



### **OUR MISSION**

We create and support one-to-one mentoring **relationships** that ignite **the power and promise of youth.** 

### **OUR VISION**

Our vision is that all youth achieve their full potential.

### **OUR VALUES**

We believe **when every young person** has access to a positive mentor, it transforms their lives for the better – empowering them with a stronger sense of belonging and the opportunity to **achieve their full potential**.

# NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This was a year of momentum, renewal, and meaningful connection for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick. We're proud to share that we reached more children this year — each one paired with a mentor ready to listen, encourage, and help them shine. Every new match is a story in the making, and this year we added many beautiful chapters.

One of our most exciting milestones was reopening our after-school program at Fisher Mitchell Elementary – a program that had been dormant since the pandemic. Thanks to a powerful partnership with Hyde School, we matched high school students as Bigs with younger Littles, reigniting a space full of laughter, learning, and genuine connection. Seeing these relationships grow has reminded us of the resilience of our youth and the incredible potential of peer to peer mentorship.

Beyond one-on-one matches, our group events brought the whole BBBS family together. Whether it was cheering each other on at mini golf, dancing in costume at our Halloween party, or sharing joy at the holiday celebration, these moments helped strengthen our community and reminded every child that they belong.

We also celebrated an incredibly successful year of fundraising, thanks to the unwavering support of individuals, businesses, and community partners who believe in the transformative power of mentorship. Every dollar raised helped us build and sustain relationships that will shape lives for years to come.

We were honored with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Platinum Award, given to agencies demonstrating exceptional growth in match retention, program expansion, and positive impact on the youth community.

But success doesn't happen in isolation. It happens because of you — our volunteers, donors, families, staff, and supporters. Thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and walking alongside the Littles and Bigs who are building a better future, one relationship at a time.

Carol MarquisExecutive Director



# NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year behind us and another year of meaningful relationships for our Bigs and Littles. While the agency faced its share of challenges, the heart of our mission – creating and supporting powerful one-to-one relationships – shone through. From everyday moments to extraordinary experiences, our matches thrived and our community grew stronger because of them.

Together, Bigs and Littles hiked mountains, played games, paddleboarded, built shelves, carved pump-kins, celebrated at Pride events, and cooked meals. In each of these shared moments, they built deep connections, strengthened confidence and self-esteem, and navigated both the simple and complex parts of life — side by side.

At our signature event, Big Night Out, we celebrated these relationships and learned something powerful: every dollar invested in BBBS yields an \$18 return to the community as Littles grow into thriving adults. We also heard from two former Littles who shared heartfelt stories about how their relationships with their Bigs shaped the people they are today – grounded in self-worth, ambition, and healthy relationships.

We began the year with an unexpected gift from the Salka Impact
Fund at The Dallas Foundation that will help ensure the long-term
financial stability of our agency. Throughout the year, our
success was further fueled by the incredible generosity of
local businesses and community members. Their enthusiastic
support of our fundraising events – through sponsorships,
donations, and participation – reflected a shared belief in
the power of mentorship. From community members
donating to our annual fund to business partners stepping
up as major event sponsors, we are deeply grateful for the
support that surrounds and sustains our mission.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are setting our sights

high. We aim to meet ambitious fundraising goals, expand our programs, grow our matches, and complete a new three-year strategic plan to guide our future. Most importantly, we will continue to provide proven, impactful mentorship to the youth we serve.

With our dedicated board, passionate staff, and committed supporters, I'm confident we'll rise to every challenge and opportunity.

– Heather Arvidson Board President

# 2024

Little Sister Ella and Big Sister Karry

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

Heather Arvidson, President Justin Dionne. Vice President Penny Anderson, Treasurer Richard Fleming, Secretary Matt Bachman Barbara Berinato Richard Burns Christina DeYoung Mike Dutton Jen Elwell Brendan Fickett Lee Johnson Karry Kane Amanda McGovern John O'Neill Steve Whitney



# **STAFF**

Carol Marquis, Executive Director
Michael Czerfanski, Program Manager
Hannah Rose, Program Manager
Robin Stidworthy, Program Manager
Jennifer Blackstone, Executive & Fundraising Assistant
Christina Burns, Intern

# 4,050 hours

of Match Support

#### 450 hours

Assessments & Interviews

### 600 hours

**Training Provided** 

# **BIG NEWS**

We are thrilled to report that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/ Brunswick was chosen as a 2024 Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) Platinum Award Winner for program excellence! This award is granted to agencies demonstrating excep-



tional growth in match retention, program expansion, and positive impact on the youth community.

