

2021 IMPACT REPORT







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Dear Friends,

This year Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring commemorates 120 years of service in New York City.

We honor the tenacious group of trailblazing women, who in 1902, responded to the needs of young girls in the court system, when no one else did—in that moment, the nationwide girls mentoring movement was born. Today we serve boys and girls.

We honor our extraordinary Big Brothers and Big Sisters—every day heroes from all walks of life—who believe, as we do, that there are gifts inherent to every child. Along the way, they nurture every spark within their Littles.

Finally, we honor you—our steadfast supporters—for sharing our vision, for trusting us and for joining us in making a difference in the lives of thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers.

For over a century, our organization has evolved over and over again, faced challenging times and tumultuous change, but the core of our mission has remained the same: knowing that a caring, consistent adult, can alter the trajectory of a child's life, for the better, forever. And that the ripple effects are endless.

As an organization, we stand stronger today than ever before.

This annual report is a tribute to all of those who have helped us fulfill our mission and to the children and families who have entrusted us to be a part of their journeys.

Thank you for helping us continue our legacy.

Onward,

Andrew R. Bogart Board President

Vidhya R. Kelly, LMSW CEO / Executive Director

Mission

Founded in 1902, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring strives to transform the lives of children through one-toone mentoring, while strengthening entire families in hardship.

Vision

A city in which all young people are empowered to recognize, reach for and achieve their full potential.

Demographics

92% qualify for free/reduced lunch

1/3 of our youth have been in or are at risk of foster care placement 70% come from a single-parent household

1/3 of our youth have IEPs 60% are the first generation in their families to attend college

In 2021, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring served **702** children and family members, including nearly **200** in one-to-one matches. Volunteer mentors contributed approximately **17,952** hours towards fulfilling our mission.



99% of youth served were promoted to the next grade 100%

of 12th-grade youth served graduated High School within 5 years

of High School graduates entered a college or training program

100% of youth served avoided early parenting and substance abuse

96% of youth showed increased self-confidence

91% of parents increased self-efficacy



Community-Based Mentoring

Kenya and Molly have built an unbreakable bond over the past four years, enjoying outings at the Statue of Liberty, US Open, various NYC museums, golf at Chelsea Piers, and group events like our Career Exploration Night and an IBM-sponsored Introduction to STEM workshop. During COVID, the match connected via FaceTime every week and watched movies together via Zoom. During weekly call nights, Molly helped Kenya create a list of best fit colleges, complete college applications and research scholarship opportunities. This year, Molly has visited Kenya at SUNY Potsdam, where she is a freshman. Kenya is the first in her family to go to college, and, on breaks from school, Molly & Kenya love to check out famous NYC restaurants on TikTok.

Kenya was raised by a single father and lacked female guidance. Growing up on the Lower East Side, Kenya has shown incredible strength and resilience, going from having a particularly challenging time in middle school, where she endured difficult relationships with her peers and struggled to get C's and D's, to growing confident and ultimately thriving in high school, with the help and encouragement from her mentor, Molly and Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring.

As a single father who has had to work long hours to make ends meet, Kenya's dad, Corey, was unable to attend Kenya's school related activities including school performances and parent teacher conferences. Corey hoped for a mentor to be a consistent positive female presence in his daughter's life. Corey feels so grateful for all of the support he has received in helping to raise Kenya. Corey shared that "It has not been easy raising a preteen/teenage daughter on my own while also balancing my own personal and work responsibilities. Without you all, I would not know what I would have done. Thank you for being there for my daughter." Since being matched with Molly, a Senior Partner at IBM Consulting, Kenya has grown confident in her communication skills, time management skills and her overall academic performance vastly improved, despite the challenges of remote schooling during COVID. Kenya feels Molly's mentorship has given her a sense of direction for her future. She was thrilled to receive the Ingrid Kelly Memorial Scholarship offered through the agency in 2021 and is now pursuing studies in business and psychology.

For Molly this experience has been equally meaningful: "I learned that you have to be comfortable and open to learning and understanding other's experiences. This experience gives you exposure to incredible kids, that are all dealing with challenges, and as a mentor you are able to be a constant in a young person's life and be someone that they can go to and confide in. Kenya is in my life for good, she's part of my family now."

Molly is what being a Big is all about: she's caring, open and consistent. When she says she will be there, she will be. When she says she will call, she does. She's reliable. She's committed. She's earned Kenya's trust. Molly, like other Bigs, believed she would be helping a child when she joined our program, yet without fail she and all of our Bigs end up learning just as much from their Littles—it truly is life changing for all." — *Didhya Kelly*, CEO / Executive Director

Mentoring Moms & Dads Program

Luz's family has been with us since 2015, when she found herself at the height of her struggles, trying to balance her life as a single mom. Her two children, Adriel, 17, and Lillian, 13, both experienced wonderful friendships with volunteer Bigs in our program before she herself was matched with her mentor Deborah in November of 2020. At that time, Luz, who is Dominican-American and in her 40's, had a full-time job

as a para-professional at a public school, a side job cleaning, and was taking classes at Hunter College towards a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Beyond her roles as mother, employee and student, Luz also helped take care of her own mother and siblings, rarely enjoying any time for herself.

Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring matched Luz with Deborah, an accomplished immigration lawyer whose family migrated to the US from Trinidad. They initially met over Zoom and found it easy to connect and enjoy lively conversation. Many video calls and eventually in-person meetings later, Luz shared that she enjoys Deborah's energy and positive attitude, and is excited to have someone to help her stay motivated with her financial and health and wellness goals. Luz recently realized her



dream of graduating from college and will be pursuing a Masters in Education in the fall. She feels she has developed better communication with both of her children, and through efforts towards stress relief and healthier food choices, has lost weight and is staying active.

As a mother that is raising her children alone and who lives with so little, being able to count on my mentor and an organization that provides me with such a huge support is just priceless." — Luz

In 2021, our Mentoring Moms Program, the only initiative of its kind offering mentors to single parents and their children simultaneously, expanded to include single fathers as well.





Start a W.O.W. Program

Is your company ready to boost employee engagement, build comradery and promote volunteerism? We invite corporate employees to be a part of our World of Work Mentoring program, where local High School students are matched one-toone with mentors from our corporate partners and meet twice a month in a group, on a weekday afternoon at the company. The curriculum focuses on workplace exposure and career preparation, and culminates in a targeted group project. With all aspects of the program taken care of on-site, companies and their employees have the opportunity to strengthen the community they work in, see meaningful outcomes, develop their leadership skills and enjoy the boost from having future leaders in the office and guiding them towards success.

Contact Vidhya Kelly at vkelly@bigslittlesnyc.org

World of Work Program. (W.O.W.)

In 2021, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring launched an exciting new partnership with JPMorgan Chase, whose employees now provide invaluable learning opportunities to inspire the next generation of leaders in NYC. Our Littles in this program come from high needs public schools. During each session, students gain exposure to the workplace while developing vital 21st century skills communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Matches in this sitebased program have the unique opportunity to build a one-to-one relationship while in a group mentoring setting. Big Brothers like John, a distinguished finance professional who earned a BS from Manhattan College



and an MBA from St. John's University, were eager to join the W.O.W. program. Born to Italian immigrant parents in Staten Island, John finds it important to give back and was happy to have the opportunity to do so as a JPMorgan employee. John was matched with his little brother, Aqil, an ambitious 10th grader at the Academy for Software Engineering (AFSE). Aqil was eager to learn more about the workplace and open to receiving advice from a professional. Aqil's parents are also immigrants from Bangladesh, and is interested in pursuing a career in both computer science and writing. Aqil and John easily bonded when they first met, and Aqil felt comfortable enough to share the novel he's been working on with John immediately after. Aqil's father was an Uber driver, but can no longer work due to health reasons and his mom takes care of his grandmother, who has numerous health needs, so Aqil is eager to obtain a summer job and have a successful career so he can pitch in and help his family. College and career readiness are at the forefront of W.O.W. programming, and in addition to already thinking of ways to encourage Aqil in his writing pursuits, John has invited a guest presenter from his alma mater to an upcoming College Access Session at W.O.W. and has connected Aqil and all the Littles to a summer internship opportunity in software development.

goodapple

Thank you to our pioneer corporate partner Good Apple, now in their fifth year of the W.O.W program. We salute them for their leadership and steadfast dedication to the youth and families of New York City.

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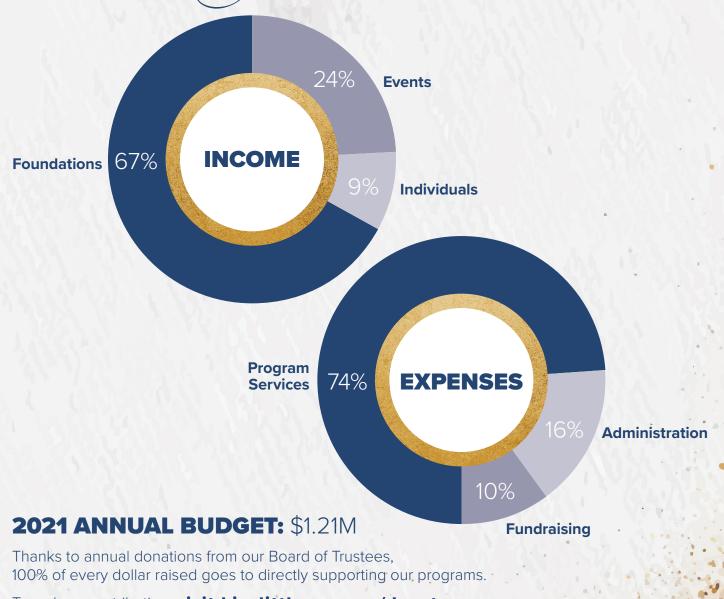
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Volunteer

Volunteer mentors ages 21 and older provide guidance and support to a young person aged 7 to 19, spending 8 hours a month together for one year and introducing a child/teen to new ideas, activities and interests. Bigs & Littles NYC's mentors report that they gain much more than anticipated from the experience of giving back and strengthening our community.

Become a Mentor Zoday

Visit https://bigslittlesnyc.org/volunteer

Thank You

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