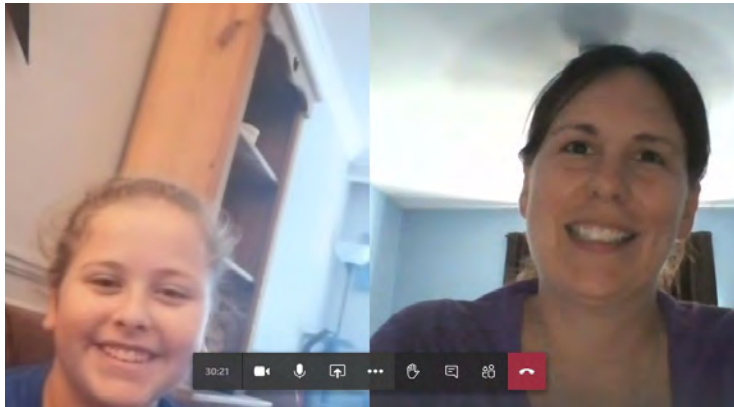


THE **BIG** UPDATE

NEWSLETTER



MATCH ALERT



Do you recognize this Big Sister/Little Sister match? They are the agency's first virtually created Community-based match!

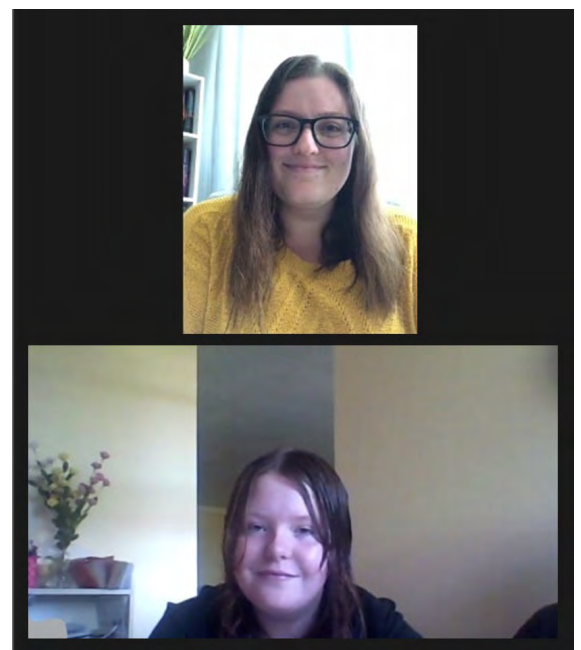
Big Rebecca and Little Alyssa are celebrating six months together! During their virtual meetings, Big Sister Rebecca and Little Sister Alyssa will make playdoh, watch movies, bake, colour, and play Yahtzee together.

Little Sister Alyssa came up with a goal that she would like to accomplish with her Big Sister before their first annual review together, and Big Sister Rebecca agrees. Little Alyssa would like to go out for ice cream with her Big Sister's family and her family. What a beautiful goal to work on together! Congratulations to this unique and creative match!



Celebrating **BIG** Milestones

Big Colby and Little Lara are celebrating their **first year** together! Before COVID-19, these two would paint rocks, go bowling, have attended the CNE and have gone to an Argos game, they would play board games, would go to the park, go on walks, geocaching, make slime, and bake and cook. Since COVID-19, these two have connected via FaceTime and have made time capsules, have made notes on each other's favourite songs, and have painted. Big Colby and Little Lara are looking forward to their next year together and are planning on going camping and visiting Lara's cottage. Wishing these two a **BIG** congratulations on this milestone!



A BIG thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making these matches possible!

DC/BBBSND RESEARCH PROJECT

A BIG thank you to our Bigs, Littles and their families who provided data to an important research project.

Once again, members of our "BBBS Clarington Family" have proven to be good neighbours, by answering a call for assistance. BBBS of North Durham had partnered with Durham College to complete a research project about COVID-19 and its influence on our matches.

Bigs, Littles & their families were asked by the research team to share their lived experience about virtual mentorship and social isolation. The outcomes from this research will help all of us to enhance virtual mentorship and support our Bigs and Littles to maintain strong, healthy matches.



ISM GOING STRONG...VIRTUALLY



Virtual In-school Mentoring has been growing slowly every week and it's been great having more schools and parents asking for applications to our programs! We currently have nine matches and both mentor and mentee look forward to their weekly one-hour virtual meetings. The meetings consist of online games, baking, science experiments and so much more!

Both Virtual Game On and Virtual Go Girls will start in November and the mentors are prepared, excited and ready to start facilitating. Mentors and mentees have embraced this new way of staying connected and it's great to see how well everyone has adjusted to this new way of mentoring!

BBBSC COVID-19 RESOURCES

With COVID-19 becoming top of mind for many of us these days, we have felt an increased need to create an online hub for our community that contains important resources on how to support and educate your children, yourself and your family about COVID-19.

Our Resources & Activities Hub can be found at the top of our home page. It contains resources on mental health & wellbeing, family resources and general information about COVID-19.

The hub also contains a section with some fun activities that matches can do virtually and families can do together. Be sure to check it out (and remember to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds)!

<https://clarington.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/resources-activities/>

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH

In September, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington celebrated *Big Brothers Big Sisters Month*, a month-long campaign highlighting all the ways volunteers and donors support the over 500 children we serve.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Month recognizes the critical importance of mentoring relationships, especially now, when our commitment to young people and the essential intervention service we provide is being challenged like never before.

We would like to take a moment to thank our amazing volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their time in guiding our agency, mentoring a child or assisting us at our many fundraisers throughout the year.

From our Bigs and In-school Mentors to our Board Members and Community Ambassador volunteers, we would like to recognize and send a BIG thank you your way!

We would also like to thank our donors, especially our monthly donors for their ongoing support in helping to ignite the power and potential of a young person.



ONLINE CHRISTMAS AUCTION

We are excited to announce our first Online Christmas Auction happening from December 1 to December 5, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, many of our highly-anticipated events of 2020 have been impacted or postponed. This includes our annual Gala which highlights and celebrates the important work we do in our community year-round. As a result of



the pandemic we have reimagined this year's Gala, and for the first time ever it will be going virtual! This event will include testimonials, great stories, musical performances and more! Traditionally, our Gala has an auction component, but this year it will be a standalone event.

We have a great line up of auction items for you to bid on, just in time for Christmas!

Please stay tuned for more details on how to access the virtual auction and the items that will be included in the auction lineup.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

Virtual Gala—November 7, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Due to the pandemic, we will be celebrating Gala virtually this year! Join us on **Saturday, November 7, 2020** for our virtual video Gala that will highlight and celebrate the work we continue to do through testimonials and great stories. We will also have musical performances and familiar faces appearing throughout. Our Virtual Gala will premiere on Facebook & YouTube at 7 p.m. on November 7. We are encouraging people to support our Virtual Gala by becoming a **VIP Virtual Gala Donor**. For a minimum donation of \$20, you will receive a tax receipt and a thank you gift hand delivered to your door. For more information, email chantal.penrose@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.



BIGGER TOGETHER 50/50 RAFFLE

From September 16 to October 16, BBBSC participated in hosting an online raffle with 38 other BBBS agencies across the province. We were able to raise a grand total of \$357,580. The winner (Jaime N. from Lindsay) walked away with a cool \$178,790. Through this online raffle we were able to raise nearly \$4,000 for our agency. We are hoping to run 50/50 raffles on an ongoing basis. Check out our social media and website for updates on future raffles and maybe you'll get lucky (all while helping a good cause)!



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

Follow us on social media!



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington
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