Out of more than 230 agencies nationwide, we are honored to be one of just 17 organizations to receive this prestigious recognition. This award reflects our unwavering commitment to igniting potential and creating brighter futures for children in our community.

Thank YOU – our supporters, mentors, and partners –for making this possible!

# HIGH SCHOOL BIGS & LITTLES

It took dedicated effort for a full year, but our After-School programs are back up and running! In this unique mentoring program, "Littles" are paired with a carefully selected high school student "Bigs" who's not just a mentor, but a friend, a listener, and a positive role model. These are students who've chosen to give their time because they care and want to make a difference in someone's life.

While the impact on the Littles in this program is clear, studies show that becoming a Big Brother or Sister offers high school students the chance to learn about the importance of giving back to others and gain valuable coaching skills.

High school-aged Bigs report receiving several benefits\*: improvements in interpersonal skills and abilities, including communicating better, being more patient, and wanting to be a better role model; personal abilities, such as being responsible, reliable, and organized; knowledge of child development; leadership abilities; and interest in working with children as a career.

We are so grateful to the Maine Women's Giving Tree for supporting this program. Other after -school sites to start in the new year include Mt. Ararat High School and Brunswick High School.





Little Brother Kingston and Big Brother Milos play Uno together during their first meeting of the Hyde-Fisher Mitchell After School program.

**BIG BISTRO CAFE** 

In April, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick was graciously invited by the Mid Coast Hospital Auxiliary to form a pop-up cafe at their Grand and Glorious Yard Sale. The partnership would allow visitors to the yard sale access to food and drinks while helping BBBS raise much-needed funds.

Staff, volunteers, and board members served up breakfast and lunch fare during the event, and 100 percent of the sales supported Big and Little matches!

It was a great way for us to be present at one of the largest community events in our area. Thank you to the Auxiliary for letting us be part of this wonderful event to help spread the message of mentorship.



# **BBBS CELEBRATES**

This year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America marked 120 years of creating and supporting one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

Throughout this incredible journey, countless lives have been changed. The organization's 120-year legacy is proof that when we stand together, there's no limit to the positive change we can create.



Congress officially recognized BBBS' 120th Anniversary and the organization's significant contributions to bringing mentorship to youth nationwide by unanimously passing a Congressional Resolution – a historic moment, as it's the first time a Congressional act has been passed since BBBSA was incorporated over 60 years ago. The resolution represents a tremendous accomplishment, paving the way for bigger advocacy efforts that will influence federal policies for the youth we serve.

# **2024 IMPACT**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick programs continue to have a tremendous impact on the youth we serve, providing Littles with stability and connection. The following outcomes were found based on Youth Outcome and Strength of Relationship surveys at the end of the year.

100% improved emotional regulation



YOUTH SERVED 146



83% improved academic grades



79% improved mental well-being

78% decline in risky behaviors



67%
plan to
graduate
high school





100% greater social competence

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick continue to engage the community in which we serve and exceed the average match length and retention rate of other agencies across the nation.

**15 towns** 

**46** months

Average Match Length

National average = 34 months

9,600

Hours of Volunteer Service

13 schools

92%

Average 12-Month Retention Rate National average = 71%

### BIG & LITTLE Of YEAR THEYEAR

# **WARREN & RJ**

The Big and Little of the Year Award recognizes a match who shows exceptional commitment and dedication to their relationship and to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Nine-year-old Warren had waited for 128 days, counting down eagerly for a Big Brother to share his love of video games and adventures. Living in a single-parent household with his mom, Warren yearned for a male role model. His wish was finally granted in November 2022 when he was matched with RJ through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick.

RJ brought some history into the relationship, having been a Big Brother to another Little, Zach, for four years prior. Even still, that first meeting was full of nervousness. Would they like each other? Would they have fun together?

