



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of the Cayman Islands

A LOOK AT 2021

Looking back at 2021, it was a year of challenges with the impacts of Covid but also a year of significant growth and development for our Matches and the work we do at BBBS here in Cayman.

Covid impacted our Littles in a variety of ways whether through being in quarantine or all the difficulties of online learning and being kept away from friends. It also affected several of them by not being able to go out with their Bigs. Arising from our work over 2021 we have a concern for the mental health of our Littles generally and are keen to brainstorm ways to address this as we look ahead.

Despite these realities, our Bigs found creative ways whether virtually or otherwise to keep their matches growing and thriving. As of December 31st 2021, we had 40 active Matches with 3 Matches being closed during the year.

NOTABLE OUTCOMES

- **A Big Breakfast**
We initiated *A Big Breakfast* to be held each January to celebrate the work of our Bigs and our donors.
- **A Big Time**
We launched an annual event for Matches. This brought all our Matches together for a half day of fun activities at the YMCA Field of Dreams.
- **On-boarding process**
We revamped and streamlined our onboarding process for youth and for adult volunteers. Operationally, we updated our policies and procedures ensuring compliance with international standards.
- **A Big Support**
In support of our Bigs we created *A Big Support*. This is a quarterly, virtual, 45-minute meeting with our Bigs in which we share what is happening, provide updates in the organization and request feedback on ideas. These sessions will aim to offer a 15 minute 'support' from a professional we bring in to talk about some aspect of mentoring or youth development here in Cayman. As its name implies, it is purely a support tool to keep Bigs in the loop on all things BBBS Cayman as well as to address any challenges they may be facing within their Matches.



➤ **Darkness to Light**

We have standardised the *Darkness to Light* requirement working closely with our Red Cross partners and that has been rolled out requiring all Bigs to complete this training every 3 years to remain as an active Big.

➤ **Youth Mentoring Forum**

We launched the first annual Youth Mentoring Forum that featured a panel discussion comprised of community experts, focusing on the importance of mentoring during and following the pandemic. This discussion presented an important opportunity to consider the negative economic, social, and mental health impacts on children and adolescents in Cayman and how mentors can play a vital role in helping to overcome these challenges.

➤ **Search Institute's Developmental Assets survey**

In support of our Littles, we have integrated the *Search Institute's Developmental Assets survey* as a part of our onboarding process for Littles. Current Littles below the age of 14 years are also being surveyed and will be re-assessed each year going forward. As we move forward with this, the analysis of the data will provide us with the ability to develop an individual Youth Outcomes Plan for each Little and be able share with our Donors and community at large the impact that their support is having on the lives of our Littles.

➤ **Community relationships – new partners**

We have solidified our community partnerships with two new Partners – *ARK* and *Jeep345*. These two organisations have made a significant contribution to our work during 2021. In 2022, we will continue to work with these 2 partners as we look to strengthen partnerships with *Literacy is for everyone (LIFE)*, *Family Resource Centre (FRC)*, *Alex Panton Foundation (APF)* and *Resilience Cayman*.

➤ **International relationships**

Our relationship with BBBS International is strong and we have developed good connections with an affiliate and a national BBBS entity internationally, which has been significant in helping us move forward in 2021. Our international partnerships are with BBBS Toronto and BBBS New Zealand. The former has supplied us with significant operational tools and protocols while the latter has gifted us case management software which we are now using to house all case notes for our records. Our records will all be electronic by the end of the first quarter of 2022. These relationships and others internationally have and will continue to support our work as we strive to stay abreast of best practices in the global space of BBBS.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our volunteers, donors, or sponsors. We are grateful for the support of our community in helping to achieve our organisation's vision for all children to achieve success in life. We look forward to sustained and new partnerships in 2022.



