

City of Lawrence
Outside Agency
Bi-annual Report
2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2017.

Agency Name: Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Douglas County (Non-Alcohol)

Reporting Period (please check one): ☐ January - June (deadline July 15) ☒ January – December (deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

In 2016, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters (KSBBBS) Match Support Specialists continued their work of making new one-to-one matches between qualified volunteers and at-risk children in our community, as well as continuing supervision of existing matches. Each Match Support Specialist is assigned a number of matches in which they supervise, offer guidance, assist with any problems and engage in healthy communication with the youth, the parent/guardian of the youth, and the volunteer. Annual reporting through participant completed surveys is done with each Match to keep track of agency progress. At the end of 2016, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Douglas County served 171 Community-Based Matches and 79 active Site-Based Match.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Each parent and volunteer in our program is asked to complete an annual survey once the match has met their anniversary. When asked about the impact a Big Brother or Big Sister can make, the following results were reported for 2016:

- 90% more self confidence
- 67.5% better academic performance
- 60% better classroom behavior
- 73% better relationship with family
- 75% better relationship with peers

KSBBBS serving Douglas County made 57 new matches in 2016 and currently has 119 volunteers who have expressed interest in becoming a Big!

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Douglas County has provided a positive role model/mentor for 57 new children in 2016. We continue to offer the community an opportunity to give back, and successfully recruited

57 individuals to volunteer their time to serve the youth in our community. We continue to serve over 155 active matches in Douglas County, where we provide children facing adversity with an opportunity to gain perspective on life choices, opportunities, and meaningful relationships with others.

MATCH HIGHLIGHT:



In 2016 BBBS serving Douglas County started a Bigs in Blue program for which we recruited law enforcement officers from the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to serve as mentors. We helped form partnerships between law enforcement agencies and several local elementary schools. Through this program, the Douglas County Sheriff's Department partnered with Kennedy elementary to provide mentors for at-risk youth in need of a mentor. This program has been a huge success, and there are currently 16 law enforcement officers matched with Littles in three schools and meeting on a weekly basis. The popularity of the program has spread within the law enforcement agencies and there are currently 13 more law enforcement officers going through the application process to become Bigs.

Steve and Elijah were matched at Kennedy last semester in November of 2016 (see picture above), and have formed a strong relationship. Before meeting Steve, Elijah had often been in trouble at school and, according to his teacher, had some serious behavior problems. Elijah lives with multiple siblings in a single-parent home, and did not have a strong male influence in his life before he met Steve. Since being matched with Steve and meeting with him on a weekly basis, Elijah's teacher has noticed a "night and day difference" in his behavior at school. He still gets in trouble from time to time, but his overall behavior has greatly improved and his teacher is grateful to Steve for taking time out of his week to come and visit Elijah.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

KSBBBS serving Douglas County continues to have over 100+ children who are waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. Of the 100+ children on the list, 70% are boys, many of whom have waited on a Big Brother for over one year. Now that we have an abundance of potential volunteers who are interested in mentoring these youth, we now face the barrier of manpower to process these volunteers in a timely manner. With only two Match Support Specialists and an Area Manager, it has taken longer than we would hope to move volunteers through the enrollment process. We are hopeful that in the early summer, we will have enough funding and the numbers to support an additional Match Support Specialist who can help us in this area.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

All funds received from the City of Lawrence have been expended. Due to the transition in local leadership, our second request for funding did not take place until January of 2017 and we are very thankful for the City understanding our circumstances and allowing us to still request the funding.