The answer to both questions was and is a resounding yes. RJ finds a way to incorporate social and educational lessons into his outings that feel natural and fun. For instance, RJ challenges Warren to conquer anxiety by tackling ropes courses and helps him get better at math while building a bookshelf together.

Through golf, RJ helps Warren have patience in getting good at the sport, and through hiking — something Warren says he had never done before — the two act out Zelda video games with sticks as swort.

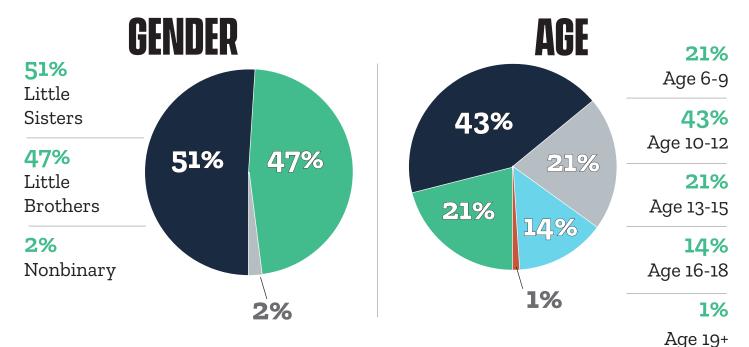
er done before – the two act out Zelda video games with sticks as swords. They even finished the Royal River Conservation Trust 400-footer hiking challenge – climbing to the peak of ten destinations in the local area.

Warren brings some much-needed levity to RJ's life and is a joy to be with, he says, and is "as smart as he is funny." While fun is a big part of their relationship, Warren's mom, Barbara, says that the true impact of their friendship has come from consistency. RJ is a male adult who shows up and is always there for Warren, she says — something that had been missing from his life.

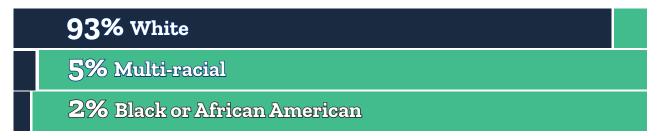
While Warren's story has a happy ending, many other children continue to wait for a Big Brother, sometimes for years. One in three kids in America is growing up without a positive adult mentor. The gap between mentorship and the youth who need it most continues to widen due to perceived b arriers to the time and expertise required to become a mentor.

Help us spread the word that "it takes little to be big" by sharing our stories with your friends, family, and coworkers. Together, we can make more matches like RJ and Warren!

# WHO WE SERVE



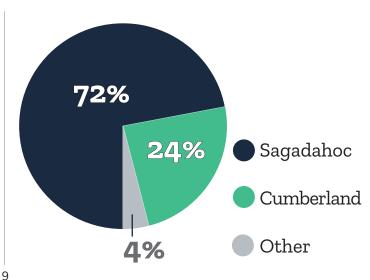
## RACE/ETHNICITY





# 68% 1 Parent 2 Parents Other 4%

## **LOCATION**







# BIG NIGHT OUT

Little of the Year, Warren, and Big of the Year, Richard Fleming at the podium to receive their award.

**\$54,000** raised

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS** 





Pictured clockwise from top: Little Sister Grace and her Big Sister Jennifer Crosby with Aurora Hodgkins; Stephanie Fleming, Meg Fleming, and Susan Serra; Kim Pagon and Nikki England; Auctioneer John Ater; Alumni Little Sister Cassandra Smith; Little of the Year Warren and Big of the Year R.J. Fleming.















Thanks to the Davenport Trust and donors Ed and Jo Bradley, our matches were able to attend performances of the children's shows and mainstage shows at **Maine State Music Theatre!** (Above: sisters and Littles Lydia and Sophia meet the cast of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Our first ever **Boo Bash**, held at Curtis Memorial Library, was a success with candy and snacks, games, crafts, and a showing of the movie *Hocus Pocus*! (Right: Treats galore; Big Sister Jennifer and Little Sister Scar.)

