



Big Brothers
Big Sisters

OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
INTERIOR OF BC

Annual Report 2022

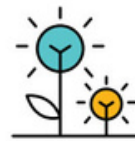


Mission and Vision

Our vision is that all young people realize their full potential. By no fault of their own, many youth are dealing with adversities and challenges which threaten their confidence and limit their opportunities.

Our mission is to enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of children and youth. Developmental relationships are proven to reduce the impact of adversities and support youth to grow and thrive.

Challenge Growth:



Expand Possibilities:



Express Care:



Provide Support:



Share Power:



Message from Executive Director



Helen Brownrigg
Executive Director

As we navigate the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic in our daily lives, we also take solace in the promising signs of a return to normalcy. Our unwavering commitment remains focused on the well-being of our children, fostering collaborative efforts with schools, families, and the broader community to discern where our efforts are most needed and to pinpoint service gaps. Many children have faced setbacks in their education during the COVID-19 era, and illness continues to be a source of stress for both families and educational institutions.

The Study Buddy program has been instrumental in establishing mentoring relationships with children, offering them a chance to catch up on their schoolwork. Furthermore, our dedication extends to reaching out to children in rural areas who face limited access to support services. The profound impact of isolation's negativity has been felt by everyone, highlighting the compelling need for increased in-person interactions. In response, our focus has shifted towards the recruitment of more volunteers.

The enthusiasm we hold for our work and the communities we serve serves as a daily source of inspiration for both myself and our team. We consider ourselves fortunate to be part of an organization that brings joy to children's lives and provides support to schools and families.

This year marked the inception of the Big Smiles program, made possible through the generous support of Align Ortho, which provided braces to a child within our program. This remarkable act of generosity has ensured a lifetime of smiles for a child in need. We eagerly anticipate the ongoing development of this program and the opportunity to continue making a positive impact on the lives of children.

Message from Board of Directors



Brian Steeves

Board of Director
President

It has been a challenging couple of years at the Society, with the acquisition of two other long-standing agencies, the Covid-19 pandemic and new strains on people and families, both economically and societally.

Our team's volunteer and program staff continue to step up and deliver much needed programs to the youth of the next generation. We are small but mighty in what we do. I wish to thank each one of you for the work that you do to help support the children in the area we serve. We are only as strong as the work you put into the programs you deliver.

Thank you for joining our quest to ignite the power and potential of our children and youth. By doing so you are assisting in making the new empathetic leaders of the next generation. Your support is key to enable us to deliver the well-developed programs we have. Each one of you, whether it be school staff who work with us to deliver programming, volunteers at local fundraisers, donating to the Renew Crew or providing a financial donation allow us to pursue our goals for the children and youth of our served areas.

With the ongoing leadership in our Society, we continue to achieve success and great progress over the past few years and maintain resiliency to the ongoing changes.

Total children served in 2022: 1225

Theory of Change

We at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central and Southern Interior of BC believe that young people who face adversity need additional consistent, supportive developmental relationships.

We intentionally recruit based on needs of community;

Match a group of mentees with a mentor to educate and support;

Train and support the mentor, mentee and family;

