ways to give to a charitable organization, and each can have significant tax benefits depending on your goal. By planning ahead, you can make a gift that could reduce your tax burden, or that of your heirs. Here are a few ways you can make a planned gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Please speak with your financial advisor before making any decisions.

Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70 ½ years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA. For married couples, each spouse can make QCDs up to the \$100,000 limit for a potential total of \$200,000. Individuals over 72 are subject to a required minimum distribution, so this provides a way to satisfy that requirement and possibly avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and/or prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions.

Donating Retirement Assets

Donating an IRA or other retirement assets to Big Brothers Big Sisters can be a tax-smart estate planning strategy. Leaving an IRA to an heir could trigger a significant tax bill for them, but leaving it to your favorite non-profit alleviates that problem.

Leave a Bequest

Charitable bequests can combine philanthropy and tax benefits. Bequests are gifts that are made as part of a will or trust. Anyone can make a bequest—in any amount—to an individual or charity. Bequests can be simple—"I give \$10,000 to BBBS"—or complex, with conditions about how the gifts can be used.

Donate to our Endowment Fund

Make a planned gift to our endowment fund through Montana Community Foundation, and you could save up to \$10,000 on your taxes on a qualifying gift! Please contact your tax advisor or the Montana Community Foundation for details on the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

Ways to Give - Monthly Giving

Ready to set up a monthly or a one-time donation? Please visit www.bbbs-helena.org/get-involved!

Not ready for a big commitment? That's okay! 90% of our individual giving comes in small donations, and every donation is important! One way to spread out your donation and still make a big impact is to commit to a monthly donation. You can set up a reoccurring donation from your credit card on our website, or we can help you start one from your bank account. Of course, you can always mail a check to our office!

Colleen K. Brady was our beloved leader at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena & Great Falls for seven years (2012-2019). Colleen dedicated her life to kids and Defending their Potential. She was a force of nature, a fierce proponent for kids, and a fearless leader for Big Brothers Big Sisters and our community. Colleen's



last bequest was a \$25,000 gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena & Great Falls, and we would like to honor her investment in BBBS by matching her gift.

We have created a campaign to match her bequest with donations from the community. Please visit our campaign page at www.bbbs-helena.org/colleenbrady for more details on donating online. You can also mail a check our office at 1434 N Roberts, Helena, MT 59601, and please note Colleen K. Brady Matching Gift in the memo line.



Match Profile - Jaxson and Josh & Jen

An interview with half of a Great Falls Big Couple, Josh Cinq-Mars



We have been matched with Jaxson for about 9 years now and it has been an absolute blast. I heard Tina (Hoebelheinrich), the director of BBBS Great Falls at that time, speak at the Chamber of Commerce in Great Falls in 2011. After that, Jen and I met with Tina and she mentioned being a Big Couple. With both Jen and I being in the military, we thought that the Big Couple idea would work great because then even if one of us were to be deployed, the other could still hang out with our Little Brother. So we did the application and the rest is history.

When we met Jaxson he was so excited! I always remember how surprised he was that BOTH my wife and I were going to be his Bigs. When we first started to hang out, it was just fun. He was an active kiddo and Jen and I liked being busy, being outside and being active so we just started to include him in our activities. Everything from fishing, to hiking, to hanging out at the house with our pups was just more fun with Jaxson around. It has been amazing to see him grow in the young man he is now. We have seen his self-confidence grow, his respect for others and he is truly a caring and kind young man. We look forward to seeing what the future has in store for him as I am sure it is bright!

We get to see Jaxson usually at least once a month. As he has gotten older and busier this has gotten a bit harder to catch up to him but we make it work. COVID has definitely put a damper on our activities over the past year. With the initial lockdowns, we did not attempt to meet up just for safety for the first few months. But as we have gotten more accustomed to the restrictions, we were able to catch up with him and hang out at the house, play catch, cook a little and goof around.



For all the potential Bigs out there, I would say this: Do not overestimate the time commitment needed to be a great Big; at the same time, do not underestimate the positive impact that being a Big can have on you and your Little. The way BBBS matches Littles and Bigs includes matching interests, so when you get paired up you do not have to reinvent yourself or what you do, you just now get to include a Little in the activities you already enjoy and through those activities you will be able to positively influence and support that young person's life.

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING!

Some of our Littles submitted their handiwork at home!

