



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
Of Central Minnesota



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# School/Site-Based Parent/Guardian and Child Handbook

***Our Vision:*** That all children achieve success in life

***Our Mission:*** To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever

***Accountability Statement:*** We partner with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community and hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving:

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

# My role as a parent/guardian

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## **About Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)**

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been matching children with caring volunteers in fun and rewarding relationships since 1904. By participating in mentoring programs, young people are:

- 75% more likely to receive a four-year college degree
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 53% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip a class

## **Who are Big Brothers and Big Sisters?**

- Men and women who work and live in your community
- High school and college students from nearby schools
- Retirees, military men and women, members of faith communities or civic organizations
- Ordinary people that are extraordinary

What they all have in common is a sincere interest in being a friend and mentor to a child. They are not paid – all of their time is volunteered.

## **How do we select Big Brothers and Big Sisters?**

BBBS staff make a professional decision about whether an applicant is eligible to mentor a child after the applicant has completed an extensive screening process that includes:

- An application
- A criminal background and motor vehicle check (for adult mentors)
- At least three reference checks
- An in-person interview
- An orientation and training that will encourage your child's healthy development

## **Who are Little Brothers and Little Sisters?**

Youth who would benefit from having a positive role model. All children and their parents/guardians choose to be in our program and are able to commit to the program for one year. All interested applicants must submit an application and complete an in-person child interview with the School/Site-Based Coordinator. Information collected in the enrollment process will help our staff determine eligibility for our program. Upon acceptance, children are placed on a waiting list. Boys typically wait longer to be matched than girls due to volunteer availability. Although the matching process may take some time, please know that we work hard to find appropriate matches for all waiting children. While waiting for a match, waiting Littles and their families are able to still participate in many of our agency activities and events.

## **When they get together, what do matches do?**

Matches typically meet 1 hour a week during the school year and maintain contact over the summer by writing letters, emailing or calling or texting each other. Matches choose the activities they do together which may include playing sports, doing arts/crafts, playing board games, etc. School/Sited-Based matches may attend agency supervised activities but need to meet at the activity. The mentor is never allowed to transport the child.

### **Parents/guardians should know about each activity.**

When your child returns home the day they meet with their mentor please check with them to see what activity they did and if they enjoyed the time together. Make sure that your child feels okay spending time with his/her Big.

### **BBBS Match Support – How we work with you, your child and the Big**

**BBBS works hard to support the relationship between Bigs and Littles. Our goal is for the relationship to be as successful as possible for everyone.**

- We will check in with your child once a month to see how their match is going. We will do this by meeting with them at their school (or call over the summer months). We also check in with the mentor on a monthly basis.
- We will contact you twice during the school year and once during the summer, to check in on how you feel the match is going. Please feel free to contact us any time to share stories or discuss the match.

### **Your School/Site-Based Coordinator is the main link between you, your child, the Big Brother/Sister and the agency.**

They will:

- Keep you updated on activities offered by the agency
- Help you communicate with your child and his/her Big
- Work with you on any conflicts or challenges that may arise

### **Why Match Support is required:**

- To discuss your child's safety or well-being; this is our number one priority
- To discuss general concerns you may have about your child's Big
- To report any changes in address or phone number
- To report any important family changes
- To share success stories about your child's progress or special honors

*Contact your School/Site-Based Coordinator by phone and/or email, whichever is most convenient for you. If your School/Site-Based Coordinator is not available please contact the agency at 320.253.1616 for assistance. We make it a priority to serve you when you need it.*

## **Your Role: We need you to be an active partner!**

Parents/Guardians are important partners in helping to build a successful and meaningful friendship between their child and the Big.

