

MENTOR INFORMATION



VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is for all young people to reach their potential in life. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of youth through professionally supported mentoring relationships.

COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches mentors (adults) with children (mentee) who have been identified as benefitting from a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an adult role model outside their own whānau.

- We accept children aged 6 to 11 years on the programme, with the aim to keep them involved until age 18.
- The initial commitment for mentors and mentees is one year. Once matched children may stay on the programme until they are 18 years of age, we do see mentoring as a long term commitment.
- Children are referred by social agencies, schools, health professionals, Police and other community groups.
- Mentors spend 1-4 hours each week with their mentee having fun, experiencing new activities, and forming a trusted friendship. This friendship is the foundation upon which youth potential is ignited.
- All matches are fully supported by a trained BBBS Mentor Coordinator for their duration.

Mentors advise and challenge children, act as their champions, provide consistency in their lives, connect them to broader experiences, opportunities, networks. They provide safe, non-judgmental environments in which the child can grow and thrive. Mentors are our champions and the backbone of our programme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The decision to accept an applicant into the programme will be based upon an Applicant Assessment form that will summarise information gathered during the application screening process. BBBS has final approval for an applicant's acceptance into the programme and is not obligated to provide a reason to applicants who are not accepted for participation in the programme.

Acceptance on the programme as a mentor:

- BBBS accepts mentors aged between 18 to 80 years of age
- You must have a full and valid drivers licence
- You must not have any criminal charges pending
- You complete an application form and participate in an interview that lasts approximately one hour
- You attend a half day training session (3.5 hours).

Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We take steps to achieve this through our Mentor Application Process. All applicants are required to:

- Complete a NZ Police Request & Consent form and a full Police Check will be conducted
- Provide three referees for a full reference check. (Mentors must provide three referees.)

Ongoing support

Each match is supported by a BBBS Mentor Coordinator who supervises the match with monthly checks in with volunteers, children and parents for the first 12 months, and quarterly thereafter.

- Group supervision is held twice per year and takes place of one monthly contact
- Mentor and mentee events are organised several times throughout the year, along with mentor training and social activities.

MENTOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

As a Big Brother or Big Sister, you share with each member of this organisation, a valued reputation. We symbolise friendship, responsibility, trust, and a concern for the protection and well-being of children.

Your commitment, mentors will:

- Be a positive role model through displaying responsible behaviours such as reliability, respect, honesty, whilst upholding the protection and safety of the child
- Promptly report any concerns about the match to Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Allow the mentee to develop the friendship at his/her own pace
- Respect the role of the parent / caregiver / whānau, and the privacy of the mentee and his/her whānau
- When a match closes, be sensitive to the mentee's needs and facilitate a positive end to the match.

Requirements and responsibilities, mentors will:

- Be personally suitable and mature, and exhibiting mental and emotional competence
- Have the ability to relate to children and adults, to adapt to change, and to work as a team player
- Make a commitment to see the child on a regular and consistent basis
- Be reliable and of good character, dependable, punctual, honest and committed to open communication
- Review the match with their Mentor Coordinator at regularly scheduled times
- Agree to function within the Volunteer Agreement and Code of Conduct for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is for all young people to reach their potential in life. Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of youth through professionally supported mentoring relationships.



COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches mentors (adults) with children (mentee) who have been identified as benefitting from a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an adult role model outside their own whānau.

- We accept children aged 6 to 11 years on the programme, with the aim to keep them involved until age 18.
- The initial commitment for mentors and mentees is one year. Once matched children may stay on the programme until they are 18 years of age, we do see mentoring as a long term commitment.
- Children are referred to BBBS by social agencies, schools, health professionals, Police and other community organisations.
- Mentors spend 1-4 hours each week with their mentee having fun, experiencing new activities, and forming a trusted friendship. This friendship is the foundation upon which youth potential is ignited.
- All matches are fully supported by a trained BBBS Mentor Coordinator for their duration.

Mentors advise and challenge children, act as their champions, provide consistency in their lives, connect them to broader experiences, opportunities, networks. They provide safe, non-judgmental environments in which the child can grow and thrive. Mentors are our champions and the backbone of our programme.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Do you know a young person who could benefit from a community-based mentor?

Talk to the young person and their family first, then pass on our contact details, alternatively if you are an agency or social service ask for a BBBS referral form.

NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) started in the USA in 1904, it is the largest and most replicated mentoring programmes in New Zealand and the world. Dannevirke was the first branch in New Zealand, setting up in 1996. In 2020 Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Zealand was the fourth largest BBBS International affiliate country, providing over 1000 young people/taiohi with a trained mentor/tuakana throughout the 12 programme regions/rohe across Aotearoa.

HAWKE'S BAY HISTORY

The Hawke's Bay branch was established in 2006 by local Police and run successfully by Police staff until restructuring and disestablished positions resulted in the programme going into limbo for a couple of years.

In September 2017 a new Hawke's Bay Board was formed and the Programme relaunched, with a dedicated Programme Manager to get it off the ground. Since then BBBS has matched over 130 young people with a mentor, providing opportunities for our youth to have their potential ignited. A list of current team members and Board of Trustees can be found on our website. www.bbbs.nz/hawkesbay



"It is still true that it takes a village to raise a child - especially so for a child or family with extra challenges. A big brother or big sister is a person who is prepared to be part of the village, to be the person who breaks the cycle. The person who sees the child, who values them, who shows them that they matter, and helps them to learn to value themselves." - Dr Sarah Currie, Hawke's Bay Paediatrician