

# 2011



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region

September is  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Month



Thank you to our Volunteers

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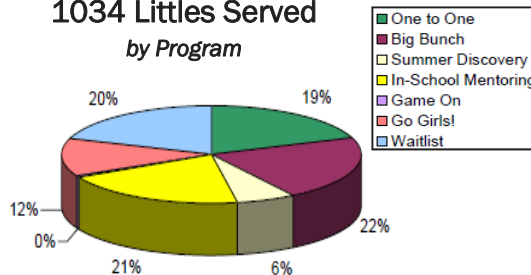
## We've Started Something Big

It's hard to believe that this July marked the first anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region. It has been a very busy and exciting year - one that has shown us that by working together we can provide children in our region with more opportunities. Our communities have embraced our vision and with their help we are forging new partnerships. Likewise, the guidance and commitment from our Board of Directors and the passion and enthusiasm of staff drives our mission work. We have indeed started something BIG!

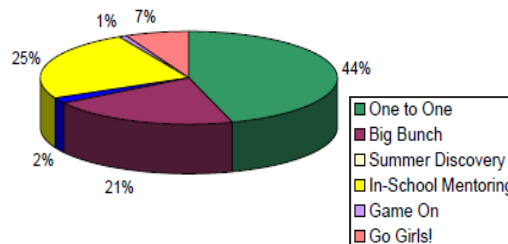
*Reflections from Gert Hartmann, CEO*

### Annual Report 2010

1034 Littles Served  
by Program



455 Volunteer Mentors  
by Program



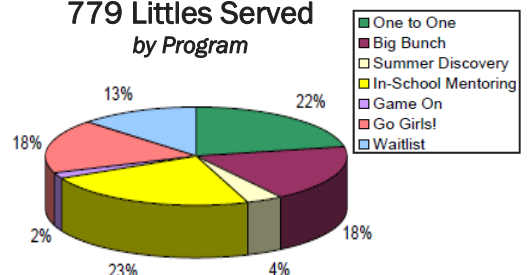
### Here We Grow

The merger has added strength to the services we provide. Our programs have seen significant growth in the past six months.

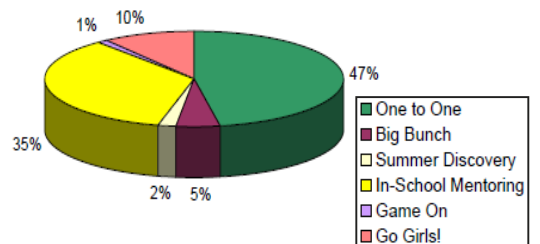
Moving forward, we are committed to being truly community based. Partnering with organizations throughout the Region will afford greater access to our programs and staff. This will allow more children to be supported in ways that help them reach their individual goals.

### 2011 Six Month Report as of June 30, 2011

779 Littles Served  
by Program



377 Volunteer Mentors  
by Program



### Strategic Vision

In 2010 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cambridge and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo & Area merged to become Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region. With the amalgamation of the two agencies, we are confident that we can better meet the needs of the children in our Region. It shows our community that lines on a map are not a deterrent to doing what is best for kids.

Help children live their potential

## Community Companies Care



**Strassburger Windows & Doors** have been supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters for several years and we are honored to be a part of this wonderful organization. The service that Big Brothers Big Sisters provides to many children in our community is very important. I know that the relationships these children develop with the great volunteers makes such a lasting and positive impact on them. It is not only at the time they are children but as they mature and grow they take these experiences with them. It is this kind of care and support that will continue to build and shape our youth and our community and for that we are honored to support and be a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters.



**Investors Group** is a company that cares about more than the bottom line. We have been a proud supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area for the past 3 years. Thank you Big Brothers Big Sisters for another reason why our community is the place to be.



**Heffner Motors:** The work and support that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region provides children in our community is invaluable. We are proud to sponsor organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters that foster growth and development in both the children it serves and the volunteers that work with them. This is truly an organization that is making a difference in the lives of those around us.



**Century Group** has been a proud supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region for many years. We are active participants in Bowl for Kids Sake and their Annual Swing Big Golf Classic. Contributing to BBBSWR gives us a sense of satisfaction; it allows us to see the direct impact that the various programs have on the lives of the disadvantaged youth in our community. Without the support of donors and volunteers, the children of our community would not be experiencing their great accomplishments.



**Lone Wolf Real Estate Technologies** is a growing and successful business that has great compassion and understands the importance of its up and coming community. An organization like Big Brothers Big Sisters helps the youth of its community build a strong foundation for their future and Lone Wolf identifies the importance of programs like these. We believe that donating to these youths will help sculpt a path and lead children into the opportunity filled future that we as a company have been fortunate to have.

## In-School Mentoring Programs Receive Top Marks

I work at two "high needs" schools in Waterloo Region. The kids that show up every day come from one of the lowest socioeconomic areas. Not only do these students require food programs, such as breakfast clubs or lunch programs, but they need extra support when it comes to social skills development, confidence building and academic related activities.



