

BBBS PGH

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



60

1965-2025

I love my Brother because you can
be for more fun than before because
mostly are alone and you have
body to talk to. If you have a big
brother like I do you have to have
somewhere to talk to and to go to places
with. I have been in some places with
my big brother which I have really
enjoyed and almost everytime he took
me out we went to a restaurant
before going home.

I'M GLAD I HAVE A BIG BROTHER BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS
THAT YOU CAN'T TELL YOUR MOTHER YOU CAN TELL HIM. THEY
CAN HELP YOU IN PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING THAT YOU COULD
YOUR DAD.
MY BIG BROTHER TOOK ME ON HIS VACATION TO DEEP CE
WITH HIS WIFE AND SPENT TIME WITH ME PLAYING AND S
JUST RECENTLY HE BOUGHT A BOAT AND WE GO WATER

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

LETTER FROM THE CEO AND BOARD PRESIDENT

AS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH ENDS OUR 60TH YEAR

We're energized by the progress behind us and the opportunities taking shape ahead.

In 2025, we empowered hundreds of Bigs and Littles to ignite the potential of youth in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Every single match, every single milestone, is a testament to what our community can accomplish when we stand behind local youth, just as we've done for six decades.

What continues to inspire us is the simple, steady power of connection. Whether it's a Big and Little meeting up in their neighborhood or a Big sitting with a student in a school library, mentoring relationships create space for young people to feel seen, supported, and encouraged. Mentors help young people build confidence, make healthy choices, and imagine futures they may not yet see for themselves. This kind of presence, consistent, caring, and grounded in trust, remains at the core of who we are and what we do.

Behind the scenes, our team has been sharpening the way we measure impact. Even as we celebrate 60 years of mentorship, we're focused on the tools and approaches that will shape the next era of service. By taking a data-driven approach to program development, we're learning more about what our youth need, what interventions create the strongest outcomes, and how we can scale our reach responsibly.



This commitment to using data in service of smarter, more effective mentoring is shaping how we plan for the future, and how we ensure that growth never comes at the expense of quality.

What excites us most is what lies ahead. The need for mentorship in our region continues to rise, and so does the opportunity to meet that need. With your support, as a volunteer, donor, partner, staff member, or advocate, we are building a stronger path forward for young people who deserve every chance to thrive, just as we have for the past 60 years.

With appreciation,

Marc Bloomingdale
CEO

Jennifer Petrisek
Board President

WE BELIEVE

Mentored youth excel in many areas of their lives. It's the student who makes measurable gains in academic performance. It's the child who transforms from withdrawn to confident. It's the young adult who now has hope and a plan for their future.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh seeks to amplify the potential that lives within all children to realize their biggest possible future.

