

Winter 2019

# The BIG NEWSLETTER



# MATCH ALERT



'Big' Aaron and 'Little' Zachary are celebrating their first year together. They enjoy many activities: soccer, going to the batting cages, going to the park, Laser Tag and being creative at Crock A Doodle. Zach says that his Big is a "10", and Aaron always looks forward to his visits with Zach. We think that these two are a great match!



New matches generously supported by:



'Big Sister' Colby and 'Little Sister' Lara hit it off right from the start. During their initial meeting, Colby and Lara found out things that they had in common with one another, such as food, music and games. They were eager to start planning their first outing as Big Sister and Little Sister. Lara has been waiting for the perfect Big Sister and seems to have found that in Colby. Colby is looking forward to sharing her activity ideas with Lara, and Lara is excited to teach Colby how to make slime and how to draw. Here's hoping the slime experiment goes well! A special **THANK YOU** goes out to the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** for supporting our Traditional Program expansion project, which helped to make this match possible.

## A BIG thank you to our BIG BOOST Monthly Donors!

The matches above are only possible through the generous contribution of our community including our Monthly Donors. You play a large part in helping the children and youth of our community to develop into self-confident, emotionally strong and socially-responsible adults.

To become a monthly donor, visit:  
<https://clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/monthly-giving-program/>

## We Believe in the value of MENTORING.

That is why we are always looking for new volunteers, especially BIGS! If you have a few hours each week to ignite the potential of a young person through one-on-one mentorship, please consider becoming a BIG with our agency!

To start the application process, please email:  
[kids.clarington@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:kids.clarington@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

# STORY FEATURE

## Kaiela and Skylar It's not just a match anymore.... It's a friendship.

Kaiela, a caseworker with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington the past three years, couldn't begin to fathom the connection she would build with her Little Sister until she experienced it first-hand.

"The emotional connection is something that can't be described," says Kaiela of her match with Skylar. "I knew going in to this program that I could potentially have an impact on a youth, and that they could potentially have an impact on me, but I did not realize to what extent.

"Sky has become a part of my life, and will be for a very long time."

Initiating and monitoring matches both through the in-school and traditional programs are the staples of Kaiela's day to day routine at the BBBS office in Bowmanville. When the time was right, she made the



decision to go from one side to the other. Instead of doing the administrative work, she found herself filling out an application to begin the process of becoming a Big Sister.

It was a natural progression considering her background and personal attributes.

"I have always been the type of person that has wanted to give back, help others, and help whenever and wherever I could. When I first started working for the organization, I realized very quickly how many children and youth were in need, and still are in need, of a mentor.

"Through discussions and interactions with our amazing matches, it gave me a better sense of what the program was about and the impact that it could have," she recalls.

"I always had a feeling that I wanted to give back in a bigger capacity, but wanted to make sure that the time was right for me, and that I could fully commit to a program. I submitted my application, was matched with Sky just over two years ago, and we have been together ever since."

Kaiela was matched with Skylar in 2017, and it has been a tremendous success for both. They have enjoyed a wide range of activities together including dog walks, swimming, playing mini-putt and bowling, to name just a few. There has also been some cooking, baking, making bracelets and tie-dye shirts. They've been to the movies, Toronto Zoo, Cobourg Beach, apple picking, hockey games, a fishing derby and walk-a-thon.

Skylar has little trouble listing off the benefits of her relationship with Kaiela.

"You get to try new things, you get to go places with your Big Sister, you have fun, they listen and they take all your stress away because they make you laugh," she says.

Skylar has become part of Kaiela's extended family, affectionately referring to her parents as 'Momma Bear' and 'Poppa Bear' when she attends get-togethers.

"Our friendship and connection will continue to grow as the years go on, and as we start to experience new things and hit different milestones in our lives," notes Kaiela. "We are both looking forward to what the future has in store."

Where do they go from here? Well, there's a lot left to accomplish. The two are making plans for this year and beyond.

"I see Sky and I growing closer, experiencing new things together, and am hopeful that we will continue to have communication with each other years after she graduates from the program," says Kaiela. "We have made plans for me to attend her graduations, when she goes to get her driver's license, and we have already figured out how old I am going to be when she turns 18."



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## BBBSC REBRAND

By now, you have probably noticed the rebranding efforts that BBBSC has recently undergone.

This past September, all Big Brothers Big Sisters across the nation embarked on a journey of transformation — a reimagined brand that would unify all BBBS agencies across Canada. This would be a brand that would speak to, and inspire, the current generation of dynamic and vibrant young people.

In line with the rebrand, there was also a shift in strategic direction. With this shift came a new mission statement:

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

The way we are achieving this is through the power of three— the family, our organization, and the mentor. These are the key three players who walk with the young person, through life's joys and hardship, and ignite their power and potential, helping them to forge a new path forward.

Keep your eyes out as we continue to roll out our new branding and direction through our programs, events and other endeavors.

## SAVE THE DATE

### **Bowl for Kids' Sake**

February through March 2020 (February 22, 25, 29 and March 3)

Newcastle Community Hall

### **BIG 3-on-3 Road Hockey Tournament**

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Clarington Boulevard, Bowmanville

(outside of Clarington Central Secondary School)

### **Spring Food, Wine & Beer Festival**

Saturday, May 30, 2020

Newcastle Community Hall

Follow us on social media!



[www.clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://www.clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

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