Words cannot express the difference that the Big Brothers Big Sisters In-School Mentoring program makes. The fact that you know each child matched with a mentor will have one positive day a week is enough to make a difference for that child, their teacher and their family.

On many occasions, I have teachers tell me that their students in-school mentor is an essential reason why their students behavior has become more positive. They notice their students trying new things on a more regular basis. Some feel the mentor is the reason why their student comes to school.

The reason for referrals is because it's more efficient and less challenging for the home, if the connection is made at school. This brings me to the topic of parents. Because a lot of our families have many other concerns such as housing, bills, food, being a single parent, even lack of trust towards others, having the BBBS In-School Mentoring program opens the door to many other options that BBBS offers such as, the One-to-One program. You can also call it a bit of a "gateway" for having families feel more comfortable using other community service agencies. It's essentially teaching social skills to the families as well, because acknowledging and asking for help is part of social behavior. Social skills are part of life, and I would say any child, in any grade, could use assistance in this area. For someone to know that there are guidelines or rules, not just because "my teacher says so" but because they help make a better community, means a lot. When we have in-school mentors coming in and interacting with our students, it helps maintain that message we've been trying to have them learn since kindergarten. It takes a community to raise a child and Big Brothers Big Sisters is a vital part our ours!

Magdalena Ecsedi,

*Child & Youth Worker, Waterloo Region District School Board*

## Bowl for Kids Sake 2011

Earlier this year, over 100 teams in Waterloo Region came together for another Bowl for Kids Sake. The event raised an outstanding \$140,921. All funds raised stay in our Region and go towards providing quality mentoring programs to children. A special thank you to this year's 2011 Honourary Big / Little Chairs who were the face of this year's event; Kate Campbell & Katherine Hesch and Dave Bonnell & Quinn Turner. Thanks to our corporate teams who encouraged their staff to participate and to the bowlers who collected pledges.



Rockway Public School

A BIG thank you to our sponsors and community partners: Invesco Trimark, Moose Winooski's, New Orleans Pizza, Via Rail, Strassburger Windows and Doors, Waterloo Region Record, Heffner Motors Ltd., Samuel Son & Co. Ltd, Challenger, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corp., The Economical Insurance Group, Citadel Halifax Hotel, Radisson Halifax Hotel, The Home Depot, Arriscraft International, Graham Mathew & Partners LLP, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar, M&T Printing Group, 96.7 CHYM FM, Rogers, Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club, Towne Bowl, Victoria Bowling Lanes, Waterloo Bowling Lanes, Dickson Bowl and ibowl.ca, who provide us with the resources to make this a fun and successful event. You are all helping us make a BIG difference in our community.

## Best Friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters

Best Friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters has been in existence for over 20 years in Waterloo Region. This dynamic group of women organize annual fundraising events in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region; which include the "Chef's Gourmet Dinner and Auction" and "Step Into Spring". Their annual Chef's Gourmet Dinner and Auction is one of the area's social highlights of the year. In 2011 this event raised over \$65,000 to support our programs. Gert Hartmann, CEO had this to say, "I am grateful every day for the support we receive from this dedicated group of unsung heroes. To me it demonstrates that each of us, if we choose, can make a significant impact in our community."



Best Friends

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Swing BIG Golf Classic

What an amazing day we had for our Annual Golf Classic. Although much of June had been very wet, June 20th was filled with sunshine and gentle breezes. Fun and friendship was the order of the day, on and off the links. Thanks to you we raised over \$16,000. These funds will support our programs so we can help children grow into healthy adults and *help children live their potential*.

A special thank you goes out to our sponsors: Heffner Motors Ltd., Waterloo Region Record, Piller's Sausages & Delicatessen, TD Waterhouse Private Client Services, Automation Tooling Systems, BDO Canada LLP, Strassburger Windows & Doors, Investors Group, Century Group Financial and KOOL FM / KFUN. Also, a special thank you goes out to Foxwood Golf & Country Club for an outstanding job. We are most appreciative of your support.



Team Oakes

**Mark your calendar for next year - June 18th, 2012 at Foxwood Golf & Country Club**

## Great Big Sea Rocks

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Century Group Financial Solutions Inc. and Sun Life Financial sponsored a fabulous evening of gourmet food and top notch entertainment for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region. Local musicians Kate Todd & Rob Szabo delighted guests during a delightful meal by the Edelweiss Tavern. The crowd was brought to their feet by Juno nominated band, Great Big Sea. This event netted proceeds for Big Brothers Big Sisters & Alzheimer's Society of KW of approximately \$30,000.



## A "Little" Help From Our Friends!

### Nike Plays On



Nike Kitchener is committed to supporting the youth in our community. Our store team volunteers on a bi-weekly basis with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region. We run a sport night in conjunction with the Bunches program and encourage the youth in athletic activities by playing sports/gym games with them (eg. soccer, dodge ball, etc). Our first session was very well received by the Bigs and Littles alike and we are thrilled to continue our partnership with BBBS. We have begun our second session and are ecstatic about the opportunity to participate and give back to our community.

**JENNIFER TAIT**

*General Manager / North America Nike Factory Store*

## Please Support Those Who Support Us!



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