MISSION

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

VISION

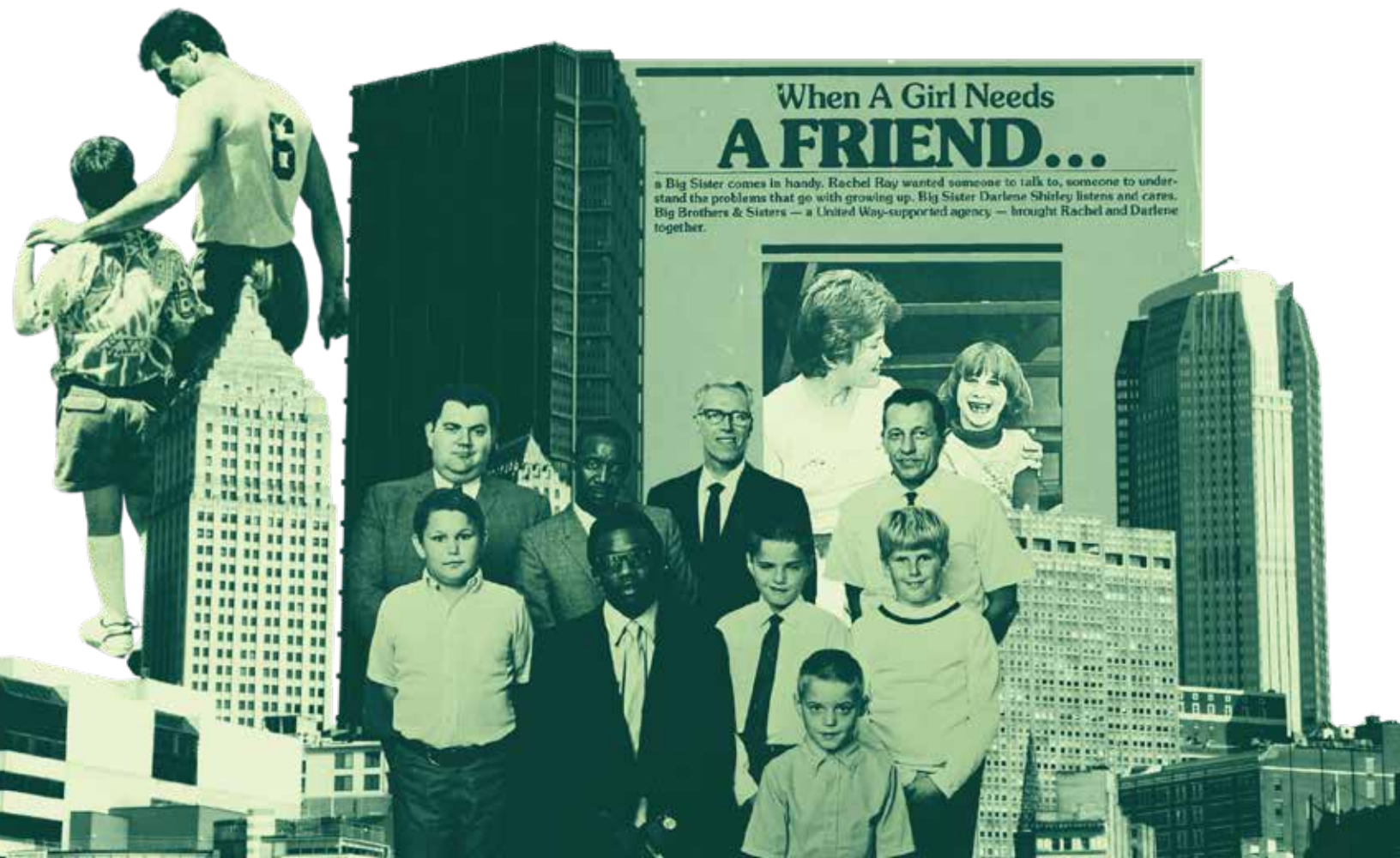
All youth achieve success.



SIXTY YEARS OF STANDING WITH YOUTH

In 1965, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh was founded on a simple but powerful belief: that young people do better when someone shows up for them. That belief took root locally through the leadership and generosity of Kenny Ross, a Pittsburgh entrepreneur and philanthropist whose own experience as a Little Brother shaped his lifelong commitment to life-changing mentorship. Alongside other civic leaders, Ross helped establish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh as a community response to a community need that has endured for six decades.

Since that first match was made, thousands of young people across our region have been paired with mentors who offer more than advice or activities. They offer stability, encouragement, and a trusted relationship at moments when it matters most. While our programs and partnerships have evolved over time, the core idea behind them has not: mentoring can change the trajectory of a young person's life.



IN 2025, WE MARKED THIS MILESTONE

In 2025, we marked this milestone with a 60th birthday celebration that honored both our history and our future. Supporters, partners, and friends gathered at the Kamin Science Center for an afternoon of fun. The celebration included reflections from CEO Marc Bloomingdale, Board President Jennifer Petrisek, and Jimmy Ross, who continues his father's legacy of generosity and belief in the power of mentorship.

Reaching 60 years is both an achievement and a charge. It reflects the strength of our community's commitment to young people and challenges us to ensure that mentorship remains accessible, effective, and responsive for the generations still to come.