### **What you should do to help:**

- If you ever have concerns about the match or the Big Brother/Sister, please contact us immediately.
- Please let us know if there is anything you feel the Big Brother/Sister should know or if you have any tips that would help them to be successful.
- Share your concerns, hopes and wishes for your child with your School/Site-Based Coordinator.
- Always ask about what the activities they did and your child's feelings about the visit.
- Participate in agency sponsored events and activities.
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters are "older friends." They are not substitute parents, babysitters, disciplinarians, financial support, a taxi service or counselors. Big Brothers and Big Sisters are not allowed to babysit for their Little or their Little's siblings.
- In the summer please help make sure that your child returns phone calls and stays in regular contact with the Big and the School/Site-Based Coordinator. Regular contact is important to the success of the match.
- Give it time: This relationship needs time to develop – at least three months – so don't judge it too quickly.

### **In summary, the top 3 rules are:**

1. Know what your child is doing with their Big Brother or Big Sister.
2. Communicate any concerns to BBBS staff.
3. Be an active partner!

# Special Initiatives

These initiatives allow volunteers to mentor children in different ways. You do not need to sign your child up separately for these initiatives.

**Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents** - The objective of the Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents initiative is to create quality, lasting, one-to-one relationships that provide children of offenders with caring role models for future success. Mentors provide opportunities for youth to gain new skills and interests and expand their experiences beyond their families, schools, and neighborhoods by acting as a trusted friend. Research has shown that a quality, enduring mentoring relationship with a caring adult can be a promising intervention for children of incarcerated parents and change the direction of their lives.



**Bigs in Blue** – This initiative allows on-duty police officers to go into schools to mentor youth who are facing adversity. This initiative was developed to create positive and respectful relationships with people who have authority, including officers. We currently have partnerships with the St. Cloud, Sartell and Waite Park Police Departments and looking to expand to other departments in our service area.

**College & Career Readiness** – Big Brothers Big Sisters provides activities for our youth to help prepare them for college and career. This includes such activities as: scholarship opportunities, Toolkit for College night, college visits, FAFSA/Paying for College workshop, Career Exploration Night, etc. These activities are open to all current and past Littles as well as High School Bigs.



**Operation Military Mentoring** - Big Brothers Big Sisters supports children from military families and engages active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel as volunteer mentors. It's an opportunity to provide support and friendship to families who give so much to protect our freedom.

**Bridging Generations** - Big Brothers Big Sisters recruits and engages volunteers age 55+ to share their time and life experiences thru youth mentoring. This initiative makes a positive impact across the generations and



offer long-lasting effects. Often times we hear potential mentors say, "I wish I would have done that when I was younger," thinking they are, in their opinion, "too old." We have found great success in mentors age 55+, both for the mentor and the youth.



**Sports Buddies** - This initiative provides opportunities for adults who are passionate about sports to help build friendships and model good sportsmanship. It provides the opportunity for youth to experience sporting and recreational events that were once out of reach. Also, it is an opportunity for sports teams and organizations to get involved by hosting sports clinics, fishing events, etc. and providing tickets to events for our matches and families to participate in.

**Faith-Based** – Our Faith-Based mentors help the youth explore their faith journey while engaging in fun activities they both enjoy. Mentors may share their own faith to help the youth with their own faith journey and teach/model the importance of serving others. As with all of our mentors, this has to be prior approved with the parent/guardian and an interest of the youth.



**Big Couples** – Two adults can team up to mentor a youth. "Couples" may be a spouse, significant other or close friend. As a Big Couple, the two mentors provide a child with a team of support.

**Big Families**- We wouldn't want to ask a parent to choose between spending time with their children or a youth in our program. Instead, the youth can become a part of the family's activities. A couple or individual with a child or children all benefit when adding a "Little" to their family.

## Child Safety – A Top Priority

Children’s safety is our number one priority. We focus on the child’s safety and well-being throughout the match, not just at the beginning. We want to work together to keep your child safe. While our staff carefully screens each volunteer, we need your help to make sure the relationship is healthy and the volunteer is making good judgments about your child’s safety during their weekly meetings.

- Please notify us immediately if you have a concern with the match.
- The Big should never ask your child to keep a secret.

### **If the following patterns arise, you should discuss them with your School/Site-Based Coordinator:**

- Your child’s Big wants to spend more and more time with your child.
- Your child’s Big is frequently buying them gifts.

