

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF HUNTERDON, SOMERSET, AND WARREN COUNTIES

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HOURS: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
By appointment after-hours

FEES: None

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Community-Based Program: Matches children from single parent families, as well as children being raised by grandparents or other family members to professionally screened adult volunteers. The volunteers serve as friends and role models, helping children gain greater self-confidence. Volunteers are matched one-to-one with these children, based on interests and location. The volunteers and children do simple things together such as playing catch or baking cookies - becoming friends. Volunteer screening includes an interview, a reference check, training, and a home visit. The child intake includes a parent and child interview and a school inquiry. The case management staff supports and supervises matches.

School-Based Program: Matches elementary school students to professionally screened volunteers. The volunteers serve as friends and role models, helping the students gain greater self-confidence. Volunteers are matched one-to-one with children, based on interests and schedules. The volunteer and child meet weekly for one hour while school is in session. All meetings are held at the child's school. Activities include playing board games, using school facilities, including the library and gym - becoming friends. Volunteer screening includes an interview, a reference check, and training. The child intake includes parent permission, a teacher referral, and a student interview. The case management staff supports and supervises matches. School-based mentoring programs are currently established in the Belvidere, Great Meadows, Hackettstown, Phillipsburg, Washington Twp., and White Twp. schools.

High School Bigs Program: Matches elementary and middle school students to professionally screened high school students. Potential Bigs are carefully screened to ensure their ability to commit to the program. The volunteers serve as friends and role models, helping children gain greater self-confidence. Volunteers are matched one-to-one with children, based on interests and schedules. The volunteer and child meet weekly for one hour while school is in session. The matches meet during a supervised after-school program. Activities include playing board games, using school facilities, including the library and gym - becoming friends. Volunteer screening includes an interview, a reference check, and training. The child intake includes parent permission, a teacher referral, and a student interview. The case management staff supports and supervises matches. The High School Bigs programs are currently established in the Phillipsburg School District, Warren Hills School District, Firth Youth Center, and Washington Borough School District.