



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Halton

# 2017-18 Annual Report



## Message from Chair and Executive Director

This is our final annual report as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton. We in a period of visionary and bold change, as we soon unite with our board and staff colleagues from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington. Since April 2017, we have been working in partnership, at both staff and board levels, to bring our two organizations together. Throughout, board members and staff have engaged, considered, discussed, and reacted to a myriad of ideas and steps along the way. All are to be congratulated for the important role each person has played by adding their time, passion and talent to this process.

Through the unification of business practices, administration, fundraising and marketing, we will strengthen the foundation of the charity so that we can continue to serve the ever increasing needs of vulnerable children who have a right to a mentor. We expect to be legally amalgamated under the new name of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and Hamilton by the end of June, 2018.

We are proud that through this period of change, the team has continued to place its focus on kids and their mentors. In fact, we served 144 Big Brother Big Sister matches through this year—having started the year with 112 matches--we were delighted to see the growth in this invaluable mentoring opportunity.

BBBS Halton staff have managed the changes that have been put in front of them, as we have moved from the concept of amalgamation through to implementation, with grace and discernment. A special thanks goes to each staff member for their courage as we have faced change, and for maintaining their focus on children, families, and mentoring.

Together, we'd like to thank everyone for their kindness, commitment and dedication. This includes past and present staff, volunteer mentors, board members, supporters, donors, funders, event participants and stakeholders in both Halton and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Carpenter, Chair

Sandra Baker, Executive Director

## **Treasurer's Report: 2017-18 Fiscal Year**

With the work of the amalgamation being an important focus for the board, we also saw that the project needed to be housed outside of the Operation Plan and Budget for the fiscal year. The board was clear that we wanted to continue to focus on sustainable revenue growth, seeking new revenue streams and finding more mentors to serve children, while also knowing that additional work was needed to carefully consider the amalgamation and the move to implementation. The year did present some cash flow challenges in the second quarter of the fiscal year. In that period, cash reserves were utilized. In response, through the third quarter, management made some key cost adjustments, including reducing contracted services in resource development and reducing the program staff complement to balance our revenue and expense.

At the same time, revenues began to come in quarter three and sustained into quarter four. This was in spite of the loss of three long time funding relationships, all due to changes in their funding direction. Legal and book-keeping costs relating to the amalgamation were extraordinary expenses and contributed to the excess of expenses over revenue.

Overall, our audited statements show a revenue increase year over year. Revenue deferrals, amalgamation costs and the loss of the three funders, led to the net operating deficit in this fiscal year.

I would like to thank Executive Director Sandra Baker for all her hard work and effort, on both the amalgamation process as well as the agency. Both Sandra and Board Chair Mr. Geoff Carpenter played key roles in the amalgamation process. Their work is greatly appreciated by both the agency and the Board of Directors.

In conclusion, a thank you to all of the current and past board members for their invaluable dedication, and support to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Halton.

Sincerely,

Aiman Dally CPA, CA

### **Thank you BBBS Halton Board, 2017-18**

Aiman Dally, Dean Collett, Geoff Carpenter, Jennifer Semley Robert, Jodi Di Natale, Lauri Reesor, Laurie de Fleuriot de la Coloniere, Leah Coutinho Mauer, Paul Jemison, Peter Rakoczy, Zeeshan Hamid

### **Thank you BBBS Halton Staff, 2017-18**

Aaron Murphy, Alexandra Oyarzabal, Anjelika Cuevas, Anne-Marie Doherty, April Bozinoff, Devon Buzilo, Emily Helpard, Katie Digby, Kelley Swaluk, Kristin Vanderwater, Lauren Kenwood, Meeri Jaris, Sandra Baker, Sara Douglas, Susan Coyne, Valerie Walker, Yasmeeen Shuber.

*Every child who winds up doing well, has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.*

Harvard's Centre on the Developing Child, 2015



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