We know that you work with your child to teach them skills to help keep them safe. Please feel free to discuss these issues and any other issues related to child safety with your BBBS School/Site-Based Coordinator. We want to work with you to keep your child safe.

As a parent/guardian, you recognize the potential of your child better than anyone. By giving them the opportunity to be part of BBBS, you’re starting them down a path to an even brighter, more promising future. We look forward to working with you and your child!

*If at any time you have concerns regarding your child’s match, please contact BBBS staff for support.*

## **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES** **Official Policies and Guidelines**

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**Here are the policies Big Brothers Big Sisters requires all volunteers who work with children to abide by while they are involved in our program.**

**If you have questions about these policies/guidelines or if the Big violates any of these, please contact the Program Team at 320.253.1616 immediately.**

**Alcohol:**

- Use of alcohol by a Big is prohibited while in the company of a Little Brother or Little Sister.
- No alcohol consumption should take place before or during a scheduled agency/match activity.
- Violation of this policy may result in the volunteer being released from the program.

**Drugs:**

- The agency will not accept a Big into the program who is currently using illegal substances.
- The agency prohibits the use of any illegal substances by a Big while matched with a Little Brother or Little Sister.
- Violation of this policy will result in the Big being released from the program.

**Tobacco:**

- Use of tobacco products by a Big, including electronic cigarettes are prohibited while in the presence of a Little Brother or Little Sister.
- Violation of this policy could result in the Big being released from the program.

**Giving Medication:**

- Big are not allowed to give Littles any medication (prescription/non-prescription).

**Firearm Safety:**

- Personal firearm/carry and conceal: Bigs are prohibited from carrying, possessing or using firearms including but not limited to, pistols or other weapons while Littles are in the Bigs' care and while at BBBS sponsored events, at the BBBS office or at off-premise locations, unless for hunting or target practice purposes. This policy applies to all volunteers, including but not limited those who have a valid permit to carry a pistol. An exception to this policy would be in the case of Law Enforcement Officers who are employed by a Law Enforcement Agency.

**Conflict Management:**

It is BBBS' objective to resolve problems and complaints promptly, keep the resolution as close to the source as possible, and offer graduated steps for further discussion and resolution at higher levels of authority as necessary. Child safety is BBBS' highest priority in resolving conflicts among adults (e.g., between a Big Brother or Sister and his/her Little's parent/guardian). We encourage the person who believes there is a problem to talk directly to the person with whom they have a conflict. If the discussion does not resolve the issue, the adults involved in the conflict should discuss the situation with their School/Site-Based Coordinator.

**Confidentiality:**

Given the nature of the program our Bigs may be introduced to sensitive and extremely personal information about the child with whom they are matched. Every Big Brother and Big Sister in the program must agree to treat all information pertaining to areas of concern and background with strict confidentiality. BBBS encourages confidentiality between the Big and child. In order for a

# POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

trusting relationship to develop, friends need to feel confident their thoughts and feelings will not be shared with others without their permission.

However, there are certain things that must not be kept secret:

- Anytime a Big is concerned about the health or well-being of the Little
- Anytime a Big learns about or suspects physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect he Big and/or BBBS is required by law to report the actions to the proper authorities)

## **Online Social Networking:**

BBBS recognizes that online social networking (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Kik, Instagram, blogs, etc.) has become a very popular communications tool and that many of our Big Brothers/Sisters and Little Brothers/Sisters use these. In general, personal use of social networking sites is typically for communication between peers, including friends and family. BBBS wants to reiterate that your relationship with your Little is that of a mentor in addition to a friend. Not all types of social networking are designed to support mentoring relationships.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters/Big Couples/Big Families:

Please proceed thoughtfully when inviting or accepting an invitation from your Little to a social networking site. If you have any doubts, please contact your School/Site-Based Coordinator and/or postpone your invitation or acceptance. If you do choose to participate in a social networking with your Little, you must adhere to the following guidelines regarding any postings related to your match or affiliation with BBBS:

