A message from our CEO, Carolyn Winslow.

“I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving: To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it, but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor” – Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

I have seen the first part of this quote many times and thought that it was profound and meaningful. I was, therefore, quite surprised when I found out that there was a whole second part that resonated even more strongly with me. I have always believed that change is something to be pursued and ultimately embraced. I have a small sign on my bulletin board that reads “The only constant is change.”

One might say that since I have been employed by Big Brothers Big Sisters for over 30 years that this is not my belief. I would venture to counter that there has rarely been a moment when change hasn’t been happening here. Since I began here we have moved our office five times, employed 114 unique and wonderful staff members, served well over 10,000 different youth with differing needs, created 100s of partnerships of all kinds and basically just tried to keep up on most days!

As a lover of sailing, what I like most about the second part of the quote is the reference to sailing against the wind. If you sail, you know that the really fun part of sailing is flying with the wind. It is so much easier than trying to make forward progress against the wind. To do this you have to “tack” – a process of putting your boat and sails sideways to catch any wind you can. It is never as fun and not as fast but it is just as necessary as flying fast. I think that this is an apt analogy for the past few years at BBBS. There have been times – like when we got our first Community Connectors grant – when we have flown forward. We created a new program, hired new staff and watched it succeed. At other times – it has been much slower and incremental. The challenge of growing a successful Board comes to mind. Many times, we have added new Board members and then, due to changes for them, lost them. So we have recruited more people and will continue to do so. We are in a good place right now, with a very active and engaged group of volunteer Board Members who are truly mission driven. Hopefully it is time to stop tacking!

I am proud to say that we are definitely on the move as an organization and are not lying at anchor and not drifting. Our sense of being mission-driven prevents this. In order to “change children’s lives for the better, forever,” we will keep moving with and against the wind.
It starts with a Little  Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.
Our work helps children succeed and impacts youth ages 6 through 18 in communities across Butler County. By helping children develop supportive relationships with positive role models we make direct and lasting impact on their lives.

- 46% less likely to use illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to use alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
Sherri Davis was just like everyone else. She always knew about BBBS and the great work we did, but had yet to work with us. All of that changed when she stepped into the role of HR Director for United Performance Metals, where BBBS had recruited volunteers for a number of years. Sherri was looking for ways for employees to give back to their community. BBBS of Butler County was a perfect fit for her employees because of our mission, the work we do with youth, and most importantly because we directly work with families in Butler County, where her employees live and work.

Sherri turned into a wonderful advocate for BBBS and was soon asked by our CEO to join the Board of Directors. This was the first board she had ever been asked to serve on and was understandably concerned about the time commitment. Sherri was happy that we encouraged her to ease into her role. She said: “I started out doing just what I could do and gradually did more.” Sherri joined the Board’s Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee where she felt she had some expertise and a few years later took on the role of Secretary. Sherri said, “The more I learned about the agency the more I wanted to get involved.” She had always wanted to become a Big Sister so when her youngest graduated from high school, she seized the opportunity.

Sherri was matched with her Litter Sister Amara on (insert date). She said it was similar to her journey joining the board. She felt unsure at first, but eased into her new role, doing everything one step at a time. She formed a great relationship with her Match Support Specialist and started to feel more comfortable as a mentor to an amazing young lady. Her relationship with Amara grew and the two became inseparable. Sherri was overwhelmed and humbled to be nominated by Amara and win 2016 Big Sister of the year.

Everything she has done for BBBS has inspired her to do more. Sherri is now the Vice President of the Board and one of the greatest advocates we have ever had at United Performance Metals. Sherri started out by doing what she could, and has quickly moved on to do great things for the agency. Sherri's recommendation? “Get Involved – your life will change too!”

Get Involved! Your life will change, too.

“I just started doing what I could and I gradually did more. The more I learned about the agency the more I wanted to get involved.”

- Sherri Davis, Current Board Member and Big Sister

Big Darryl and Little Jaylin, Oklahoma
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In 2016 our goal for Run 4 Kids was to raise $50,000, share our message about the mental, emotional, academic, and lifelong benefits mentoring can have on children and youth, and recruit new volunteer mentors for some of the 102 local children that were waiting for a Big Brother or Sister.

