



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Sonoma County

***The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mission*** is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact, contributing to better schools, brighter futures, and stronger communities for all.

BBBS has served Sonoma County for 40 years and has matched hundreds of children ages 6-18 years of age, with mentors that have provided positive life changing influences in their lives.

**Current Programs**

***Community Based Program*** - Match adults with children in their communities. They typically meet two to four times a month. During these unstructured outings they cultivate relationships that provide children with skills to manage every day challenges. The mentor's primary role is to be a caring and supportive role model.

***School Based Program*** - Match teenage High School volunteers with Elementary School aged children in order to establish a one-to-one mentoring relationship. The mentor's primary role is to be a caring and supportive role model. That relationship results in better school performance, building trust with adults, and self-confidence. In addition, it gives High School students the opportunity to grow themselves in the area of community involvement. Mentors commit to meeting with a child 2-3 hours per week, after school at the Elementary campus for an entire school year. They will spend time on schoolwork, projects, games, activities and conversations.

***Music and Arts Youth Program*** - offers one on one musical and artistic instruction to youth ages 8-18 years of age. The program will offer mentoring in theatre, drama, instruments such as, brass/woodwind/string, guitar, drums, vocal, sound/video engineering, as well as art instruction. The mentoring relationship develops through the instruction of music and arts, then flourishes into a fully supportive, one on one relationship, in which the mentor is able to be a supportive and positive role model. This will lead to positive relationship building and meaningful participation in the community.

***Statistics:***

- 62% less likely to join a gang;
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs and alcohol;
- 61% will be more confident and show improvement in their schoolwork performance
- 43% are able to get along better with their families and peers
- One-third less likely to commit an act of violence
- 4 times fewer arrests than those without a mentor