- Do not participate in any online communication with/about your Little unless you have discussed this with the parent/guardian or School/Site-Based Coordinator and have received their approval.
- Never post any pictures of your Little online unless you have the written consent of the child's parent/guardian. That consent form should be filed with BBBS.
- Never post the last name of your Little or his/her parent/guardian.
- Never post any contact information for your Little.
- Never post any identifying information about your Little (child's home address, school the child attends, where the parent works, etc).
- Honor confidentiality guidelines within your match; be cautious when posting detailed information about conversations with your Little, their parent/guardian or with BBBS staff.
- Be aware of other postings on your page that are inappropriate for minors. Know that as a BBBS volunteer you are a role model at all times.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in the termination of your match.

Parents/Guardians and Littles:

- Do not post photos of the Big Brother/Sister without approval of the Big Brother/Sister and the School/Site-Based Coordinator (the Big Brother/Sister must have a signed release on file with BBBS).

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**School/Site-Based Matches are not allowed to meet off school/site grounds** unless attending a Big Brothers Big Sisters staffed activity. School/Site-Based Bigs are not allowed to provide transportation for their Littles, or walk them home, under any circumstances.

## Child Safety Guidelines

The following safety rules were designed to protect program participants from harm, identify potential areas of risk and define ways to minimize liability. Bigs will be expected to follow these rules while matched with a Little Brother or Little Sister.

### Personal boundaries:

- Bigs must respect the child's need for personal space and privacy.
- Affection is best expressed through positive or affirming comments.
- Upon the child's permission, physical affection may be expressed using a handshake, high five, pat on the back or hug.
- Sitting on laps, massage, or touch of any private areas (genitals, breasts, buttocks) is not permitted of either Big or Little.
- Wrestling and tickling are not permitted between Bigs and Littles.
- Contact your School/Site-Based Coordinator if there are any concerns about your child's boundaries or expressions of affection.

### Discipline/setting limits:

- Verbally, physically and/or emotionally abusive means of discipline are never allowed by the Big.
- Bigs are asked to state expectations for behavior and boundaries.
- Bigs are asked to verbally address behavior concerns; clarify what needs to change or happen.
- If the child does not respond, the Big is instructed to take him/her back to their class/site.

### Abuse, neglect, maltreatment and safety issues:

- Both Bigs and BBBS staff are mandated reporters.
- Bigs are asked to report any suspicions they have to their School/Site-Based Coordinator for consultation.
- If the Big believes their Little is in immediate danger, they are instructed to contact legal authorities and follow up with BBBS after the call has been made.

### Gift giving:

- It is ok for Bigs to give gifts for birthdays, holidays, special events or recognition of personal achievements. They must let the School/Site-Based Coordinator know if they purchase a gift for your child. Value of the gift should not exceed \$25. Giving gifts is not an expectation of our Bigs. It is optional.

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## **If the child gets sick:**

- Bigs are instructed to take the child to the school nurse or site coordinator.

## **When using the restroom:**

- Bigs are instructed to walk the child to restroom and wait for their Little either in the restroom or just outside of restroom.

## **Supervision of child/youth:**

- Bigs are responsible for the supervision of Littles at all times from the start to finish of a match activity.
- At no time should a child be left unsupervised or left with someone else during a match activity.

## **Movies, video games, media, internet**

- Volunteers and parent/guardians are responsible for determining age-appropriate content/ratings in all media forms when with a child.
- Viewing rated R (under 17 requires a parent/guardian) or NC-17 (no one under 17 admitted) movies or playing video games rated M (Mature-17+) is not allowed.
- Exercise caution and careful consideration when viewing movies rated PG-13 (parents strongly cautioned—some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) or playing video games rated T (content suitable for ages 13 and older) with your Little. If the Little is under the age of 13, the Big must get the parent/guardian's permission first.
- Viewing any media content with explicit sex, graphic violence or pornography is not acceptable while with the Little.
- Consult with your School/Site-Based Coordinator for further consultation or clarification of these rules.

