This report represents BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER TWIN CITIES's responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER TWIN CITIES
2550 University Avenue West Suite 410-N, Saint Paul, MN 55114
651
http://www.bigstwincities.org

Mission:
The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.
The content of this Charting Impact Report is the sole product and responsibility of BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER TWIN CITIES. This report does not in any way represent an endorsement from Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance’s Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information on Charting Impact, visit www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?

Striving to serve at least 2,000 youth in 2014, BBBS' overall goal is to provide mentoring and enrichment opportunities for local youth so they can develop into well-rounded, successful community members. Additional goals include increasing multi-cultural activities to promote respect for all cultures and to create a welcoming environment, providing high quality programming for teens to increase the longevity of their matches, offering tools to plan their career and education futures, and ensuring the safety of children and volunteers.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?

To meet these goals, BBBS implements the following strategies: Recruiting, screening, and training Bigs who can serve as supportive, positive role models; Recruiting children who would benefit from having an additional role model in their lives; Matching Bigs and Littles based on compatible personalities, interests, and life experiences; Providing on-going support for these matches to ensure child safety and positive development; Offering two models of mentoring – community-based and school-based – depending on the child’s needs, family involvement, and volunteers’ schedules; and, Supplementing the impact of mentoring by offering enrichment programs for matches, including ongoing match activities on diverse subjects including sports, nature, arts, academics, and cultural events, college and career exploration and preparation assistance, workforce readiness programming, teen pregnancy prevention workshops and groups, and leadership opportunities.

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?

BBBS has the current capacity to provide mentoring support and enrichment activities to at least 2,000 children a year in the Minnesota counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, and northern Dakota. This support includes mentoring screening and training, ongoing child safety precautions, and enrichment activities. The BBBS staff provide ongoing individual support for these matches, leading to average match lengths of 35 months for community-based and 19 months for the site-based programs, which are well above the national averages of 27 and 16 months, respectively. Because of the high quality services, BBBS received the Expert Partners seal from the Quality Mentoring Assessment Path, developed by the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota. This award is an official recognition of BBBS’ success in positively impacting youth during their developmental years. In 2013, Philanthropedia and Minnesota Philanthropy Partners rated BBBS the third best non-profit in Minnesota in terms of impact serving at-risk youth through educational support. The agency also received the Quality Award by the Nationwide Leadership Council of BBBSA in 2013. In 2011, it received the National Criminal Justice Association’s Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award.

4. How will we know if we're making progress?

In order to track program outcomes efficiently, BBBS utilizes Program Outcome Evaluation (POE) surveys and Youth Outcome Surveys (YOS). The national BBBSA, as well as the Search Institute and other mentoring organizations and researchers, developed and tested these tools to standardize and track program success. The POE requires teachers and parents to complete surveys based on their observations of a child’s behavioral and academic changes annually. This survey focuses on changes relative to the developmental assets of confidence, competence and caring, aligned with 21 of the 40 key developmental assets. By comparison, the youth participants, nine years of age and older, complete the YOS before being matched and yearly thereafter following one year of mentoring, answering survey questions regarding their perspectives on issues of social acceptance, scholastic competency, educational expectations, grades, attitudes toward risk, parental trust, truancy and the presence of a special adult in their lives. BBBS plans to find continued outcomes of youth feeling safe and supported, so they are able to achieve their potentials now and in the future. To evaluate program outcomes more thoroughly, the evaluation team further draws out data evaluating the Strength of the Relationship (SoR) and the length
of the match, as studies show benefits to child development are the greatest in matches paired over one year. The evaluation team uses the information collected by routine inquiries, which have the Match Support team contact the Big and Little separately three months into the match and then yearly thereafter to calculate the SoR. BBBS also requests feedback from teachers, parents, volunteers and youth through outcome evaluation forms, satisfaction surveys, match support contact reports, focus group discussions and match-closing surveys. After analyzing all the responses, the Match Support team can more effectively attend to the unique needs of individual youth, creating a more stable and positive impact on every child. BBBS reports statistical results quarterly and annually to national BBBSA to ensure BBBS maintained the best practice standards agreed upon with national headquarters. Finally, the agency sends annual reports with program outcomes to the media, institutional funders, organizational donors and its board of directors.

5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?
As measured by the Program Outcome Evaluation (POE) survey, youth involved in BBBS demonstrate the following progress over a year: 82% improved their self-confidence, 80% improved their ability to show trust, 70% improved their relationships with adults, 70% improved their sense of the future, 70% expanded their interests and hobbies, 70% were able to make better decisions, 67% improved their academic performance, 67% improved their attitude toward school, 54% improved their relationship with their families and 43% were able to better avoid delinquency. In addition to the noticeable changes in child behavior, the 2013 Youth Outcome Survey (YOS) results established that mentoring services in both the community- and site-based programs helped youth see their own development through the following self-reported measures: 89% of community-based and 88% of site-based Littles reliably improved or maintained their level of social acceptance; 76% of community-based and 86% of site-based Littles reliably improved or maintained their educational expectations; 76% of community-based and 77% of site-based Littles reliably improved or maintained their level of parental trust. Furthermore, national research demonstrates that BBBS’ mentoring programs result in youth who are 75% more likely to receive a four-year college degree than youth not involved with BBBS, and active Littles were 46% less likely to use illegal drugs. In 2012, 82% of Littles matched at the beginning of their senior years graduated from high school, compared to 56% of their similarly situated peers. These results demonstrate the strong impact mentoring can have on a child’s growth.