Maine State Music Theatre hosted our Bigs' and Littles' Holiday Party with lots of delicious food, festive decor, crafts, and games. (Below left, Big Brother Al and Little Brother Dom; Below right Little Sister Kaiya and Big Sister Rose.)













# THE GIVING TREE



Each year around the holidays, we reach out to the community to help us gather gifts for Littles and their families. This year, the gifts received filled the office (left). Bath Iron Works (Amy Hubbman, bottom left) and the Pejepscot Day School collected dozens of gifts, and our Board of Directors (President Heather Arvidson, below right) and staff had a great time wrapping and delivering them!









# INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\*BBBS Board Member \*\*BBBS Advisor \*\*\*BBBS Staff

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick is a volunteer and donor-supported organization. We depend on the generosity of our community to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported relationships that have an immediate, positive, and life-lasting effect on the lives of youth ages six through 18 and their families.

We deeply appreciate the generous support of individuals and foundations who helped us defend the potential of children during our 2024 fiscal year (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024). While every effort has been made to list the supporters accurately, errors are inevitable. If you notice an error or an omission, please contact us.

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Matt\* & Dena Bachman Patricia Bonner Therese Haberle & Gregory Wiese Anonymous Eric & Ann London

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Heather Arvidson\* Sharon & Albert Blackstone, Jr. Sheridan & Richard Collins Elizabeth A. Compton Mary Denzer Christina\* & Simon DeYoung Meg Fleming Laurie Haggerty Trish Hansen & Stephen Crandall Eric James Marie & Paul Lamere Greg & Linda Millert Benjamin Morton Sherry Plunkett Susan & Scott Salka South Freeport Congregational Church Tom Sturgeon Steve Whitney\* & Regina Kelly

#### \$500-\$999

Richard\* & Christina Burns
Brian & Jennifer\* Elwell
Aurora & Joshua Hodgkins
Mr. Samuel WM Lambert
Joel & Carol\*\*\* Marquis
Robert & Constance McChesney
Amanda\* & Taylor McGovern
Eleanor Morrell
Ann & Dirk Poole
Elliot Rosen
Laurie & Lee Slap
David Steckler & Marcia Bowen
Roxanne York

#### \$250 - \$499

Chandra Appell Ellen & Eric Arvidson Nancy Audet

Glenn Bickford Catherine & Gary Bilodeau Charlie Crosby Anonymous Brendan Fickett\* Mike Foster Mechelle Given Lydia Gregoret & Charles Wilson Ben & Katie Jones Philip Kinney & Andrea Cronkite Patricia Labbe Jennifer Lamere Jen & Rick Leech Ian Messier Douglas & Georgette Morrell Sandy Morrell-Rooney & Chuck Rooney James Peavey Paul Raymond Tom Rumpf Serge Shnayder Dana & Bettina Smith Denise Tepler

#### \$100-\$249

Bunny Andrews Suzi & John Ater Andrew Austin George E. Barker, Jr. Pam Barry-Santos Sandra Buckles Susan Campbell Susan Chapdelaine David Chutjian Philip & Connie Conner Charles Cromwell Margaret Curley Tanya Cushman Anthony DeVecchis Mr. Daniel Doiron Richard\* & Stephanie Fleming Amanda Gagnon Sherry & Mike Gagnon Mark Haines Allison Hopkins Amy R. Hubmann James & Susan Hummer

Cynthia Garovoy Hutchins & Keith Garovoy Karry Kane\* Patrick Kaufmann Ian Leadbetter Jon Lichter Lindsay MacDonald & Allen Daniels Geniene Marco Lisa Matysiewicz & Michael Noetzel William & Jacqueline McGee Sue McLeod William Morrell Linda Muller Laura Ortiz Cheryl L. Rackliff Kathy Rives Lael Schwabe Susie & Bob Sharp Robin Stidworthy\*\*\* & Rich Knox Ed & Lois Striewski Mason Tripp Germaine & Rodney Waltz Robyn Wardell Albert Wheeler Robert Williams

