Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties aims to alleviate the pressures associated with living in single parent homes or non-traditional families through intervention and prevention.

Big Brothers Big Sisters services are very unique in their combination of informal friendship with the support of professional Match Support Specialists. The success of Big Brothers Big Sisters is a combination of the volunteer’s willing spirit to give and the Big Brothers Big Sisters trademark mentoring programs. Each mentoring relationship has the potential to progress into a life-long friendship.

Our Programs

- Community Based Mentoring
  one-to-one and couple matching

- School Based Mentoring
  one-to-one matching within the school setting

- High School Mentoring
  one-to-one matching within the school setting between high school students, and elementary or middle school students

- Site Based Mentoring
  one-to-one matching with a specific meeting place, such as a church, library, community center, or work place.

- Mentoring Children of Promise
  one-to-one matching of children who have an incarcerated parent

- EMPOWER: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Safety Training
  presented to children, parents and volunteers

- Client Activities Program
  activities provided to the children, parents and volunteers, to introduce them to recreational and cultural resources

Our Vision
That all children achieve success in life.

Our Mission
To provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.
Our Impact

Hundreds of children in Cumberland and Salem Counties are benefiting from a one-to-one mentor

*We are the leader in mentoring services to children.* An independent national study surveyed our programs and methods spanning a five-year period. They found that kids involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs were more likely to graduate and stay out of trouble when compared to their peers without mentors. They also found kids improved their school grades and relationships with others. Our program has proven results.

In the 70’s we were known as Big Brothers of Vineland, serving boys referred by family court and mentored by lawyers, police officers, doctors, and prominent business professionals.

In 1982 we became Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland County, serving boys and girls, ages 7 through 18, throughout Cumberland County that were primarily referred by a relative or teacher.

In 1995, Big Brothers Big Sisters started High School and School-Based Programs. We now have programs in 23 schools throughout Cumberland and Salem Counties. This program allows adults and high school students to visit the elementary and middle school students on a weekly basis.

2014 IMPACT: 414 CHILDREN

Since 2002, there have been 3,295 boys and girls matched in a one-to-one mentoring relationship through our program.

In 2005 our service area expanded to include Salem County.

80% of our Littles receive free/reduced school lunches.

The Match Process

It costs $1200 per year to develop and maintain each one-to-one mentoring relationship. The safety and well-being of each child are top priorities when recruiting and maintaining a one-to-one relationship with their Big Brother or Big Sister.

Enrollment Process for Bigs:

- Application and interview by staff (an in-home interview is held for community-based mentors)
- Professional assessment to include criminal background check, fingerprinting, proof of auto insurance, driver’s abstract, and three non-relative references

Staff are trained in social services and child safety. They maintain close ties with each match—communicating a minimum of once a month with Bigs, Littles, and Guardians/Schools.

Liability insurance coverage protects all individuals.

In 2014, there were 294 children with a Big Brother or Big Sister while 120 children continued to wait for a Big. Waiting Littles participated in agency activities.

Our Goal: More Matches... More Impact!