Nearly 400 runners, joggers, and walkers participated in our 2nd Annual running event! Along with the participants came many supporters and volunteers from all across the region who helped make for a truly fun and spirited event! Some were clad in their best superhero outfits and others sported the event t-shirt with pride but one thing all the runners and attendees had in common were the giant smiles on their faces-happy to take part in building awareness and raising funds for indispensable Big Brothers Big Sisters programming. All in all it was a great success as we nearly reached our of our $50,000 goal.
Mental health issues are quite common among the children we serve in our program. So common, in fact, that in 2016 we created a special program that would better prepare the volunteers who work with the children in our program who have a mental health diagnosis. Two of our Board Members, Dr. Brooke Spangler and Dr. Anthony James, both of Miami University, graciously agreed to host and present a workshop addressing some of the challenges and rewards of mentoring a child with these issues. The funding for these matches came through a partnership with the Butler County Family and Children First Council and was encouraged by two of our other funders: Juvenile Court and the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board. All three of these funders view our mentoring services as true prevention and we thank them for their support! All total, the three of them committed over $60,000 toward this program!
Little Brother Jayden and Big Brother Jason were matched in 2015. At their first meeting a usually jovial Jayden was shy and held his Nintendo DS like a security blanket, glancing up from it nervously as introductions were being done. Jason was also nervous during the meeting but a warm smile never left his face and he was armed with an innate understanding that friendship and trust take time. A person could argue that the two of them, from different backgrounds, were an unlikely duo. Jayden lives in Middletown, an area that is more urban and suburban in nature. At the time of their match Jayden spent most of his time hanging with the kids in his neighborhood, playing videogames, building Legos and playing soccer. Jason on the other hand grew up on a farm outside of Mason and was surrounded by animals and nature, and had spent time in the military traversing the Horn of Africa. How on earth would this city slicker and farmer ever work? Was this match doomed from the start?

The answer is: a resounding NO. Jason and Jayden’s match is not only surviving, it is THRIVING! They have both melded into each other’s worlds. Their activities are diverse and wide-ranging. They have been to local arcades to play laser tag and mini-golf but they have also spent time collecting eggs from chickens, petting rabbits, and trying their hands at pottery. After just a year and a half, the pair are well on their way to building a friendship that will stand the test of time.

Jayden and Jason are a terrific example of how friendship can transform two people and lead each of them to a great futures. Jayden recently attended a two week Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) camp and Jason fosters Jayden’s love of learning with unique experiences. Jayden has shown Jason how he can relate to children through their experiences. Something that will help him transition into a career goal he shared with us of becoming a teacher.

We are so excited to watch them as their friendship continues to grow and they each work toward their future aspirations.
2016 Highlights

National Conference: Moving forward, Together.
In 2016 the 2016 Big Brothers Big Sisters National Conference, Moving Forward Together, was held in Orlando, Florida June 27-29. It was a conference well worth the investment. Vice President of Programs Brigitte Gray and Vice President of Recruitment Marvin Torres attended training opportunities ranging in topics from volunteer recruitment, fundraising, programming ideas, leadership, and more. It was also a time to celebrate successes and see some inspirational thought leaders in the world of mentoring. The conference also introduced the addition of Celebrity Ambassadors: LaVonte David of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Antonio Brown of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Award Winning Singer, LeToya Luckett.

Moving into New Offices.
After a great tenure at our offices located at 5539 Eureka Drive we completed our move to a new location at 1755 South Erie Boulevard! The move provided us a better fit for our staff needs and we have settled in nicely! We had a formal Open House/Ribbon Cutting event in October where many community members came to see our new home. Feel free to stop by and visit us anytime!

Annual Celebration Picnic.
On August 6th, a beautiful and sunny Saturday, we took time to celebrate with our wonderful donors, volunteers, family, and friends to honor the best of the best in 2016 with a picnic at Dutchland Woods in Liberty Township. The event had fun activities for our kids ranging from the on-site swimming pool, bounce houses, a balloon artist, and lawn games while the adults were able to relax under shade trees while listening to the musical stylings of the Dave Sams band while eating a barbecue dinner. It was a picture of what a summer celebration should be.

