Dear Friends,

Since Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio opened its doors in 1937, we have supported our youth, partners, and communities. But the current health and economic crisis brought on by COVID and the social unrest centered around race, equity, and equality is testing our mettle more than ever before. But I know as a community of one, we will prevail.

As we enter the year 2022, we remain forward-looking. We recognize that more than just our health has been negatively impacted by COVID. In response to our community’s growing needs, we are expanding our services to enhance awareness in cultural competence, suicide prevention, and mental & physical health.

As this year comes to a close, I want to thank all our supporters, partners, volunteers, and staff for their courageous response to these crises with tremendous resilience and heart. I believe that by listening, supporting, and working with each other, we will survive these challenges and emerge much stronger for having done it together.

Best wishes for 2022 to you and your loved ones,

Sincerely,

Dr. Marvin Whitfield
President/CEO
While we continue this battle against COVID-19, it is important that we take care of ourselves by eating healthy, staying active, and thinking positively. Starting in 2022, the BBBSNWO team will start their 12 Month "30 Day Challenges". The first challenge will encourage the staff to finish an entire 25oz bottle of water by the end of every work day. Every month we will be faced with new challenges to encourage both physical and mental strength. Follow or social media to see all three challenges for each month!

As a part of our new initiative, we are thrilled to announce our new partnership with the Soul City Boxing Gym. In 2021, we've met with RoShawn Jones, Shari-Sha Crockett, and Ortha Jones Jr., the heart and soul of Soul City, to discuss ways to improve the health of children in both of our programs. What separates Soul City from other gyms in the area is their drive to keep at-risk children off the streets by providing them a safe space to train, do school work, and sometimes eat dinner. For kids who have been expelled from school, Soul City has a separate safe place for them to hangout with other kids and stay out of trouble. This is only one of the many offerings they provide to support local children in our community. Our collaboration will provide wrap-around services for the children in both programs and ultimately benefit everyone involved. By joining forces with Soul City Gym, BBBSNWO is able to implement the Four Pillars amongst youth in 2022: Life skills, Career Development, Leadership Development, and Cultural Competency. It is our goal to incorporate our foundation with the skill set offered at Soul City Boxing Gym, and Come Together for a Greater Cause.

"Soul City Boxing & Wrestling Club strives to create a positive atmosphere with sportsmanship, team unity, and community involvement as its foundation. We are also striving to fight childhood obesity, gang affiliation, and bullying amongst youths"

-Soul City Boxing Gym

RoShawn Jones, Sharisha Crockett, and Ortha Jones
Program Spotlight:

PAST AND PRESENT

PAST YEAR

MELANATION FUNDRAISER
Thasia Awad, founder of the Melanation Foundation, hosted her first annual food drive during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Our staff offered direct support through food donations and on-site assistance.

WALK-RUN-BIKE
During the peak months of COVID-19, launched ‘Get Active for Kids Sake’ to replace our national ‘Bowl for Kids Sake’ fundraiser. Participants and their team members were encouraged to walk 1 mile, run 2 miles, or bike 3 miles over the course of a week to earn prizes.

PEDAL WITH POLICE
We partnered with the Right Direction, Spoke Life Cycles and the Perrysburg Township Police Department to host an event designed to bridge the gap between the community and the police. The event consisted of bike safety demonstrations, an obstacle course, and a local 3-mile bike ride.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Bowl for Kids’ Sake Fundraiser -
April 16, 2022, April 23, 2022, April 30, 2022

Bigs In Blue Day - May 21, 2022

Party At The Hen House - July 30, 2022

Angel Tree & Gift of A Match Fundraiser -
November 7, 2022, through December 16, 2022

ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKS

COFFEE CONNECTION
We designed Coffee Connection with the parents and guardians of our program in mind. This offers them an opportunity to meet and connect with each other to potentially form relationships outside of our program.

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES
Two weeks into 2022, children in our program will be able to participate in various virtual activities. Staff members will host events such as charades, talent shows, and even a scavenger hunt from the comfort of their home. We already have activities scheduled until March of 2022!

BOOK CLUB
With an emphasis on mental wellness this year, we will also be implementing a centralized location for children of all ages to bond over books. This will help children focus on reaching their academic goals, while simultaneously Empowering Future Leaders.
Spokes Life in Perrysburg Hosts Bike Giveaway

Follow our Facebook and Instagram for the chance to enter BBBSNWO contests and giveaways. In November and December of 2021, Blue Force MTT and the Right Direction sponsored a bike giveaway for our program participants between the ages 6-11.

Congrats to winners Twila and Kyle!

On the Go with BBBSNWO
Stay up to date & follow our socials!

@bbbsnwo

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY-MARCH 2022

ANGLE TREE 2021 SHOUTOUTS!

Target
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Tekniplex (Michelle Porteuss)
Mercy Health Perrysburg Medicine and Specialty Practices
Mrs. Carol Nofziger
Ms. Rita Martin
Gilmore Jaison Mahler LTD
Blue Force MTT
Dr. Rod Durgin
All-NU Enterprise Inc.
Groghan Colonial Bank (John Kreuz)
The LaValley Foundation
Harley Boyz & Girlz Club
Lucas County Prosecutors Office
LAZ Boy
IBEW Local Union #8
Amazon PCWI BEN Affinity Group
Christina Redrup
Donald Burnham
Toledo Edison
MDS Accounting & Tax Services
Toledo Water Reclamation Division
O-I Charities Foundation
Sonit Systems (Marvin Rohrer-Meck)
Velocity Cares (Lynn Ellington)
Dr. Marvin and Dr. Claudeen Whitfield

THANK YOU!
MEET OUR PARTNERS

January
Heather and Alayna - 9 years
Aadam & Damion - 8 years
Melissa & Gracie - 5 years
Timothy & Donnovan - 1 year

February
Steven & Camryon - 5 years
Anthony & Romeo - 5 years
Joseph & DiShon - 4 years
John & Jason - 2 years
Emily & Francine - 1 year

March
Sarah & Harmony - 7 years
Lisa & India - 1 year
Miranda & Leniah - 1 year