#### (Up to \$99)

Sarah Alexander & Max Ashburn Rev. Robert Beringer Dirk & Linda Brunner Curt Dale Clark\*\* & Marc Robin Michael Durgan Allan & Linda Fairfield Peter Gross Marcy Holmblad Lucy Hull & Bart Chapin Art & Kathleen Lamothe Oskar Matero Jytte Monke Carol O'Donnell Deborah Oliver R. J. "Robin" Rasch Kim Reny Anonymous Sharon Ring Richard Ruddell Dustin J. Somerville Lise & Normand Tancrede

K & T Tolliver Elizabeth Waldo William & Frances Weatherbie David\*\* & Vicki Webb Missy Willette

#### IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Melvin H. Olson & Mrs. Elizabeth (McFadden) Olson

#### IN HONOR OF

Sarah Carr Rhonda Ellis Katherine Kroll Charles Lopez Carol Marquis\*\*\* Perk Ramsay Dean Waring

#### UNITED WAY SUPPORT

United Way of Kennebec Valley United Way of Mid Coast Maine United Way of Southern Maine

**FOUNDATION SUPPORT** Amgen Foundation Androscoggin Bank's MainStreet Foundation The Robert W. Campbell, Jr. Charitable Fund Charities Aid Foundation of America c/o Cybergrants Fidelity Charitable The Losam Fund Maine Community Foundation The Maine Women's Giving Tree National Philanthropic Trust Anonymous Salka Impact Fund at The Dallas Foundation Ned Sewall & Kelly McCann-Sewall Charitable Fund The Smith Family Charitable Fund of the Charities Aid Foundation of America Target Corporation c/o Cybergrants, LLC Water Cove Charitable Foundation

#### **MUNICIPAL SUPPORT**

Town of Arrowsic Town of Bowdoin Town of Georgetown Town of Harpswell Town of Phippsburg Town of Woolwich

#### THE COULTER SOCIETY

David Osborne

#### **2024 IN-KIND**

John Ater Jen Blackstone Boothbay Harbor Country Club Ed & Jo Bradley Brunswick Self Storage Burgess Technology Services Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Jane Connor Curtis Memorial Library The Cryer Domino's Pizza Game Box Video Games & Comics Gateway Title Gifford's Hannaford The Home Depot LL Bean Art Lamothe Lifetime Storage Moore Painting, Inc. Pearl Smuggler Pineland Farms Poland Spring Resort Pura Vida Day Spa Jasmin Satchwell Shaw's Sugarloaf

Tiffany White Photography

Vessel & Vine Walmart

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Brickyard Hollow Brewing Company Brunswick Portland Pie Clynk To Give Darling's Ice Cream Hannaford Bloomin' for Good Hannaford Community Bag Program Maine Maritime Museum MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital Auxiliary Margarita's PayPal Giving Shaw's Give Back Where it Counts Susie Sharp Barbara Whidden Missy Willette



To give online, visit **www.bbbsbathbrunswick.org** 

# OTHER WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

#### Serve on the Board

Give your time and talent to ignite the potential of kids while helping us grow.

#### **CLYNK** to Give

Pick up BBBS barcode CLYNK Tags at our office or designate us as your beneficiary in your recycling account.

#### **Volunteer at the Office**

Help us with grant writing, marketing, communications, and general administrative tasks.

#### **Volunteer at an Event**

For a short-term commitment, sign up to be an event volunteer for a day.

#### **Get Your Company Engaged**

Does your company sponsor events or host career development activities? Introduce us to your team!

#### **Donate Experiences**

Help us provide unique experiences for our matches by donating tickets to sports games, the ballet, museums, climbing gym, and more!

# **PLANNED GIVING**

**The Coulter Society** is named after Ernest Coulter, the founder of what is now called Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The Society was created to recognize those individuals who include provisions in their estate planning to help defend the potential of our community's young people.

The members of The Coulter Society leave a legacy of support for our most precious resource: our children. Visit our website to learn more at www.bbbsbathbrunswick.org

# THE COULTER SOCIETY

#### A Gift of Appreciated Securities

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities can be attractive options and offer unique tax benefits.

#### A Gift Through Your Will or Trust

After providing for the future financial security of your loved ones, you may make a bequest to BBBS of Bath/Brunswick.

#### **Giving for Income**

You can elect to leave a legacy to BBBS of Bath/Brunswick at the same time that you generate income for yourself or your loved ones through charitable gift annuities, remainder trusts, or lead trusts.