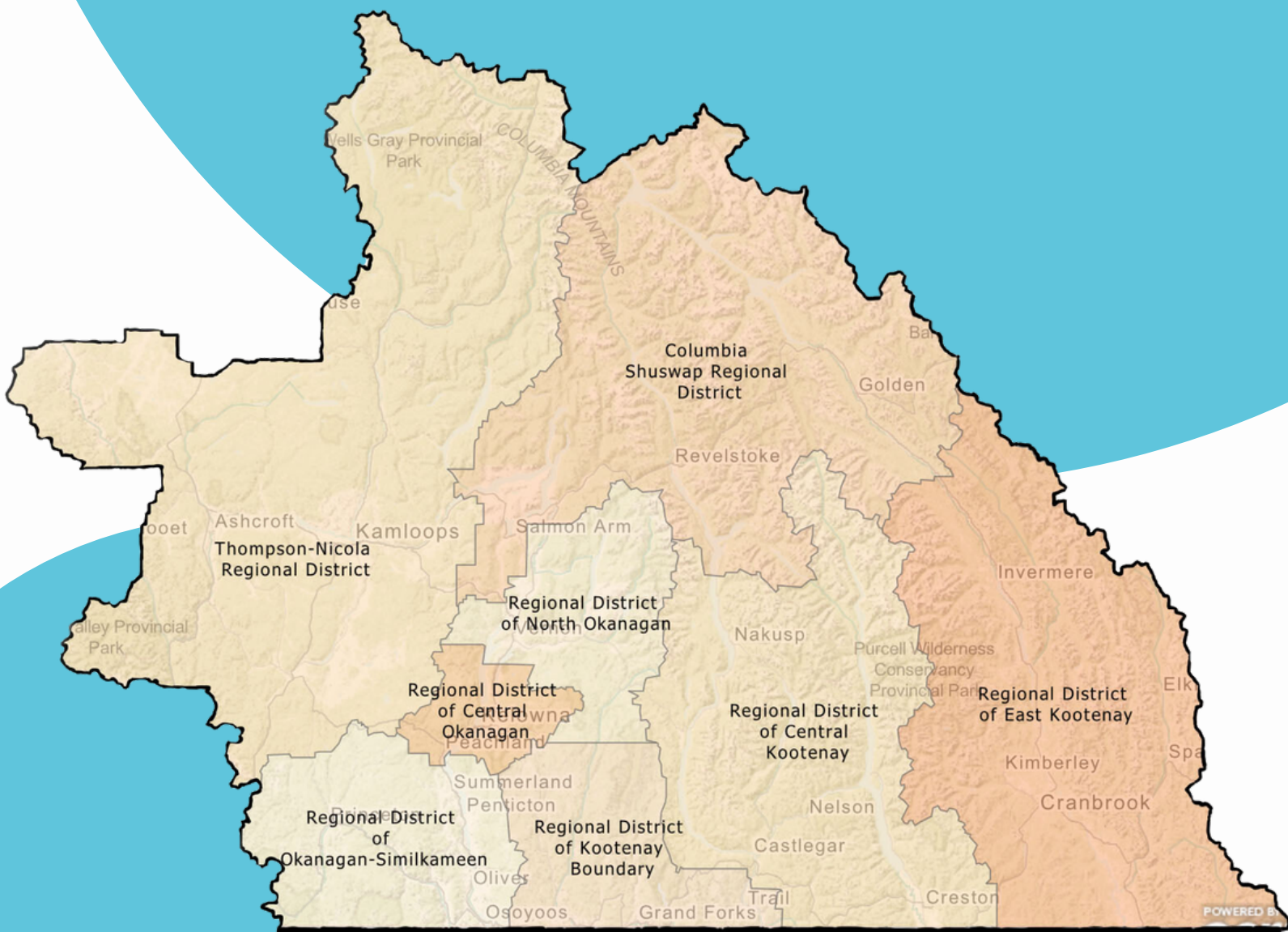
Build a Developmental Relationship between the mentee and mentor.



Service Area

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central and Southern Interior of BC cover the Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Boundary region of British Columbia encompassing 16 school districts and 6 regional districts of British Columbia.

We cover more than 170,000 kms and over 750,000 British Columbian residents.



Programs



One on One



ADULT OR TEEN IN-SCHOOL MENTORING

Mentors meet with their Mentees and engage in activities such as board games, crafts, or hanging out. These activities aid in the building developmental relationships. These relationships build upon the elements of expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing of power and expanding possibilities.

STUDY BUDDY PROGRAM (GRADES 2 TO 8)

The Study Buddy Program matches students in Grades 2 to 8 with a Teen or Adult Mentor. It is a one-to-one mentoring relationship that focuses on school work and building connections through a once-a-week tutoring session. The program strives to provide an academic role model to increase academic performance, promote the importance of staying in school and increasing attendance, enhance educational goal setting and decrease disruptive behaviour.

