



Dear Friend,

On behalf of everyone at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, thank you for starting something in the lives of our Little Brothers and Little Sisters.

Children and youth all over our city rely on the positive support that they receive from adult friends and mentors. Your dedication makes a big difference in the healthy development of children and the choices that they make.

We pride ourselves at creating quality friendships and maintaining the highest standards of child safety. We maintain these standards by being thorough in the application process, as well as providing support to our matches throughout the duration of their involvement with the agency. Your patience through this process is greatly appreciated, and important to the children waiting to be matched with a volunteer like you.

As you are moving through the enrollment process we want to keep in touch and provide you with support along the way. So please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Also, as you are waiting for a match, there are other ways you can become involved. You can visit our website at www.bbbst.com to learn about the many events and activities that you can participate in, or call us at (416) 925-8981 Extension 4100 and discuss possible options with a staff member.

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Denyer".

Cathy Denyer

President



Our Mission

We commit to improving the lives of Toronto's children and youth by delivering the highest quality volunteer based mentoring programs.

Our Vision

Every child who needs a mentor has a mentor.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Toronto believe that:

- The agency's focus should be preventative not corrective in nature.
- The benefits of positive, long-term friendships between caring adults and children/youth promote healthy development.
- The highest quality of service and safety must be maintained at all times, in all programs.
- Our infrastructure and services should be inclusive of diversity.
- A spirit of partnership with our volunteers is imperative.

Program Outcomes

Children and youth in the BBBST programs see real, positive changes.

- The child's self confidence can improve.
- Often school work improves.
- The child's relations with peers and adults often improve.
- The child has a more positive outlook on life.
- On average Little Brothers/Little Sisters go on to graduate from high school at a rate of 20% higher than the national average.
- Compared to others in their age group more Little Brothers/Little Sisters graduate from college or university
- From those Little Brothers/Little Sisters who came from a social assistance background 78 % no longer rely on this form of income.

Who can be a Big Brother / Big Sister?

Males and females of good character, 18 years or older, who live within the city of Toronto, who are ready to share a fun friendship with a child can be a Big Brother / Big Sister. Youth 16 and over can be a Big Brother or Big Sister in some of our school programs.

Who can be a Little Brother / Little Sister?

We provide Big Brothers and Big Sisters to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 16 who live within the city of Toronto, and are in need of a positive role model.



Program Descriptions

Please note that we are looking for Big Brothers all over the city, and Big Sisters in areas specifically in North York, Rexdale, and Scarborough, and Etobicoke.

BIG BUNCH PROGRAM: Big Bunch is a group mentoring program for children ages 8-12. Each mentor is matched with up to three children and meet with other matches as a group twice a month at the same site for 1 ½ hours. Community Centre's located across the City of Toronto serve as sites and selection is based on where Littles live. Bigs are expected to work together to plan activities (including sports, arts and crafts, etc.) in advance of their meetings. **Please note that a car is strongly recommended for this program.**

IN-SCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM (During School Day): Children are part of a one-to-one friendship with a mentor. For 1 hour a week from September to June, children will meet one-to-one with their mentors during the school day on school property. Activities involve using the school's library, computer lab, gym, arts and crafts area and staff room. Critical to the success of friendships in this program are the combined commitment and cooperation of the school liaison, the Little, the volunteer and our agency.

JUMP Math PROGRAM (Before school): In partnership with the Toronto District School Board and JUMP Math, volunteers are matched in a one-to-one relationship with children in order to tutor and mentor in the subject of math. This program presents math in a manageable way and makes it fun and exciting for kids. JUMP Math runs from October to June for 1 hour a week. It is currently held in schools in the Jane/Finch and St. Jamestown communities.

GO GIRLS! HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS (runs after school day): Go Girls! led by two female mentors runs in schools and community centre's for seven, two-hour sessions. **Please note: most programs are run at schools during the lunch hours.** Each session provides an opportunity for girls (ages 10-14) to participate in fun, educational games and activities. The curriculum is based on active living, balanced eating, and feeling good/self esteem.