## **Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect**

### **Who should report suspected child abuse or neglect?**

Anyone may voluntarily report suspected child abuse or neglect to the local child protection or law enforcement agency. Minnesota law requires professionals who work with children and families and their delegates to make a child protection report if they know or have reason to believe (this applies to BBBS staff and all of our Bigs):

- A child is being neglected or abused.
- A child has been neglected or abused within the preceding three years.

Anyone who reports child abuse in good faith is immune from civil liability. The reporter's name is confidential and accessible only if the reporter consents or by court order. The inconvenience of reporting is offset by one simple fact: the action you take could save the life and spirit of a child and provide a family with much needed support.

It is against the law to not report suspected abuse or neglect to a local child protection or law enforcement agency.

## POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

### Where to report suspected abuse or neglect

**Immediate danger** – If you know or suspect that a child has been abandoned or is in immediate danger (such as recent sexual assault or a serious physical assault), contact your local law enforcement agency right away.

**No immediate danger** – If the child is not in immediate danger, but you have reason to believe a child has been maltreated:

- Contact your School/Site-Based Coordinator immediately. They are there to assist and offer support during the reporting process.
- A report to Child Protection Services (in the county the child resides) needs to be made within a 24-hour time period after the suspected abuse or neglect has occurred. A written report is required within 72 hours of the report.

## Bullying

Bullying is a widespread and serious problem that can happen anywhere. It is not a phase children have to go through, it is not "just messing around," and it is not something to grow out of. Bullying can cause serious and lasting harm.

Although definitions of bullying vary, most agree that bullying involves:

- **Imbalance of Power:** people who bully use their power to control or harm and the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves
- **Intent to Cause Harm:** actions done by accident are not bullying; the person bullying has a goal to cause harm
- **Repetition:** incidents of bullying happen to the same the person over and over by the same person or group

### Types of Bullying

Bullying can take many forms. Examples include:

- **Verbal:** name-calling, teasing
- **Social:** spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, breaking up friendships
- **Physical:** hitting, punching, shoving
- **Cyberbullying:** using the Internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to harm others

**Resource:** [StopBullying.gov](http://StopBullying.gov), an official U.S. Government Web site managed by the [Department of Health & Human Services](#) in partnership with the [Department of Education](#) and [Department of Justice](#).

**E-Newsletter** – If you use email, you will receive an email newsletter from us once a month. In the E-newsletter, we highlight upcoming activities being offered by our agency for matches and waiting Littles as well as various other opportunities in the community that your family can take advantage of.

**Agency Activities** – BBBS offers several agency-sponsored activities. These events are a great way to meet other matches and staff members. A few examples include ice skating, movies, fishing, and picnics. You can find an activity calendar on our website with more details.

### Connect With Us Online

There are more ways than ever to connect with the BBBS community online. Share ideas and receive agency updates by “liking” us on Facebook. Just search for “Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota.” You can also find us on:



Become a fan of BBBS on Facebook ([facebook.com/bigbrothersbigsisterscentralmn](https://www.facebook.com/bigbrothersbigsisterscentralmn))



Check out our website (<http://www.bbbscentralmn.org/>) for agency news, activity information, scholarship opportunities, fundraising events, merchandise, photo galleries, and more!

## Recommendations for a Successful Match

### 1. Keep appointments and be consistent.

- When you follow through in having your child on time for activities, it sends a positive message to the Big that you value the match and the time your child spends with him/her, which will help build trust in the relationship.

- If there is a time when your child can't keep an activity appointment with his/her Big, please let your child's teacher know or the School-Based Coordinator.

## **2. Communicate openly and regularly.**

- Be honest about match activities or actions you are not comfortable or happy with.
- Keep the School-Based Coordinator informed if there are things going on in your child's life that may affect his/her mood or behavior while on an activity. They can then pass that along to the Big.

## **3. Maintain contact with BBBS.**

- Returning all phone calls, emails or letters from BBBS will help ensure a strong, healthy match.

## **4. Set boundaries and keep them.**

- Before the match begins meeting on their own, sit down with your child and talk about your expectations for their behavior when with his/her Big. Be sure to make clear that he/she is not to ask the Big for gifts or money spent on activities, as the focus of the match is solely on developing the friendship.
- Address concerns as they arise; do not wait until it becomes a larger issue.

