

Spring 2020

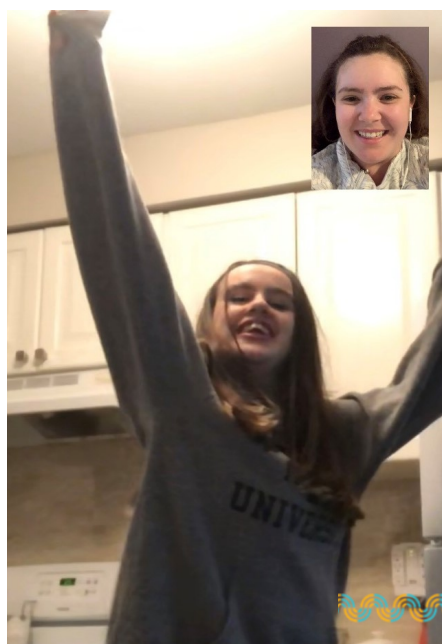
The **BIG** UPDATE



COVID-19 UPDATE

For many, these times are filled with worry and uncertainty. We at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington want to extend our best wishes to all of our supporters and their families as well as everyone who is working to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The safety and wellbeing of our Littles and their families, Bigs, volunteers and staff is our first priority. As of March 13th, we closed the office, shifted gears and began the task of learning to work and run programs remotely to ensure that our young people who need us now more than ever can count on the support of their mentor and the agency. We are encouraging our matches to establish 'digital nearness' by continuing to connect through virtual tools during this time of isolation. This has taken shape in the form of video calls, playing online games together, and participating in outdoor adventures. Check out some of the cool things our matches and Littles have been doing.

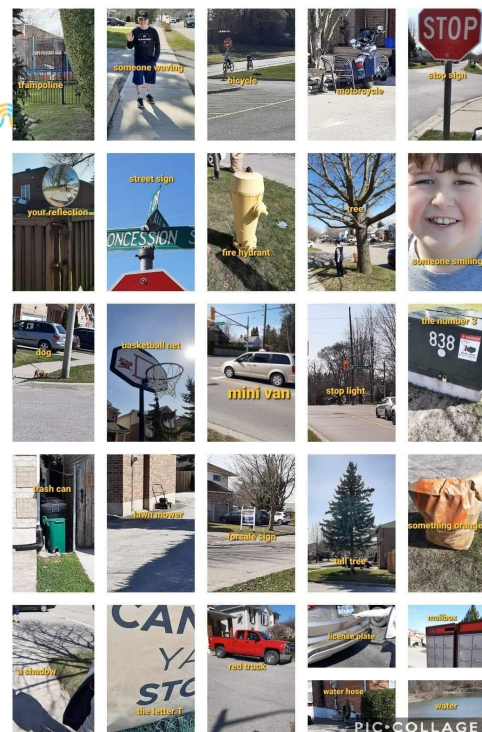


'Big' Chantal and 'Little' Elleena have been matched for nearly two years now. The quarantine measures certainly have not stopped these two from having great conversations over their weekly video call. From time-to-time, they even have furry, four-legged guests making appearances in their video chats. While they haven't seen each other in person for a few weeks, they are still making sure to connect with one another during these uncertain times — it's lead to a much needed distraction for both. They have even discussed their plans for future virtual hang outs including playing some online games and doing a craft or two over video chat.

The agency has been using its social media channels to keep our families and supporters up-to-date. It's also been a great place to share some fun activities to do, such as word searches and photo scavenger hunts.

'Little' Drake and his brother Dylan, stepped up to the challenge with one of our posted photo scavenger hunts. Between the two of them, they found a whopping 27 items from the list.

Way to go boys!



MATCH ALERT



'Big' Mack and 'Little' Mitchel are celebrating their first year together thanks to the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, who has helped make this match possible. Mack and Mitchel have developed a great bond over their time together and are looking forward to many more adventures in the future.