Visit our website to learn more at www.bbbsbathbrunswick.org

If you have included us in your estate plans, let us know so we can thank you for your generousity to the youth in our community and welcome you to

The Coulter Society.



## **CORPORATE SUPPORT**

To join these businesses and organizations, visit **bbbsbathbrunswick.org** or call **207-729-7736** 

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath/Brunswick is fortunate to have strong support from locally-owned and regional businesses and organizations. Through the generous financial and in-kind support of the following businesses, we are able to provide our programs and services for free to the children and families in our community.

#### **BIG HEROS**

Bill Dodge Auto Group Crooker Construction

#### **MATCH MAKERS**

Bath Savings Institution Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry James & Whitney, Co Norway Savings Bank Priority Real Estate Group

#### **EVENT SPONSORS**

Associated Appraisers of Maine, Inc.
Atlantic Federal Credit Union
Atlantic Sportswear, Inc.
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Berrie's Hearing and Optical Center
Bill's Garage
Bluelinx Corporation
Boston Bruins Alumni Association
Bowdoin Aggregate Sales Inc.
Brackett Funeral Home
Brunswick Landing Venture
/Presidium

Brunswick Self Storage Cape Shores Realty Corp of Maine CARFAX, Inc.

Central Maine Power Co.

ClearPoint Capital

Cornerstone Carpentry, Inc.

Country Fare, Inc.

Cox Automotive

Crowley Energy - Main Street Fuel

Darling's Auto Group

David Matero Architecture

Dead River Company

**Elwell Enterprises** 

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Everett J. Prescott Inc.

**GAF** 

GoNetSpeed

Goodwin Chevrolet

Gosline Insurance

Hammond Lumber Company

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Inc.

Harvey Windows and Doors HM Payson

J. Edward Knight & Company John Libby Construction, Inc.

Johnson Legal

Judy's Hair Biz

Kennebec Builders, Inc.

Lajoie Bros. Inc.

Lansing Building Products Lizard Waste and Recycling

M&T Bank

M.W. Sewall

Maine Community Bank

Maine Golf Center Freeport

Maine State Music Theatre MaineHealth | Mid Coast-

Parkview Health

Martin's Point Health Care

Modern Woodman

MoistureShield Decking

MOMS Topsham

Moncure & Barnicle

New Leaf Dental

Now You're Cooking

Office of Cornelia C. Viek, CPA

Portside Real Estate Group

Reed Family Insurance Advisors

RE/MAX Riverside

Riley Insurance Agency, LLC

SERVPRO of Bath/Brunswick

Sitelines, PA

Spark Cycling Studio, LLC

Summit Real Estate

TAMKO Building Products LLC

TD Auto Finance

Tier One Telecom LLC

TimberTech By AZEK

Tito's Handmade Vodka

Trillium Engineering Group, P.C.

Walton Technologies, LLC

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Westlake Royal Building Products

Willie C. and Sons Landscaping LLC

WMTW Channel 8





#### **BE A BIG**

You can have a BIG impact on your community. So, what are you waiting for? With your help we can close the mentorship gap and empower youth to reach their full potential. Our evidence-based model creates educational success, greater confidence, and stronger relationships, and matches between Bigs and Littles can empower entire communities.

#### **BECOME A G.E.M.**

The GEM (Giving Every Month) Club is a unique group of monthly donors who choose to support the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters Bath/Brunswick as a consistent force for change. GEMs create life-changing friendships every month and help all our mentoring relationships stay strong. It's a convenient method of support that allows us to plan ahead, and you can cancel anytime.

#### **GIVE A GIFT**

Our work is only possible with the support of our community. We do not receive state or federal funding, and we don't receive financial assistance from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. We sustain and grow our free services for the children and families in our community through individual donations, corporate sponsorships, events, and grant funding.

#### **SPONSOR OUR PROGRAMS**

Invest in something BIGGER. By becoming an annual corporate sponsor, you give year round support to children in need while showcasing your brand to BBBS supporters and the local community.



# IT TAKES LITTLE TO BE BIG



85 Maine Street Brunswick, ME 04011







