

Fact Sheet

Headquartered in York, with an office in Gettysburg, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York & Adams Counties serves more than **300 youths each year**.

Vision: All youth achieve their full potential.

Mission: Build and support one-to-one relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for youth.

Accountability: by partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community we are accountable for each child in our program achieving:

- Higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational success

Core Programs

- **Community-Based Mentoring** – traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters one-to-one mentoring, a few hours a couple of times a month.
- **SMART (Students and Mentors Achieving Results Together) School-Based Mentoring** – one-to-one mentoring that takes place at school.
 - Central York - Hayshire, Sinking Springs
 - Gettysburg - Franklin, James Getty, Lincoln, Middle School
 - York City - McKinley, Devers, Hannah Penn
 - York Suburban - East York, Indian Rock, Yorkshire

Impact

In 2009, Harris Interactive conducted an online survey of alumni Littles from across the nation. Among those former Littles:

- 77% reported doing better in school because of their Big.
- 90% said their relationship with their Big helped them make better choices throughout their childhood.
- 86% said their relationship with their Big has helped them make better choices throughout their adult life.
- 90% agreed their Big made them feel better about themselves.
- 86% agreed they lead a fulfilling life.

Local Outcomes

Of Littles enrolled in the Community-based Program...

- 78% improved academic performance
- 67% avoided risky behaviors
- 85% built healthy relationship skills

Of Littles enrolled in the School-based Program also known as the SMART Program

- 79% improved academic performance
- 78% maintained satisfactory school attendance
- 73%% improved or maintained a positive attitude toward school or learning

Organization

- BBBS York & Adams is an affiliate agency of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. The national organization sets and measures program standards, assists in fundraising and volunteer recruitment, and provides funding opportunities to its affiliates.
- The local agency has a board of Directors made up of 20 business leaders from York & Adams Counties, which determines local objectives, provides governance and fiduciary responsibility to the agency.
- The agency is a partner with both United Way of York County and United Way of Adams County. Both the Community-Based Mentoring Program and the SMART School-Based Mentoring Program are funded by both local United Ways.
- Major fundraisers include: Bowl for Kids' Sake (March/April), Andrew Wagman Memorial Golf Tournament (August), York Turtle Derby (August), White Rose Run (September)
- The SMART School-Based Mentoring program is approved for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.

History in Brief

National: Big Brothers Big Sisters' roots date to 1904, when Ernest Coulter, a New York City court clerk, established Big Brothers to match caring adults with young people who were getting into trouble. At the same time, members of Ladies of Charity were befriending girls who had come through the New York Children's Court. That group would later become Catholic Big Sisters, and subsequently, Big Sisters International. These groups worked independently until 1977, when Big Brothers Association and Big Sisters International joined forces and became Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Big Brothers Big Sisters International was founded in 1998, and now serves children in 12 counties worldwide.

Local: Big Brothers Big Sisters of York & Adams Counties evolved from the Volunteers in Service to Youth (VISTY) which was founded in 1974. Affiliation with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America was sought in 1980 and was approved in March 1981 as a program under the umbrella of Catholic Charities. The program changed its name from VISTY to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Catholic Charities in order to take advantage of the national public relation efforts. In January 1990, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York County, Inc. was formed as an independent agency no longer under the auspices of Catholic Charities.

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