Programs

Group



Roots of Empathy Racines de l'empathie

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

The Roots of Empathy program is delivered to elementary school children who are coached to recognize and connect with the vulnerability and humanity of a baby who visits their classroom throughout the school year.

In Roots of Empathy, emotional literacy develops as children begin to identify and label the baby's feelings, reflect on and understand their own feelings, then bridge to understand the feelings of others.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING STRATEGIES

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Strategies is based on the processes by which children and youth understand and manage emotions, feel and express empathy, form and achieve goals, create and maintain positive relationships, and engage in responsible decision making. SEL Strategies is also grounded in the tenants of neuroscience, positive psychology and mindful awareness.

Programs



Group



Go You! (formerly Go Girls!)

A Group Mentoring Program for girls in Grades 4 to 6 that focuses on physical activity, balanced eating, and self-esteem. The program's single, most important goal is to positively shape the lives of young women and girls by helping them build a positive self-image – setting them on a path to reach their full potential.

The Go You! program consists of 8 in-person mentoring sessions, each 1 hour long. Each session is structured around three themes: physical activity, balanced eating, and self-esteem.

Game On

The main goal of the Game On! is to develop an appreciation of the benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle among boys in Grades 4 to 6. In addition, the program provides participants with the tools they require to implement an active, healthy lifestyle. The

Game On! Program includes many games that encompass a wide range of purposes.

The Game On! program consists of 8 in-person mentoring sessions, each 1 hour long. Each session is structured around three themes: physical activity, healthy eating, and self-esteem.



BIG POSSIBILITIES MENTORING (GRADES 10 TO 12)

BIG Possibilities Mentoring is a career-readiness program offered to high school students. It consists of 5 sessions where students learn about employability, professionalism, soft skills, technology in the workforce, digital footprints, networking, relationship-building, volunteering, and gaining work experience. Students complete self-assessments to evaluate their skills and to see where they could improve.

BIG Possibilities Mentoring benefits students by teaching them important skills to help them build confidence and succeed in their future careers and volunteer experience.

Financial Information

Kemp Harvey completed the review engagement for the Society again this year.

We finished the 2022 fiscal year with an overall deficit of approximately \$49,00. The fiscal year 2022 was much stronger than our expected 2022 budget, although a significant swing as compared to our 2021 fiscal year. The deficit in 2022 was primarily a result of the increased inflationary costs that we saw across all industries. All industries, whether private, public, for-profit or not-for-profit, saw these increased costs. We also increased our staff remuneration to hire and continue to have the best staff to deliver the programs.

Our society was able to cover the 2022 deficit out of reserve funds from historically successful years and the work of our Renew Crew team.

Restricted assets have been determined to assist in implementing new programs in the future or in the potential acquisition of additional real estate to provide existing programs out of under-serviced areas.

Looking over the past two years, we maintained a greater than breakeven stance. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from the public, and the ability to continue to obtain grants from BC Gaming. Gaming's contribution along with the success of our Social enterprise, Renew Crew, has allowed us to be able to provide the well developed programs to children and youth in the 16 communities we serve.

You can view the complete set of reviewed financial statement at www.bigs.bc.ca

Thank you Donors



Renew Crew



Renew Crew helps community members reuse and recycle clothing, textiles, and small household goods. Serving Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Vernon and surrounding communities. As a business of Big Brothers Big Sisters Central and Southern Interior of BC, we collect donated goods and resell them in the thrift retail market and recycling market. The proceeds from this social enterprise fund our school-based programs that help more than 3,000 children. The Renew Crew is one of the most successful social ventures, generating funds for our vital social services. We collect donations through a combination of home pick-ups, on-site clothing bins for drop-offs, and targeted community clothing drives. Thanks to donors like you, last year Renew Crew collected over 3.5 million pounds of clothing and household and generated over \$200,000 in net profits for our vital social services.



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