## **5. Be Patient.**

- BBBS has worked hard to match your child and his/her Big based on shared interests, but that does not mean friendships form overnight. Take the time to check in with your child's Big before and after each activity when he/she picks up and drops off your child, as your teamwork will help your Big feel more comfortable around your child (and vice versa) more quickly.

## **6. Have realistic expectations.**

- Remember that friendships and change take time. The impact of the match may not be easy to see, especially early on, but to prevent frustration and burnout for both yourself and your child's Big, focus on consistent activities between them and your child's enjoyment in the match.

## **7. Focus on trust and safety.**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters takes every possible precaution to ensure the health and safety of your child when being match with their Big, including background and reference checks of each and every volunteer that passes through our doors. Please trust that we are doing everything possible to keep the match, and your child, safe, but remember that you play an important role in this as well. Talk to your child after each match activity to help ensure their safety and satisfaction in the match.

# MATCH COMPLETION

## Addressing Completion in Your Match

At some point most mentoring relationships end. Sometimes they end because the match just doesn't fit, one of the parties has moved or changed schools, or life circumstances have changed. Regardless of the reason, positive match completion is an important part of healthy relationship management. Consequently we would like to point out some important aspects of successful match completion.

### **Remember Closure in Your Life**

First, consider a time in your life when you experienced the end of an important relationship; perhaps a break-up, divorce, etc. How did this event make you feel? How was it handled? How could it have been addressed in a different, more positive way? What practices do you have regarding endings and transitions?

### **Consider Your Child**

Next, consider how ending the relationship may affect your child. Your child may feel they are at fault, feel hurt, abandoned or angry. They may also act indifferent. If handled inappropriately, completion can have a very negative impact on a child.

### **Acknowledge Emotions**

It is helpful to acknowledge your own emotions and the emotions of your child. Match completion is common and honesty around the situation is most helpful. Consider this an opportunity to handle saying goodbye in the most healthy, respectful way. If addressed properly, match completion can be a positive experience.

### **Steps to Completion**

It is the commitment of BBBS to assure closure is handled in the most respectful, positive manner possible. Therefore, we ask all participants to participate actively in completion and adhere to the following steps:

- Notify your School/Site-Based Coordinator as soon as the need for completion is identified.
- Focus on the positive aspects of the match.
- Allow your child an opportunity to discuss completion if they desire.
- Use this event as an opportunity for a teachable moment. Discuss how moving on is a part of life.
- Discuss with your child's Big what you can expect from them going forward. Do they plan to stay in touch with your child? If so, how? What will it look like? BBBS appreciates your commitment and follow-through in this process. We recognize this can be very difficult for all involved. We are dedicated to supporting you in match completion and hope you will work with us to ensure a positive mentoring experience for all involved.
- All parties are asked to complete match closure questions.

# College Scholarship Opportunities



The three Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in Minnesota (BBBS of Central Minnesota, BBBS of the Greater Twin Cities, and BBBS of Southern Minnesota), through generous donations from the Federated Insurance Foundation and the donors to the Federated Challenge, have established a scholarship program to assist current and past Little Brothers and Little Sisters, as well as High School Big Brothers and Big Sisters, who plan to continue their education in a non-four year postsecondary program at an accredited Minnesota school that is focused on apprenticeship, certificate, trade school, technical or community college. Scholarships are offered each year for study at an accredited institution of the student's choice.

## **Eligibility:**

Applicants to the Federated Challenge Scholarship for Big Brothers Big Sisters Agencies in Minnesota must:

- Be a current or past Little Brother or Little Sister or High School Big Brother or Big Sister for a minimum period of 18 months prior to application deadline date, and have been matched through either Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota or Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.
- Be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status.
- Have attained a high school diploma or GED (or will have graduated prior to the term for which the scholarship application is being submitted).
- Be enrolled or plan to enroll part-time or full-time in a non-four year program at an accredited Minnesota postsecondary school that is focused on apprenticeship, certificate, trade school, technical or community college.
- Have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).
- Have completed the FAFSA.

