No one loves your child more than you. But sometimes, life presents unexpected challenges that are outside of your control. This is when we can help. At no cost to you, we can provide your child (age 5-18) with a one-to-one adult mentor (Big). With your help, your child will be matched with a volunteer who shares some of the same interests and values. A Big is someone who will invest 4-6 hours a month in your child as an additional supportive adult in their life. They will encourage your child in their education, help them develop healthy behaviors, and motivate them to make positive choices, all while having fun and doing things they enjoy together.



Fill out an application online or contact a Program Specialist.

- Next, a Program Specialist will contact you to arrange an interview to gather information about your child's personality, interests, needs and goals. Our volunteers undergo extensive screening, including an interview, background checks and references. Every match is monitored by highlytrained staff to ensure your child's safety.
- Once a potential Big is identified, your Program Specialist will contact you. Then you and your child will get a chance to meet his/her potential Big and decide if it is a good fit. If it is, let the mentoring relationship begin! From that point on, your Program Specialist will provide ongoing guidance and support throughout the length of the match.

\*Interviews can be conducted virtually\*











Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

All youth achieve their full potential.

We partner with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community to hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving higher aspirations, greater confidence and better relationships; avoidance of risky behaviors; educational success.

# **TYPES OF MENTORING**

#### **Community Based:**

In Community Based mentoring, children and the adults are matched and participate in a variety of activities that take place in the community based on mutual interests and matched goals.

### School Based Mentoring:

In school-based mentoring, a child may be placed with an adult who primarily visits with them in a school site, typically for lunch recess, or a special class.

### Site Based Facilitated:

In a site based facilitated, matches only meet in designated site (ex. school, workplace or other site) and a staff member is present at all sessions observing match interactions., High School Bigs, a secondary form of

school-based mentoring, involves matching children with high school students in a more structured environment supervised by program staff.



## **REQUIREMENTS FOR LITTLES**

- Must be 5 -18 years old.
- Live in one of our service areas.
- Must be able to communicate with program staff and understand safety questions.
- Child must undergo interview while parent is present.
- Guardian must sign and submit all required documents.
- Guardian must be willing and able to communicate with Bigs as needed to set up times for match activities.
- Child and guardian must be able to speak with program staff for monthly checkups by phone or email and complete surveys as needed.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR BIGS**

- Must complete a background check based on age of mentor. Adults (non-high school Bigs) must be 18 years old, pass a background check, submit 3 references and have reliable transportation.
- Will submit written application and are then interviewed to get to know personality traits, likes, interests, etc.
- Spend a minimum of 4 hours a month with the Little.
- Commit to a minimum of 1 year with the Little.
- Attend an in-person or virtual volunteer training.
- Monthly check-ins with Program Staff by phone or email.

Attachment C