

BIG BROTHER-BIG SISTER OF GREATER LOWELL, INC.  
Parish House of Christ Church United  
(Opposite St. John's Hospital)  
1 Bartlett Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852  
Telephone 453-9339

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER PROGRAM

1. What Service Does This Agency Provide? Men and women volunteers from the surrounding communities are recruited and trained by our staff to be a friend to a young boy or girl on a one-to-one basis.

Each little Brother and Little Sister is individually "matched" with and assigned to a Big Brother or Big Sister according to similar interests.

2. Who are the Little Brothers and Sisters? Youngsters between the ages of 7 - 16 who would benefit emotionally, socially or educationally from this one-to-one relationship.
3. Who are The Big Brothers and Sisters? Men and women from all walks of life who are willing to volunteer at least two hours a week of their time and themselves to a boy or girl. The volunteer must be sensitive to the youth's needs, and committed to helping the Little Brother or Sister through a patient and understanding relationship.
4. What Are The Responsibilities Of A Big Brother/Big Sister? The Big Brother and Big Sister assume a moral responsibility - not a legal responsibility. They are to provide guidance, companionship and understanding to a young boy or girl.
5. Is The Big Brother/Big Sister Involved With Expenses? Building a relationship between the volunteer and child, rather than giving material or monetary gifts keeps the Big Brother/Big Sister's financial responsibility at a minimum. An occasional gift on special events is left to the discretion of the volunteer.

There are no fee charges to the Big Brother/Big Sister volunteers.  
There are no fee charged for the agency's service.

6. How Does Big Brother/Big Sister Differ From Other Youth Agencies? Big Brother/Big Sister deals with each boy and girl as an individual, and not as part of a group. Through its unique one-to-one method, Big Brother/Big Sister complements without duplicating the fine work of other agencies.
7. How Can I Become A Big Brother Or Big Sister? It's easy! Just call our office and arrange for a personal interview. Once your application has been accepted, and your interview completed, you will be enrolled in a short orientation program. After that, you will be "matched" with your Little Brother or Little Sister.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to call anytime: 453-9339

MEMBER AGENCY - BIG BROTHERS OF AMERICA

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In January 1974, a group of dedicated individuals within the community began to assess the need of a Big Brother/Big Sister type of program and began the development of an Advisory Board. After acquiring sufficient funding, direct services were first provided in April of 1975.

The Big Brother/Big Sister concept is beginning to fill a very definite unmet need in this community since there are through research, over 2500 children from single-parent homes capable of receiving the love and guidance that A Big Brother/Big Sister relationship offers. We presently have a board of directors consisting of dedicated men and women living and/or working in the Greater Lowell area. The Greater Lowell community being serviced by our program includes Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, Westford and Wilmington. The present staff consists of an Executive Director and a Social Worker.

The specific and primary purpose for which Big Brother/Big Sister of Greater Lowell was developed was to organize under professional direction a body of responsible adults who would individually involve themselves in the lives of youths and provide them with a positive friendship, developing solid relationships with mental, emotional, and physical growth. We have successfully begun to achieve this goal. We are designed to provide 7-16 year old boys and girls from physically and/or emotionally broken homes with consistent one-to-one long term relationships. The program seeks not only to prevent and correct problems, but to promote healthy growth and development through the guidance and examples set by Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

We have come a long way since April of 1975 when we began to offer direct services and since January of 1974 when concerned individuals began to develop the concept of the Big Brother/Big Sister program in the Greater Lowell Community. We have a great deal more to do and a much longer way to go and grow.

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