## **Awards:**

- If selected as a recipient, the student will receive an award ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Funding can be applied toward tuition, fees, books, and other necessary expenses related to the particular program or training (i.e. tools, materials, cookware, etc.).

- Scholarships are a one-time award. Students may re-apply each year, but funding cannot exceed \$5,000 per year, and will not continue beyond the established time necessary to complete the program or degree.

**To Apply:**

- Application deadlines are May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Contact Ann Matvick at [amatvick@bbbscentralmn.org](mailto:amatvick@bbbscentralmn.org) or (320) 258-4517 to get a copy of the application.

## **WWBD Memorial Scholarship**

BriAnna Kruzel is a former Little Sister and High School Big Sister (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN), who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in September 2013. BriAnna's family would like to carry forward BriAnna's legacy.

BriAnna's experience with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program was quite unique. When her father was deployed in Iraq, BriAnna began as a Little Sister in the program. Years later, BriAnna decided to become a High School Big Sister as a way to provide the same experience to another child. BriAnna was matched with a Little Sister whose father was deployed overseas, which helped them form an instant bond. BriAnna was able to relate to her Little Sister and provide advice and support. BriAnna was a dedicated friend and mentor for over two years. She was selected as the 2013 High School Big Sister of the Year for her outstanding commitment to the program and her Little Sister. She was also honored by the St. Cloud Optimist Club with the "Youth Appreciation Award" for her work with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

BriAnna's family would like to honor her memory by awarding a scholarship to a High School Senior who is a current/past Little Brother/Sister or High School Big Brother/Sister who has some of the same characteristics that BriAnna had. BriAnna was a very hardworking, dedicated student who worked diligently at achieving the best grades that she could. BriAnna may not have received the "A" that she was striving for but would never throw in the towel.

BriAnna believed strongly in giving and volunteering. She was an active member of Big Brothers Big Sisters, volunteered with Sartell Community Education, her church, and would help anyone that needed assistance. She was also a person who believed in loving each and every person that she came across. She was strong in her faith, she didn't judge anyone and was compassionate towards everyone. BriAnna had a contagious smile that would light up a room. Since BriAnna passed away her family and friends have decided to live out the mission of WWBD by evaluating situations in their own lives by asking themselves "What Would Bri Do?" Please check out <http://wwbdinc.org> to learn more about WWBD and BriAnna.

BriAnna's family would like to honor her memory by awarding a current/past Little Brother/Sister or High School Big Brother/Sister with a \$500 scholarship to a college of their choice. Payment of scholarship will be awarded after submitting proof of completion of first semester of college.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be a current/past Little Brother/Sister or High School Big Brother/Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN program.
- The applicant must be a senior in high school.
- The applicant must have been matched thru Big Brothers Big Sisters for at least 18 months.

Contact Ann Matvick at [amatvick@bbbscentralmn.org](mailto:amatvick@bbbscentralmn.org) or (320) 258-4517 to apply.

# **RESOURCE PAGE**

## **AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

General Line (320) 253-1616  
Fax (320) 253-1702  
Toll Free 1-888-600-1616  
Address 203 Cooper Avenue North, Suite 162  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

### **PROGRAM SUPPORT TEAM**

	Direct Line	Email
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\*Program Director      \*\* Program Coordinator

**After hour's emergency contact:  
Jackie Johnson (320) 292-9235 or Ann Matvick (320) 249-8769**

### **HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES – CHILD PROTECTION**

Benton County (320) 968-5087  
Morrison County (320) 632-2951 or 1-800-269-1464  
Stearns County (320) 656-6225  
Sherburne County (763) 765-4000  
Wright County (763) 682-7400

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Benton County (320) 968-7201  
Morrison County (320) 632-9233  
Stearns County (320) 251-4240  
Sherburne County (763) 765-4000  
Wright County (763) 682-1162

**COMMUNITY HELP LINE**

United Way 2-1-1