Chelsea Schroeder of Hamilton, OH was named Ohio's Big Sister of the Year by the Ohio Big Brothers Big Sisters State Association. Chelsea and her Little Sister Esmeralda have had some fun experiences telling their story through local media outlets and are wonderful advocates for our mentoring programs. Chelsea, who became a mentor at the Butler County agency in 2010, celebrated her 6 year match anniversary with Little Sister Esmeralda in May. Chelsea became a mentor when she was just 18 years old and since becoming matched, has graduated with her BA from Indiana University East; earned her LSW certification; and begun her Master's Degree in Social Work at Miami University.
Individual Donors

**BEST FRIEND ($1 - $100)**
- Nancy Addler
- Donna Allen
- William and Patricia Andrew
- Lynne Angulo
- Shelley Arnold
- Ben and Geri Ballinger
- Leslie Barr
- Patricia Beatty
- Megan Beebe
- Christine Bezold
- ANA Borovskis
- Robert and Valerie Brennan
- Amy Brennan
- Amy Broermann
- Ryan Bruestle
- Beatrice Burkhouse
- Robert Burns
- Kate Caron
- Adrian T Chestnut
- Suzanne Clark
- Diane Colyer
- Jamie Cooper
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- April Foley
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- Jill Setser
- Cathy Setterlin
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- Angela Snarkski
- Tracy St. John
- Charlie and Jeanette Stayton
- Scott and Karen Stephens
- Kurt Stickler
- Abigail Thompson
- Hugh and Grace Thompson
- Karen Tuttle
- Suzette Wentz
- Tanya Wescott
- Janine Yates
- Addison Zeisler
- Joan Zellner

**CHANGE CATALYST ($251 - $500)**
- Albert Almaraz
- Maranda Barhorst
- David and Mary Ann Cockram
- Jack and Sandra Cotter
- Jeffery Depew
- Bill and Julie Dichtl
- Wendy Duvall
- Jim Fogle
- Charles Ganelin and Patricia Klingenberg
- Jason and Brigitte Gray
- Donald and Lisa Hawkins

**MENTOR ($101 - $250)**
- Doug and Sally Bethea
- Joe Bruce and Kara Love
- Sandra Brumett
- Sara Carpenter
- Liz Cook
- Brooke Cropenbaker
- Sherri Davis
- Emily Knutson and Jess Dellaquila
- Trish Elam
- Terrence and Pamela Fazenbaker
- Tom Fiehrer
- Charlie and Susan Fisher
- Pat Gifford
- Bob and Julie Grabill

Josh and Brittnay Harrison
Jessica Heizman
Jalonda Hill
Jennifer Macaluso Brenda
McDaniel Lauren Putnick
Denise Quinn
Patrick Reimer
Betty Rogers
Matt Schnelle
Kendra Scott
Hank Stein, Jr.
Brenda K. Stradley
Elizabeth Strong
Dede Tuttle
Kim and Suzette Wentz
Individual Donors Continued...

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Dean Bruewer
Wilber Cohen
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Carolyn Hamlin
Holzberger Family Humanitarian Foundation
Tom Laming
Joseph and Sarah Marcum
Bill Parnell
Teresa Prichard
John and Nannette Sherman
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Annette Tiesman

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Dona Canaan
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Mark Krone

**ESTATE GIFTS**
Vaden Fitton Trust
Verla McClure

**IN HONOR OF CARL FIORA**
Cathy Setterlin

**IN MEMORY OF JANET JUENKE**
Fairfield East Second Grade Staff

**IN MEMORY OF WALTER LEWIS HILL**
Mike and Peggy McClusky

Special Thanks to Shutterproof Photography for your services in creating this report!
## Our Corporate Donors

### BEST FRIEND ($1 - 100)
- American Legacy Tours
- Back Porch
- Berns Garden Center
- Business Networking Solutions
- Busom Buds
- Cabbage
- Cassano's Pizza
- Cheesecake Factory
- Clever Girls Boutique
- Combined Containerboard
- Coney Island
- Costco
- Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
- Dewey's Pizza
- Domino's Pizza
- Einstein Bagels
- Entertrainment Junction
- Graeters
- Integrated Network Systems
- Jags Steak & Seafood
- Jeff Ruby Culinary Entertainment
- John Dobrozsi Jr. Insurance Agency
- Keeneland
- Lahvdah
- LUCOR
- Marion's Pizza
- Meijer#147
- Newport Aquarium
- Origami Owl