GAME ON! PROGRAM (runs after the school day): Modeled on the success of the Go Girls! Program, the Game On! Program is a pilot that engages boys ages 9-15 to meet weekly to discuss issues and participate in activities that promote physical activity, healthy eating/nutrition and self-esteem/communication skills. Two male mentors facilitate the program for seven weeks in schools and at community centres throughout the City of Toronto.



Volunteer Responsibilities

As a Big Brother / Big Sister you share with each member of this agency a valued reputation. We symbolize friendship, responsibility, trust and a concern for the protection and well being of children. As an integral part of our team, we expect that you will comply with the following:

- Be a friend to the child and maintain contact on a regular and consistent basis.
- Be a consistent and positive role model by modeling responsible behaviors such as reliability, respect, honesty, appropriate manners, etc., while having concern for the protection and well being of children.
- Comply with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto policies and procedures.
- Respect the role of the parent.

Responsibilities of BBBST to our Volunteers

We value and respect our volunteers, and pride ourselves at creating positive working relationships. We will provide you with as much information and support as possible to help you be successful in your role as a Big.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS for Volunteers

- Complete application and return by fax (416-925-4671), scan/email (volunteertor@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca) or mail/in person (501-2345 Yonge St. Toronto, ON, M4P 2E5)
- Your application will then be forwarded to an assessor who will contact you for an interview, book you in for a two part training session and you will complete your police check form. Please bring payment of \$25 to cover the cost of your police check form, in the form of exact cash, or credit card. You will be asked to complete your form at the interview with your payment, and Toronto Police Services will mail you a copy of your police check to the residential address that you provide on the form. Toronto Police Services takes approx 2-3 months to complete it and mail it back to you.

After your training sessions your references will be checked and your file will be passed onto the appropriate coordinator.



I am applying as a:

Big Brother Big Sister

***BBBST offers a number of different Mentoring Programs. Specific Mentoring Programs and volunteer opportunities will be discussed and identified with your assessor during the interview process based on your interests and program needs.**

We evaluate how we are doing in promoting and recruiting for our programs, so that we can serve the community better. **Please tell us how you have heard about us?**

BBBST Staff Radio TV Website TTC Fair Social Third-Party Event Open House
 Friend/BBBS Volunteer, Name: _____

Personal Info

Volunteer's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: _____ Please check one Male or Female

Home Address: _____
Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

Nearest Intersection: _____

Daytime nearest Intersection: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(If different than Home address) Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

How long at this address: _____ How many adults 18+ live at this address: _____

Where were you born? _____ If not Canada, how long have you lived in Canada? _____

How do you identify ethnically? _____ Language(s) _____

Telephone Numbers

Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____ Best time to contact: _____

Employment/School

Employer/School: _____

Nearest Intersection: _____

Occupation: _____ How long employed: _____

Can we contact you at work/school? Yes No Work/School Hours: _____

Are you currently enrolled in a Post-Secondary institution? Yes No If yes, which Post-Secondary institution: _____

Volunteer Availability: Are you available to volunteer for 1-hour a week during the weekday (Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm)? Yes No





Education

What is your highest level of education completed?

Please list any Degrees, Diplomas, and/or Training:

Volunteer Experience

Have you ever applied to be (or have been) a Big Brother/Big Sister? Yes No

Have you been, or are presently, a volunteer with other organizations? Yes No

Family

Marital Status Single Separated Common-law

Married Divorced Widowed

Do you have children? No Yes. If yes, please specify (name, age)

Possession of a driver's license is not a requirement to participate in any of our programs but is required if you will be transporting a child/youth in any vehicle you are operating.

