



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
OF CAPE BRETON

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

## Vision Statement

To significantly contribute to the healthy development of youth in our community.

## Mission Statement

We are committed to the healthy development of children through professionally designed mentoring programs.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**JUNE 26, 2023**

I want to thank all our board members and staff for all the great work you all did throughout this past year. I really do feel that we had a great year – not just financially, though we did manage to bring in around \$35k from BFKS this year alone! – but also in our goal of increasing board presence and being more involved in fundraisers and other events.

To that end, I also want to thank the new board members and guests for joining us and especially wish the new board members a warm welcome to the team... In fact, I'm pretty sure Francine said we're holding a raffle for the president's spot for next year after this speech so hold on to your ticket stubs.

It also wouldn't be right if I didn't make a special mention for all the hard work Francine has done this year (and every year). Somehow she manages to balance her caseload, fundraising, events, and manage staff while STILL bugging me to dig up plants for her – no clue how she does it. So, on behalf of the board, I'd like to extend our sincerest thank you. Also, this year's bonus for her will be in plants I dug up, so thankfully we saved money there...

Before I get into what's coming for the next year, I want to thank Ryan, our latest retired board member, and acknowledge all the hard work he did for us over the last year on our board. Anytime we asked him to do something, whether it was for ticket sales or hauling dirt, he was always a team player and did his part. So on behalf of all of us, thank you Ryan and good luck in what's to come in England.

Looking forward to the coming year, we are in a very good spot financially and continuing to improve. We did lose some of our covid government funding, however thanks to our friend of the agency Dee Melong in Havre Boucher, we are

on track to get started on the new weekly toonie draw to hopefully get us in shape to hire a case worker (once its up and running!) That, on top of our popular auction and the fact that our BFKS is coming back bigger each year, means we can really ramp it up this year. Thankfully, with quite a few new additions to the board, we can hit that ramp running and really take off with everyone pitching in.

To summarize, we should be proud of all we did this year. We did very well but, as was the case last year, we still need to continue to push for our existing funding projects as well as continue to come up with creative new projects to attract Bigs, Littles, and the donations to support our programs. We were resilient through the worst of COVID, and now we need to use that momentum in the coming year. Again, thank you to all our board members, staff, and friends for the last year – now we can focus on making the next one even better.

Matthew Bennett

President

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

**JUNE 26, 2023**

**Annual Reports gives us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and our challenges in the past year. It also allows us the time to look at the future and new visions for the coming year.**

**At times we seem to focus more on finances, but without funds we could not provide the exceptional programs we offer the children of Cape Breton.**

**In the next year it will be a time to reflect and see what the agency has achieved and how we can take this knowledge in order to help more children in our community.**

**Over the years I have heard people say that some of my goals for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Breton bordered on impossible...let me state the word impossible when broken down really says I'm possible...so whenever we come together in collaboration....anything is possible.**

**Please bear with me as I reminisce over my past 35 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Breton. I have found working in the non-profit sector has taught me many life experiences. I have learned the importance to have a vision, then structure that vision into a plan, then turn the plan to reality. So instead of seeing things and saying Why? I have learned to push the envelope and say... Why Not?**

**These past 35 years has been happy, challenging and a time of growth. I have made it through a divorce, graduated from Dalhousie University, lost a parent and a brother and survived cancer. I started a second job and became a grandmother to two wonderful grandsons. I became a published writer and now have started canvas painting. I saw this agency grow from a small office on Prince Street to owning our own building debt free! Our agency in the past 35 years has never been in the red financially, due to the support of our community! We have survived through covid and this year we will begin the growth of finances and services.**

**Recently, someone asked me how I do it...to me it is the case of the why or Why nots...the impossible and the I'm possible.**

**So as we enter another year I guarantee we will have challenges at times, but remember how far we have already come, and smile at all we have accomplished ...and all that is yet to be.**

**I would like to acknowledge each and everyone of you for your support and commitment this past year.**

**I see the goals ahead encompassed in the word growth... growth in programs, staff, board and finances. If we approach this coming year with childlike enthusiasm we will soar on wings of making the impossible possible. Coming together was our beginning, keeping together will mark our progress and working together will give us the success we will be striving for this next year.**

**I wish all of you a wonderful summer. I look forward to all of us coming back rested and relaxed in September to continue to help children.**

**Thank you.**

**Francine Hall BA BSW  
Executive Director**



Service Nova Scotia

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Breton

(society name)

for the fiscal period ending

2023-03-31

(yyyy/mm/dd)

20 23

Income

Membership fees	0
Fund raising	59,796
Other revenue	29,771
Other revenue	15,713
<b>A. Total Income</b>	<b>105,280</b>

Expenditures

Administration	5,815
Education and training	0
Insurance	3,070
Professional fees	5,200
Salaries	94,177
Other expenditures	7,905
Other expenditures	19,842
<b>B. Total Expenditures</b>	<b>136,009</b>

**C. Net Surplus or (Deficit) (A - B = C)** -30,728

**D. Surplus or (Deficit), beginning of year** 51,332

**E. Surplus or (Deficit), end of year (C + D = E)** 20,604

Auditor or

Director:

[Signature]  
(signature)

Director:

[Signature]  
(signature)

Matthew Bennett  
(name)

Joseph Gracie  
(name)



Service Nova Scotia

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Registry of Joint Stock Companies

BALANCE SHEET FOR

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cape Breton

(society name)

for the fiscal period ending 2023-03-31  
(yyyy/mm/dd)

2023

**Assets**

Current Assets

Cash and deposits 20,604

Accounts receivable \_\_\_\_\_

Prepaid expenses \_\_\_\_\_

Capital/Fixed Assets

Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Land and buildings \_\_\_\_\_

Other capital/fixed Assets \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Total Assets** 20,604

**Liabilities**

Current liabilities

Amounts payable \_\_\_\_\_

Taxes payable \_\_\_\_\_

Long Term Debt

Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Total Liabilities** 0

**Equity**

Retained earnings/deficit 20,604

General reserve 20,604

**C. Total Equity** 20,604

**Total Liabilities and Equity** (A must equal B + C) 20,604 20,604

Auditor or Director: [Signature]  
(signature)

Director: [Signature]  
(signature)

Matthew Bennett  
(name)

Suzanne Gracie  
(name)

