

THE **BIG** UPDATE NEWSLETTER



MATCH HIGHLIGHT



Big Brother, David, and Little Brother Liam, have been friends since their match began in January, 2020. They enjoyed a couple of months of awesome, in-person activities and "getting to know you" time...then Covid arrived! David has persisted in the best ways, to keep in touch with Liam. Amber, Liam's mom, has supported the match 100% too.

Liam is eager to get back to his favourite things: playing soccer with David at the park, meeting with David's family and playing with David's dogs. These two friends are committed to their match and no global pandemic is going to stop them!

THANK YOU to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making our traditional matches possible!



ISM: STAYING CONNECTED

Our Virtual In-School Mentoring (ISM) program continues to grow. As we all continue to adjust to new ways of connecting virtually, our matches are doing the same. Although at times it can be tricky to find activities to do together, our mentors are connecting and engaging with their mentees through a variety of engaging activities such as drawing, writing stories, playing virtual board games, going for virtual "walks", watching movies together, cooking, baking, playing online games, (just to name a few)!

Moving the program to a virtual platform has not only allowed our

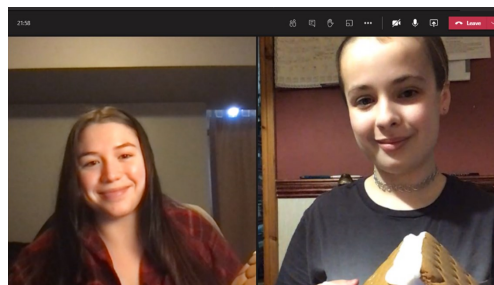
matches to stay connected, but it also allowed more connection to our families. A successful mentoring match happens when everyone supports and encourages the match and works together. We just want to thank everyone for their flexibility and patience with technology in getting the matches started!

We have had the privilege of making some amazing matches this year so far, and here is some feedback on how things are going so far:

"Mentee is excited each week for her mentoring and whatever activity they are doing. She enjoys the conversations and feels very comfortable. The mentor has been on time every week, has planned activities and I often can hear them chatting and laughing. I think it has been a very positive experience for Mentee. I think it is what we were looking for to help Mentee feel more comfortable, build confidence and have someone to confide in. They have done dream boards, origami animals, played games online." "I think you did a great job matching and I think the Mentor is amazing."

"We are extremely happy with the match up. Mentee absolutely loves her time with her Mentor she looks forward to her Mondays so much. I wouldn't Change a thing. Mentee is so happy and it's helped so much to bring her spirits back up. Her surprise package she got was the highlight of her week. So to say we are pleased is an understatement. Thank you so much for making this pairing."

We look forward to seeing what activities our matches come up with as they continue to stay connected!



A BIG thank you to the Ministry of Education & United Way of Durham Region for making these in-school matches possible!



CLARINGTON COMMUNITY GIVES BACK

Our Littles recently received an awesome surprise gift, thanks to a team of Community Donors, organized by Danielle Magvas. To say that these gifts were "well received" all around is an understatement.

As we delivered them, we would let families know that we had left a gift on their porch, or in their lobby, etc. In a very short time, a text or an email would arrive back to us. The Littles were so excited and grateful, and by extension, so were their guardians. Some sent pictures of the child with all of the "loot" spread around them; we got "thumbs up" emojis, heart emojis, care emojis and so many expressions of thanks! Many commented on the amazing assortment of items in the box, and the high quality of each one.



Danielle and her friends accomplished their stated goal, which was to show our Littles that they matter, and that during a pandemic we all have challenges, including children and youth. Danielle and her group of donors have let them know that we think of them; we see them and we honour them!

The fantastic response that we have had from this lovely gesture, is the most positive, appreciative and gratifying in a very long time. The group's timing was perfect; their generosity is overwhelmingly huge and their kindness and Community Care are exemplary!! It's one of the best acknowledgements for our Littles in which we've had a small part.

**Thank you, Danielle and your many friends
who donated, for bringing a bit of joy during these tough times!**



MOVE FOR KIDS SAKE

Due to COVID-19, BBBSC shifted its focus from Bowl for Kids' Sake and placed the spotlight on our newest fundraiser, **Move for Kids' Sake!**

From February 16th to March 31st, 2021, our agency partnered with other BBBS agencies across Ontario to get our province moving. We challenged our supporters to get active in support of Clarington's youth.

Participants were encouraged to pick an active goal and create a fundraising goal. For example, you could skip for one minute for every \$10 you raised.

For this fundraiser, our long-time supporter and MC extraordinaire, Willy Woo, braved the cold to complete a polar bear dip in support of BBSBC!

Through the support of participants like Willie and the generosity of our event sponsors, we were able to raise just under \$13,000!

WAY TO GO!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Rally for Restaurants

June 1 to August 31, 2021

For this year, we will be running **Rally for Restaurants** in lieu of our annual Food, Wine and Craft Beer Festival. Rally for Restaurants is a 2-month long event in which supporters can purchase passports which become your ticket to amazing discounts at local eateries around Clarington. Passports will be available for purchase (\$10 each) at select restaurants and through our office. For more information, please visit our website for more details or email our Event Coordinator, Brad Kelly at brad.kelly@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca to purchase your passport!

BBBSC Spring Clothing Drive

Date to be determined (mid-late June)

Our **Spring Clothing Drive** is back for another year! If you have gently used soft goods (such as clothing, shoes, linens, towels) you would like to donate, please email chantal.penrose@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca or call (905) 623-6646 to arrange a drop-off at our office.

Golf for Kids' Sake

June 23, 2021

Our **Golf for Kids' Sake** fundraiser has returned for another great year out on the greens! Enrol a twosome or foursome and join us for a day of golf at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Resort in Ajax. To enrol a team or sponsor our event, please email Brad Kelly, Event Coordinator at brad.kelly@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

April 17-24, 2021 marked the annual National Volunteer Week in which organizations across Canada take the time to thank and celebrate the wonderful volunteers that make our country a better place.

Our volunteers are no exception! BBBSC volunteers truly are the beating heart of this agency. Without our wonderful volunteers (including mentors, community volunteers and board members) we could not provide the life-changing programs we offer to the young people in our community. We appreciate all you do in igniting the power and potential of our youth in Clarington.

THANK YOU!

BIG LITTLE PANEL

On May 20, 2021, our board members were treated to an inspiring panel discussion from a few of our Littles and Bigs. The panel included long-time Big Brother Dennis, Big Sister Chantal & Little Sister Elleena (currently matched) and Big Brother Steve & Little Brother Colt (match graduated from program a few years ago). Our Bigs and Littles spoke about what their match means to them, what activities they enjoy doing together and how their match has evolved throughout the years. It provided the Board with a solid understanding of how this program directly impacts the lives of our Littles and Bigs.

We would like to give a big thank you to our wonderful panelists, and we look forward to watching these matches continue to flourish in the years to come!

Become a BIG BOOST Monthly Donor.

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 process of becoming a volunteer mentor, please email us at:
kids.clarington@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Follow us on social media!



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington
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