

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.

David and Andrew were matched at Kennedy last semester in November of 2016 (see picture above), and have had a lot of fun getting to know each other. Andrew was having some trouble at school because he would act out in order to get attention. He also comes from a single parent home and lives with his mom and three sisters. Unfortunately, he doesn't have much contact with his father, who lives out of town. Andrew really wanted to get a Big Brother in the BBBS program because he has "always wanted a brother." The Communities in Schools site coordinator at Kennedy feels that David has been really good for Andrew and has satisfied his need to act out in order to get attention. She says that Andrew seems really proud and excited when his Big Brother comes to hang out with him during his lunch period.

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 and 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.