

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 (Special 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, the Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters Match Support Specialists have continued their work of making new one-to-one Matches with 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. As of July 15, 2016, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters serving Douglas County has 142 active Community-Based Matches (+5 inactive) and 1 active Site-Based Match (+46 inactive), and has served 244 kids total so far in 2016. Inactive Matches are due to summer break.

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 a yearly evaluation of his/her child. When asked about the impact a Big Brother or Big Sister can make, the following results were reported for 2015:

- **87.6% more self confidence**
- **73.7% better academic performance**
- **62.7% better classroom behavior**
- **63.3% better relationship with family**
- **76.6% better relationship with peers**

So far in 2016, 23 new Matches were made in the Community-Based Program and 15 new Matches were made in the Site-Based Program. Currently, 69 volunteers are in the process of being approved and ready to be matched in the coming months.

The Match Support Specialists maintained a high quality of service, with supervision rates at an average of 93% so far in 2016.

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 38 new children in 2016. We continue to offer the community an opportunity to give back, and successfully recruited 38 individuals to volunteer their time to serve the youth in our community. We continue to serve over 140 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:

Christine (Big) and Asia (Little) have been matched in the Community-Based Program for almost 10 years. When Asia was a young child, she was taken from her home at gun point by her mom's ex-boyfriend. Because of this trauma and other factors, like ongoing poverty, Asia had a very difficult childhood and needed a mentor. Christine came into Asia's life when she was 7 years old, and they have grown very close over the years. Christine encouraged her natural athletic ability and Asia has excelled in sports, particularly in basketball, making her varsity high school basketball team. Through Christine, and her involvement with sports, Asia has learned the value of hard work, made healthy relationships with her peers, and kept her grades up knowing that she has a bright future ahead. Asia understands how much Christine has done for her, and hopes that she will also be able to give back one day by becoming a Big Sister.

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

With over 100+ children on the current waitlist, Big Brothers Big Sisters is always actively recruiting new and potential volunteers to be matched. Of the 100+ children on the list, 70% are boys, many of whom have waited on a Big Brother for over one year. Recruiting men to become Bigs in our program is a struggle locally, but also across the state and nationwide. Efforts like the "Go Big or Go Home" campaign in which the Division 1 Basketball Coaches lend their voices and celebrity status, are geared to attract more male mentors to both the Community-Based and Site-Based Programs.

Also, we work to reach out to the children in our community that would benefit from our program the most. We continue to strive to better our relationships with the school district, other local service agencies like DCF, Boys & Girls Club, Girls Scouts and United Way to ensure that our program is offered to the children in Lawrence who are identified as high-risk and in immediate need of a mentor/role model.

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

We have used half (\$4,355) of our allocated amount (\$8,710) from this grant. We will be requesting the second half of our funds in October 2016.