Over the last year, they have participated in the agency's bubble soccer event, have been bike riding, gone to see movies, have played pool, been hiking, out to watch Oshawa Generals' games, and have played laser tag just to name a few.

In one of their most recent adventures, these two went snow tubing! Mack is hoping to be able to take Mitchel to a Raptor's game, and Mitchel is hoping that he can get Mack to kiss a fish in the upcoming year. Congratulations and all the best in your next year together!



Celebrating 1 year matched!

New matches generously supported by:

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



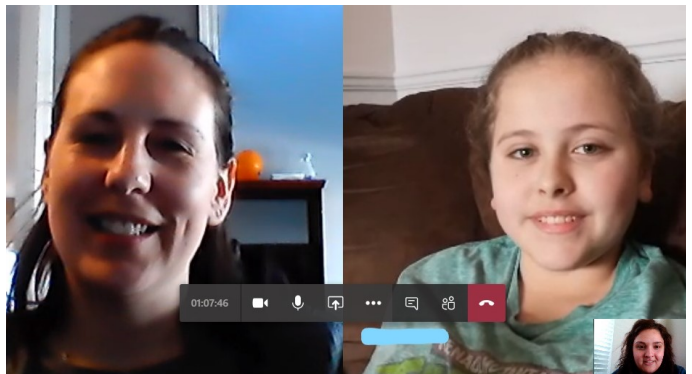
Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

Meet our Newest Match!

We are proud to announce our first virtual match made between 'Big' Rebecca and 'Little' **Alyssa!** Rebecca and Alyssa originally had their introduction meeting scheduled at a time when concerns around COVID-19 were starting to heighten. Due to the safety and the wellbeing of all parties involved, their match introduction was postponed. Who would have thought their introduction would happen virtually! These two were very open to the idea of meeting each other virtually, as they were both eager to start this new journey together as Big Sister and Little Sister. Both ladies are looking forward to building a strong and lasting bond together!

They are also excited for the day when they will finally be able to meet in person. Hopefully they don't have to wait too long!

We need each other more now than ever, and we are honoured that we could bring these two together during this difficult time. Congrats and best of luck on your new journey together as Big Sister and Little Sister!



A BIG thank you to our BIG BOOST Monthly Donors!

The matches mentioned 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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Due to COVID-19, the highly-anticipated community events that many of you attend in May and early June as a way to support our organization have been affected.

BIG 3-on-Road Hockey has been **POSTPONED**. We are working on confirming a new date for sometime in the late summer. Please stay tuned for an announcement at a later date.

Spring Food, Wine & Beer Festival has been **POSTPONED** until next year. We look forward to Spring Food, Wine & Beer Festival in 2021!

Online Fundraising Ideas

With the postponement of our spring events, we ask that you consider supporting us in simple but alternative ways, such as 3rd party events that can be done from home or participating in our clothing drive (see below).

Some ideas include:

• **Dance-a-thon** • **Exercise challenger** • **Movie marathon** • **Virtual paint night**

For more information contact us at kids.clarington@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.



BBBSC Clothing Drive

Are you currently spring cleaning?

If so, please consider donating to our clothing drive happening late summer/early fall. 100% of the proceeds will benefit our agency. Starting the last week of April we will begin collection in a **safe** and **contactless** manner. We will arrange a date and time for drop off at our office (23 Scugog St. in Bowmanville) and one of our staff members will be by shortly after to bring the bagged items inside.

How the Clothing Drive works:

- Contact us at 905-623-6646 or by email at chantal.penrose@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca to arrange a drop-off time with us
- You will drop off your gently used items (including clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, toys/games, sport goods, and small household items) at the **BACK** of our office and place your bagged items in the designated bin
- A staff member will be by shortly after to bring the bagged donations inside
- All donated items will be dropped off at Value Village (once it is safe to do so) and they pay us for every pound of goods collected, with all profits going back to BBBSC

Follow us on social media!



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington

23 Scugog St., Bowmanville | www.clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
Phone: (905) 623-6646 | Email: kids.clarington@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca