



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Medicine Hat & District

# Annual Report 2015



Invest in Your Community

# Change

A Child's Life

This report brought to by

**cancarb**

# Social Return on INVESTMENT

Changing the course of young lives changes the future of communities. By every measure, Big Brothers Big Sisters returns **positive results in the mental health, employment, and civic engagement** of the recipients of our mentoring programs.



 work life community



## SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

 Increased Taxes & Spending From Higher Income  
 +  
 Increased Volunteering & Donations

**18:1** \$1 invested in mentoring by Big Brothers Big Sisters returns \$18 to society \*

\* Among economically disadvantaged groups, \$1 invested in mentoring by Big Brothers Big Sisters returns \$23 to society.

# Message from the **VICE CHAIR**

The year 2015 was a year of accomplishments and change. Big Brothers Big Sisters Medicine Hat & District has been focusing on programs, strategic direction, fund development and the diverse needs of the children and youth that we serve.

We have been challenged, by the new economy, to push through our limits to respond proactively and intentionally, to the diversity of the needs and experiences of the youth in our community, so we can purposefully achieve specific outcomes. We must continue to pursue our National Mentoring Research data and use the findings to objectively inform and improve all facets of our operation. We must reinforce local fundraising efforts to contribute to the sustainability and growth of our agency and resources to support local activities. By continuing to demonstrate our commitment to these principles, we enrich ourselves and the lives of those we are dedicated to serving.

To all of our corporate sponsors, foundations and individuals who have so generously contributed to support our movement we offer a huge thank you! Without you we could not provide the high level of service of which we are so proud. Also, a big thank you all the agency staff and volunteers whose hard work continues to improve the fabric of our community one match at a time.

*Darren Folkersen*

## Our Board of **DIRECTORS**

**Darren Folkersen**  
Acting Chair/Vice-Chair

**Ryan Sirovyak**  
Treasurer

**Bobbi-Jo Whitfield**  
Secretary

**Jamie Sawatzky**  
Director

**Lee Krazilowez**  
Director

**Karen Taylor**  
Treasurer

**Ted Clugston**  
Director

**Candace (Candy) Neumann**  
Director

## start something

There is no more important investment we can make than in helping our local children realize and share their full potential.

Serving as role models, our mentors teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, of staying in school, and for having respect for family, peers and community.

Each time we pair a child with a mentor or introduce a group of students to a group program, we start something.

We offer a variety of different program options to choose from and are certain that one of them will be of interest to you.

# Mentoring PROGRAMS

## **Our programs strive to do the following:**

- Provide a role model and a friend for girls and boys.
- Promote the importance of staying in school and healthy relationships with family and peers.
- Instill trust and self-confidence in order to make healthy decisions.
- Encourage leadership skills and independent thinking.
- And above all, make a difference while having fun.

## **What we do today makes a difference tomorrow.**

What if...

- Every child fulfills his potential?
- Every child is set on the right path today?
- Every child in Canada finishes high school, goes to college or university, gets a job and gives back to their community?

## **Wouldn't that be SOMETHING?**

# Big Brothers Big Sisters MENTORING

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring program provides boys and young men, and girls and young women with a role model and a friend to talk to and share the experiences of growing up with. Through regular outings, a relationship is developed between the mentor and the mentee that is built on trust and common interests, and is supported by our experienced case-workers. The result is a life-changing experience for both the mentor and the mentee.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring program usually requires two regularly scheduled outings a month of several hours each and a minimum of 1 year commitment.

# In-School MENTORING

Go back and help a child go forward. Studies show that mentoring helps kids stay in school, avoid risky behavior such as bullying, and grow up having more respect for family, peers and community.

Helping children reach their full potential can lead to positive community outcomes like a reduction in poverty and unemployment, safer schools and neighborhoods, and a new generation of civic-minded adults.

The In School Mentoring program provides girls and boys with a role model and a friend to talk to and share the experiences of growing up with, within school grounds. For one hour a week, mentors meet with their mentee and engage in activities such as board games, crafts or just hang out in the playground.

The In School Mentoring program requires a weekly visit of 1 hour for the duration of the school year. Matches do not meet over the summer break or during other school holidays.

## **In-School Mentoring Makes a Big Difference**

- 90% of mentors saw a positive change in the child they were mentoring
- 88% of students showed improved literacy skills
- 64% had developed higher levels of self-esteem

If you would like to learn more about becoming a mentor or donating to the In-School Mentoring program we welcome your questions.



# Teen MENTORING

Teen Mentoring is for caring and responsible teen volunteers in grades 11 & 12 who wishes to provide encouragement and friendship to a child. Besides playing with play-doh, painting and having fun, you will be a role model to one student. Through friendship, guidance and sharing, you will help build a child's self-esteem.

Children who spend time with a Mentor gain confidence, acquire new skills and competencies, and develop an enhanced capacity to care for others.

Mentors experience a sense of discovery and enjoyment as they see the world of possibility open up through a child's eye. Gain experience for working with children, build and enhance leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills. Volunteering is also a great way to build your resume.

One child, one hour a week. It's a small commitment that makes a big difference. Become a mentor to a child in a school environment. You will help build a child's self-esteem and school performance while having a lot of fun. And it only takes one a week during the school year.

## Other PROGRAMS

Big Brothers Big Sisters has other programs available to meet the unique needs of our community. Some of the programs being offered in our community include:

Couples for Kids

Then this is the program for you. A Big Couple can spend time together mentoring to a child.

The good thing about this program is that you can see your little together or separately, allowing for one volunteer to spend time with your Little even when the other is too busy to join in the activities.

Youth who have been matched with a mentor are:

**2X** more likely to have high academic achievement.

**34%** less likely to allow themselves to be bullied.

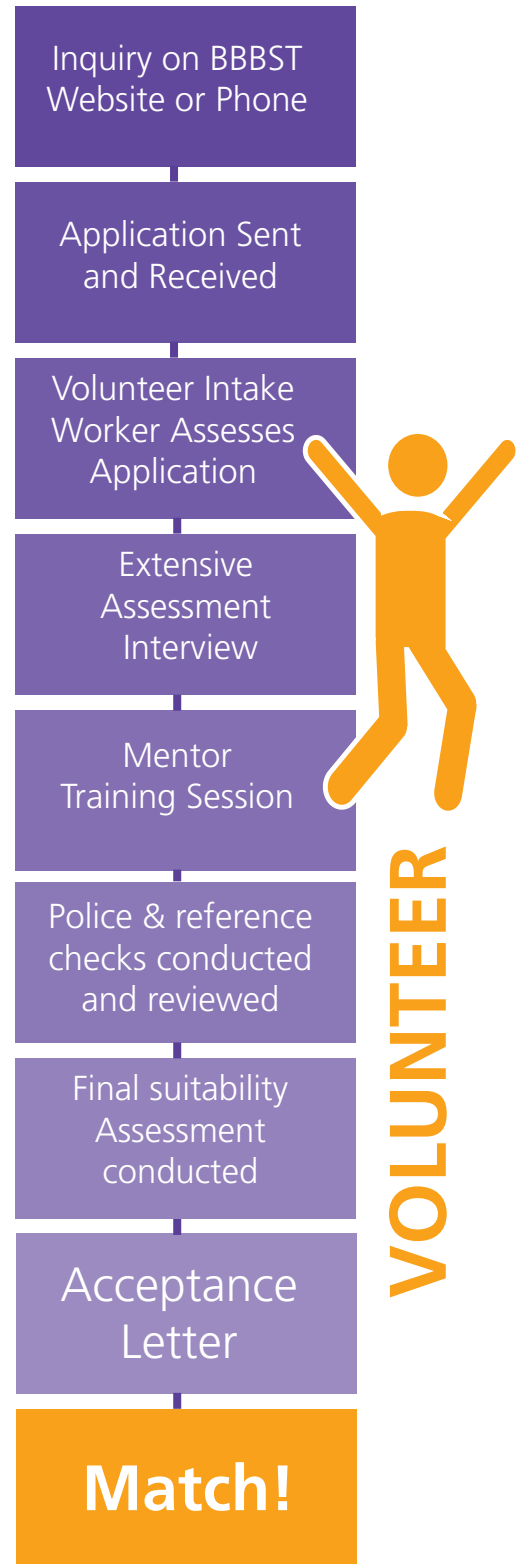
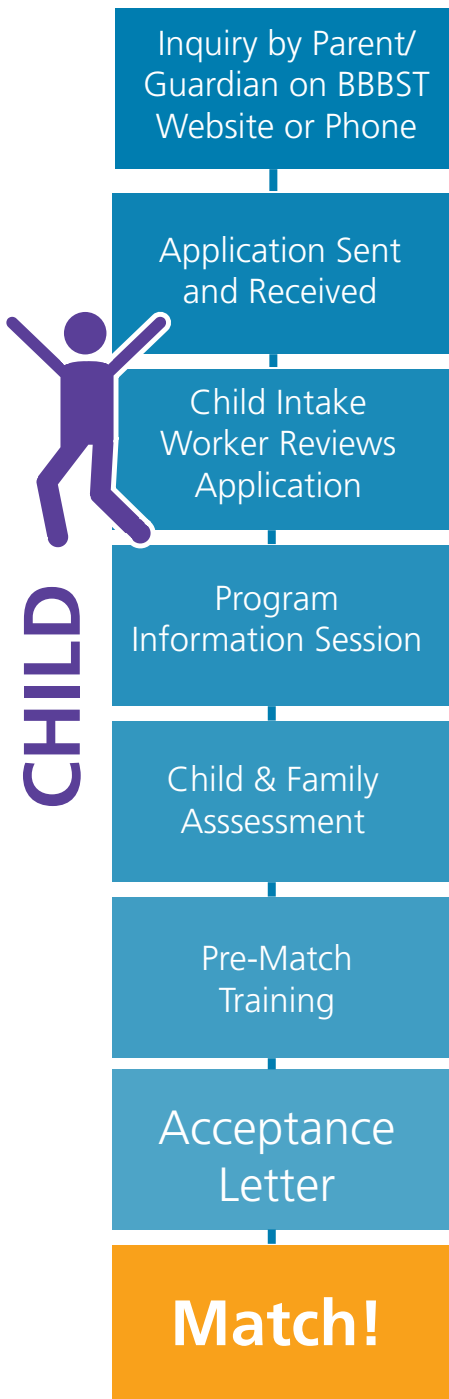
**60%** improve their relationships with adults.

**99%** of Littles feel very positive and want to be in the program.



# The Match PROCESS

Matching a child with a mentor is an intense process dictated by strict standards of child safety. A tremendous amount of time, care and effort is taken to ensure our matches are successful.





# Report from the **TREASURER**

Total revenues in 2015 fell by 9% or \$22,661 to \$243,450 due primarily to an expected drop in grants after one-time grants were received in 2014, as well as notification from funders that grants would be down this year due to the economic outlook in the province.

Total fundraising and donation activities however compare favorably year-over-year, increasing by 22% or \$46,433, highlighted by individual donations received under the Birdies for Kids program our organization joined in 2015.

Overall expenses decreased by 1%. Excluding wages, expenses were reduced by 7% or \$13,000 as the organization made efforts to save costs wherever possible without harming the programming offered to the community.

Salaries and benefits costs, our largest expense, increased by 6% or \$10,622 as our matches continued to grow. The organization decided to service the increased demand for Big and Little matches rather than cutting back by financing programs using cash reserves.

The above resulted in a net deficiency of revenue over expenses, or loss, of \$19,763 compared to a deficit of \$7 last year.

The Agency's financial condition as reflected in the Statement of Financial Position, while weakened due to the deficits incurred in 2015, nevertheless remains healthy. We continued to meet our strategic objectives in 2015 without significantly reducing the organization's cash reserves and ended the year with nearly \$127,000 in cash and securities in our accounts.

While we expect 2016 to reflect a challenging environment for charitable organizations, we're optimistic that we can continue to work creatively and manage our resources in a manner that will enable the Agency to remain at the forefront of providing our children and youth with mentoring that makes a BIG difference.

*Ryan Siroyak, CPA, CA*



# Statement of FINANCIAL POSITION

	2015	2014
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 45,743	\$ 63,574
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	6,386	6,181
Restricted cash (Note 5)	<u>11,991</u>	<u>9,299</u>
	<b>64,120</b>	79,054
<b>INVESTMENTS (Note 6)</b>	<b>20,464</b>	20,001
<b>MANAGED FUND (Note 7)</b>	<u>42,014</u>	40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 126,598</u>	<u>\$ 139,055</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8)	\$ 17,855	\$ 13,736
Deferred revenue (Note 9)	<u>24,239</u>	<u>21,052</u>
	<b>42,094</b>	34,788
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>84,504</u>	<u>104,267</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 126,598</u>	<u>\$ 139,055</u>



# Statement of OPERATIONS

	2015	2014
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Fundraising- net of expenses (Schedule 1)	\$ 171,276	\$ 106,595
Donations	42,441	60,689
Grants and Funding	26,900	97,472
Interest income	2,833	355
Rent	-	1,000
	<u>243,450</u>	<u>266,111</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Wages and benefits	167,444	156,822
Gift-in-kind expense	28,051	28,112
Rent	12,600	12,600
Professional fees	8,916	8,445
Memberships	7,652	2,760
Office	7,336	22,246
Insurance	6,101	3,629
Bookkeeping	6,000	6,000
Advertising and promotion	4,045	808
Travel	3,843	5,033
Program expenses	3,831	8,478
Telephone	3,747	2,753
Interest and bank charges	1,986	1,197
GST expense	1,603	1,739
Staff training	58	5,496
	<u>263,213</u>	<u>266,118</u>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$ (19,763)</u>	<u>\$ (7)</u>



# Thank You to **OUR SPONSORS**

## **Bowl for Kids' Sake 2015**

Enerplus, Servus Credit Union, Canadian Tire, CF Industries, Art's Excavating, DNow, Southside Dental, Sunrise Rotary Club, Mackenzie Eye Care, Niblock & Company, Dominos, AutoStar, EBT Chartered Accountants, CanCarb, Kayvee Management, Inverstors Group, Fountain Tire, Medicine Hat Kinsmen Club, Mr. Lube, Robinson Insurance, Medicine Hat Real Estate Board, Weddingstar, Medicine Hat Optimist Club, Memory Lane Computers, Grover Dental, Stringam Deneky Law Office, CM & G Contractors, Spider Electric, Cap It, CCL Homes, Desert Blume Golf and Country Club, Connaught Golf Course, Elkwater Interpretive Centre, SpaTacular, Medicine Hat Lodge/Casino By Vanshaw, Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club, Tim Horton's, Clear View Eye Care, Panorama Lanes

## **MDA Golf Tournament 2015**

Investors Group, The Local, Wakefield/Castrol, Scotiabank, ProComm Poker, Pro Tech Seal, MNP, Moxie's, Sterling Trailers, Boston Pizza, Jackson Dodge, Northlands Co-op, MDA, General Bank of Canada, Cactus Coating, Mr. Lube, GM Financial, Enterprise Rent a Car, First Canadian Group of Companies, RBC, CarProof, BMO, Pat's Offroad, PBS Systems, autotrader.ca, LL Renaissance, the Magic of Trevor Moore

## **WestJet Raffle 2015**

Westjet, Waterways House Boats Shuswap Lake, VIA Rail, Banff Aspen Lodge



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