### BEST FRIEND ($1 - 100) Cont.
- R N Fey Company
- Rumpke
- Skatetown USA
- Thirty One
- United Dairy Farmers
- Web Extreme Entertainment
- Yeltons Fine Jewelry

### MENTOR ($101 - $250)
- Air Products and Chemicals
- Chemed Foundation
- Chili's
- Classic Prep Monograms
- Cousin Vinny's Pizza
- CSX Transportation
- Dave & Busters of Cincinnati
- Ellenbee Leggett
- Frame USA
- G&J Pepsi Cola Bottlers
- Garden Brothers Circus
- LCNB
- Marco's Pizza
- Quality Publishing Company
- Rodan+Fields
- T3 Fitness
- West Chester Academy

### CHANGE CATALYST ($251 - $500)
- Amstan Logistics
- Bob Evans
- Brown Dawson Flick Funeral Home
- Brown's Run Country Club
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Coca Cola Bottling Co.
- Eddie Lane's Diamond Showroom
- Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman
- Ernst Concrete
- Funny Bone Comedy Club Restaurant
- Home Depot
- Joe Morgan Honda
- Lamont Jacobs Orthodontics
- Oberer's Flowers
- Queen City Mechanical
- Rising Star Casino
- Road-ID
- Watson Gravel

### DREAM STARTER ($501 - $1,000)
- Butler Rural Community Connection
- GE Foundation
- Give with Liberty
- Kroger Co.
- Lawrenceburg Speedway
- Magnode Corporation
- Messer Construction Company
- Nike
- Paycor
- PNC Bank
- Union Centre Blvd. Merchants Association
Corporate Donors Continued

MATCH SPONSOR ($1,001 - $5,000)
- American Mortgage Service Co.
- CTI Restaurants
- Denlinger Rosenthal & Greenberg
- Feld Entertainment
- GE Aviation
- Jeff Pohlman Tire and Auto Service
- Lake Lyndsay
- Liberty Center
- Ohio Eagle Distributing
- Perfection Gymnastics
- Performance Honda
- Performance Toyota
- Quaker Chemical Foundation
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- Thompson Hine
- Thyssenkrupp Bilstein of America
- Toyota Dealer Match Program
- United Performance Metals
- Wyler Family Foundation

LIFE CHANGER ($10,001 - $20,000)
- Kings Island

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL ($35,001+)
- Netsuite

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- Butler County United Way
- Cincinnati Arts Association
- Cincinnati Ballet
- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
- Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
- Fairfield East Second Grade Staff
- Fairfield Kiwanis
- Fairfield Women
- First Presbyterian Church of Middletown
- Hamilton Joe’s Baseball Club
- Magnified Giving - Middletown High School
- Most Valuable Kids
- Optimist Club of Fairfield
- Rotary Club of Fairfield
- St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati - Middletown Area
- United Way of Oxford and Vicinity

PUBLIC FUNDERS
- Butler County Family & Children First Council
- Butler County Juvenile Court
- Butler County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Services Board
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services
The funds we raise fuel the dreams of children

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Furthering our mission every day

**Agency Staff**
Committed to being the best in nonprofit administration

Adam Bowling, Community Outreach Manager
Julie Dichtl, Vice President of Development
Nancie Ehlert, Match Support Specialist
Matt Flynn, Senior Site Based Mentoring Program Coordinator
Kelsey Geraci, Customer Relations Specialist
Brigitte Gray, Vice President of Programs
Michelle Grubb, Operations Manager
Stephanie Ipp, Match Support Specialist, Team Lead
Emily Johnson, Enrollment Specialist
Molly Jones, Development Coordinator
Kara Love, Vice President of Corporate and Community Relations
Amy Perry, Enrollment Specialist, Team Lead
Danielle Ratley, Site Based Mentoring Program Coordinator
Marvin Torres, Vice President of Marketing and Outreach
Carolyn Winslow, Chief Executive Officer

Interns: Sydney Frazier, David Kramer, Samantha Pierson

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Governing and directing our Long term endeavors

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Paul Bozik, Treasurer
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Dona Canaan
Carolyn Hamlin
Stephanie Hightower Thomas

Anthony James
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