



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County
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www.bbbs.org/danecounty

Who is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County?

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters are in single-parent and low-income families or households where a parent is incarcerated. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles").

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides a system of ongoing evaluation and support which is proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that "Littles" will perform better in school and avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and others. Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County began in 1966 serves over one thousand children annually.

The state of children in Dane County is at a crossroads. Our community's demographics are rapidly changing and in turn, the needs are rapidly growing.

- The African American and Hispanic populations are steadily increasing. In 2000, together African American and Hispanic populations made up 7.5% of Dane County; in 2008, they made up 9.5%. In 2008, 62% of children served through Big Brothers Big Sisters were African American or Hispanic.
- 44% of students in Madison schools are low income, a vast 60% increase since 2000. 69% of children served through Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2009 were low income.

Mentoring has the power to change the life of a child. By providing a Big Brother or Big Sister to a child, we are providing guidance, encouragement and friendship which results in a measurable and positive outcomes on the life of that child. See data below for evidence of the impact that mentoring has on children in the Dane County community.

The Issues Facing Children and Youth in Dane County:

9.6% of Dane County youth are arrested as juveniles

Academic disconnectedness is on the rise; African American students and Hispanic students, two growing populations, are the least likely to graduate from high school. Only 64% of African Americans and 74% of Hispanic students graduate while 90% of all other students do

Juvenile drug abuse violations in Dane County are higher than the state average. In 2004, there were 833 violations in Dane County, compared to 732 statewide

20% of adolescents report rarely having good talks with adults

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program Works. In 2009:

→ 49% of children matched were more likely to avoid delinquency

→ Students matched to a Big Brother or Big Sister are more connected at school. Of children matched in 2009, 73% improved their academic performance. In addition, 73% were more likely to use school resources, 67% were more likely to participate in class, and 67% improved their classroom behavior

→ 55% of children matched were more likely to avoid substance abuse

→ 68% of children matched got along better with family and friends