Do you have a valid driver's license? No Yes License #: _____

Class: _____

Do you own or have access to a vehicle? No Yes

- Does your car have passenger-side airbags? No Yes

- Do you have valid auto insurance with at least \$1,000,000 coverage? No Yes

Legal Record - Please list any arrest, convictions, and recent traffic violations, and pending charges (**we will later request a police check/clearance**)

Arrest/Violation Date	Charge	Disposition/Result

Have you ever had a pardon and or a criminal offense? Yes No

Please Specify:



Tell Us about Yourself

How do you spend your leisure time?

Are you anticipating any changes in your life in the next year that may impact your match (e.g. marital status, living arrangements, employment, health conditions, children etc.)? No Yes. Please elaborate. _____

Are you currently receiving treatment for medical or mental health issues that could impact a match and/or of which we need to be aware? No Yes. Please elaborate and list an applicable reference, i.e. physician, therapist, psychologist in the reference section.

Please call (416) 925-8981 Ext. 4100 or email volunteertor@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca if you have any questions about this application or our programs.



References

Please list at least three people who can confirm your reputation, character and morals and have known you for a minimum of two years. Please note your references will be called and emailed. Please ensure they are aware that the delay in returning their reference will delay your application.

- ✓ One reference MUST be a work or school reference
- ✓ One reference MUST be from a member of your family
- ✓ One reference MUST be a character reference
- ✓ If Applicable: One reference MUST be a Significant Other

1. Employer School (if student): _____

Contact Name _____

Address: _____

Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

Bus Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Best time to contact: _____

2. Co-worker Friend: _____

Address: _____

Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

Bus Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Best time to contact: _____

3. Significant Other Domestic Partner Family: _____

Address: _____

Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

Bus Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Best time to contact: _____

*** If requested by the agency - a medical reference may be required. (ie: psychiatrist, therapist)**

All information will be treated confidentially and will not be shared.

4. Health Provider Additional reference: _____

Address: _____

Apt. Street City Province Postal Code

Bus Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Best time to contact: _____



Permission and Release

I understand that:

2. I am in no way obligated to perform any volunteer services;
3. The information I provided may be used to conduct a background check, including driving records check, criminal background check, and other records where required by local, provincial or federal law for volunteers working with children/youth;
4. I acknowledge and accept that this application does not guarantee acceptance into the program, and that Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto is under no obligation to accept or assign me as a Volunteer in their program, and is not obliged to provide a reason;
5. As part of the enrollment process, the Agency will be asking me to provide additional personal information prior to making any recommendations for assignment;
6. If I am matched, I understand and will abide by the job description and code of conduct related to my Volunteer position. I agree to abide by the confidentiality guidelines of the Agency;
7. I hereby release and forever discharge Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto, and their employees, directors and Volunteer from any cause or claim for damages, whether bodily injury, death, property damage, or emotional trauma, anxiety or distress arising from my association with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto;
8. I give permission for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto to share any information that I've given them, pertinent to my application to become an active member of this organization, with appropriate staff and the Parent/Guardian of the child/youth in the process of match selection. Further, I agree to allow my file to be viewed by Agency Reviewers for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada, at the time of the Agency review, should it be requested. I further grant Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto permission to release my name, date of birth, Agency applied to and notice of acceptance, rejection or withdrawal to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada and for pertinent facts related to my status to be shared within the movement. I understand that if Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Toronto should cease operation, my complete file becomes the property of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada;
9. If I am under 18 years of age at the time of my application, my parent/guardian will complete a consent form on my behalf.

Printed Name

Signature of Applicant

Date:



I confirm that I have access to a vehicle and I have \$1,000,000 liability coverage on my insurance policy.

I confirm that I plan to use my vehicle to transport my “little” for activities and I am prepared to provide evidence of my insurance coverage if requested.

Printed Name

Signature of Applicant

Date

Thank You!

**PLEASE SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO BBBST VIA
SCAN/EMAIL, FAX, MAIL OR IN PERSON**

volunteertor@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Phone: 416-925-8981 ext 4100

Fax: 416-925-4671

Mail/In Person: 501-2345 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON, M4P2E5