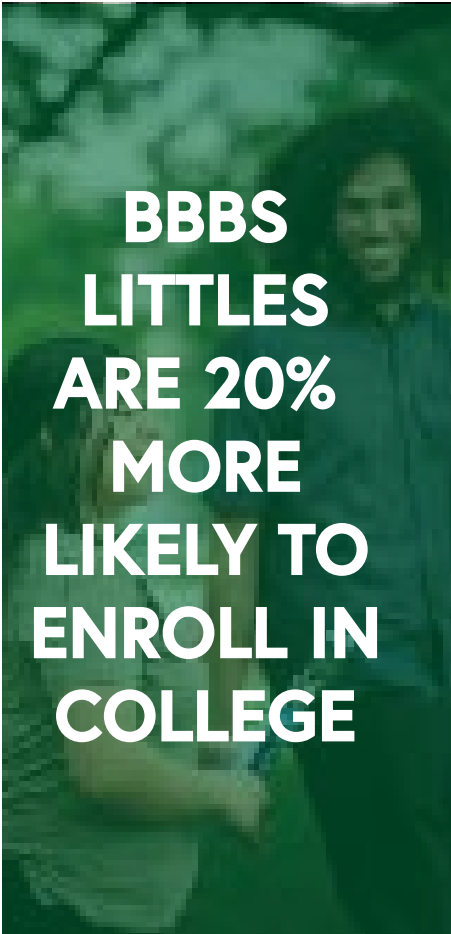


ECONOMIC IMPACT RESEARCH

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, we see the impact of mentorship every day in classrooms, communities, and families. Young people gain confidence. They stay engaged in school. They make healthier choices and begin to envision futures filled with possibility. These impacts are powerful, measurable, and lifelong.

A groundbreaking national study released by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, conducted in partnership with researchers from Harvard University and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, confirms what our agency has long observed. Drawing on three decades of data, this first-of-its-kind research demonstrates that mentorship delivers lasting educational, economic, and social benefits well into adulthood.

AMONG THE STUDY'S KEY FINDINGS:



**BBBS
LITTLES
ARE 20%
MORE
LIKELY TO
ENROLL IN
COLLEGE**



**BBBS
LITTLES
EARN 15%
MORE
OVER
THEIR
LIFETIMES.**



**BEING A
BBBS
LITTLE
CLOSES 2/3
OF THE
SOCIO-
ECONOMIC
GAP**

IMPACT ON FUTURE

Every dollar invested in BBBS mentoring programs paid for itself within seven years, making mentorship one of the most cost-effective youth interventions available.

The research builds on a landmark 1991 randomized control trial and extends its findings into the 2020s by linking program participation to U.S. tax and administrative records. This rigorous approach offers rare insight into how early relationships shape education, employment, and long-term stability.



CONNECTING YOUTH TO POSSIBILITY

WORKPLACE MENTORSHIP

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh's Workplace Mentorship program introduces young people to professional environments where relationships and aspirations take shape together. In partnership with Dollar Bank, students in grades 9–12 at Northgate High School engage in a workplace-oriented mentoring experience that blends career exploration with consistent one-to-one support.

Through regular interaction and guided conversation with mentors, students are welcomed into professional settings that foster curiosity and confidence. These experiences help young people become comfortable navigating workplace culture while building relationships with professionals who are invested in their growth. Exposure to a variety of roles and career pathways allows youth to begin imagining futures aligned with their interests, strengths, and emerging goals.

Building Skills—and Relationships—that Last

Workplace mentoring supports the development of essential social-emotional skills that carry into every area of life. Youth practice communication, collaboration, and problem-solving in real-world contexts while learning how professional teams function. These experiences help participants strengthen self-awareness, adaptability, and confidence. These are skills that support success in school, work, and beyond.

At the heart of the program is the mentoring relationship itself. Each participant is matched one-to-one with an adult mentor who provides encouragement, guidance, and a steady presence. For many matches, the connection continues beyond the school year, transitioning into other Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh programs such as Post-Secondary Program. These ongoing relationships reflect the program's lasting impact: helping young people see themselves as capable, connected, and prepared to pursue futures they can envision for themselves.



POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT THAT OPENS DOORS

For many Littles, particularly first-generation college students the path beyond high school is filled with unfamiliar systems, financial pressure, and moments of uncertainty. Launched in 2021, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh's Post-Secondary Program (PSP) exists to ensure that young people don't have to navigate those challenges alone.

The Post-Secondary Program represents a new chapter in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh's approach to mentoring, extending relationships into college and career pathways. In 2025, the program's first five Littles crossed the stage as college graduates.

PSP extends the mentoring relationship into college and early career years, providing consistent, one-to-one support at a critical point when persistence matters most. By maintaining trusted connections, the program helps Littles stay enrolled, build professional skills, and move toward degrees and careers that might otherwise feel out of reach.

Paula & Barbara: Staying Together

Paula and Barbara were matched nearly eight years ago through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh's Mentor 2.0 program, focused on preparing Paula for life after high school. When Paula graduated from Brashear High School in 2021, their relationship transitioned seamlessly into the Post-Secondary Program, with Barbara continuing her support through college and into Paula's early career.

With Barbara's guidance, Paula enrolled at Point Park University, majoring in Marketing and Sales with a minor in Spanish. Barbara supported her through resumes, internships, and interview preparation, while also building Paula's confidence to advocate for herself. That support helped Paula secure multiple competitive internships, including a standout role at PPG Paints Arena.

This spring, Barbara celebrated alongside Paula at her college graduation, having been present for both her high school and college milestones. Their relationship continues as Paula launches her career, a powerful reminder that mentorship doesn't end at graduation.

Together, Paula and Barbara exemplify the Post-Secondary Program's purpose: sustained relationships that guide young people through critical transitions and toward their fullest potential.



BIG EXPERIENCES

OVER
THE
EDGE

"It's a perfect metaphor for the work we do, helping young people step outside of their comfort zones and chart a new course."

In 2025, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh invited supporters to do something unforgettable. From the top of 625 Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh, over 50 participants stepped out over the city skyline and rappelled 21 stories: transforming a moment of courage into meaningful support for local youth.

Over the Edge was more than a thrilling challenge. It was a powerful reflection of what mentorship makes possible: trying something new, trusting the process, and knowing someone is there to guide you every step of the way. As CEO Marc Bloomingdale shared, the experience echoed the work Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh does every day: encouraging young people to stretch beyond their limitations with steady encouragement and care.

At its core, Over the Edge captured the spirit of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh: even the biggest leaps are made possible through trust, encouragement, and the presence of someone who believes in you. After a successful debut, the experience will return in 2026 to inspire new participants, new connections, and new impact across our region.



MATCHES OF THE YEAR

VINCE AND DAMION

Vince and Damion have been matched for nearly five years, forming one of the inaugural relationships in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh's Sports Buddies program. What began as a simple connection has grown into a deeply rooted mentoring relationship marked by consistency, mutual respect, and steady growth on both sides.

When they were first matched, Damion was a quiet 13-year-old who often held back in group settings. Over time, with Vince's calm guidance and encouragement, he began to step forward with confidence.

"Vince really cares about me and my future. He makes it easy for me to open up."

— Damion

Today, Damion is a freshman in college, imagining a future in game development possibilities that once felt distant now feel within reach.

Vince has been a constant presence through some of Damion's most formative years, offering affirmation, perspective, and practical support. Whether helping Damion navigate big decisions or simply showing up consistently, Vince has helped ensure that Damion feels recognized, valued, and capable. One moment captured that impact clearly: after sharing that it took weeks for a teacher to remember his name, Damion expressed how meaningful it was to feel truly seen.

"Sometimes all we need is affirmation to grow our confidence. Being able to provide that has meant a lot."

— Vince



MATCHES OF THE YEAR

ERICA AND RYLEIGH

Erica and Ryleigh have been matched for just over two years, forming a mentoring relationship defined by empathy, trust, and mutual growth. From the beginning, their match has been marked by attentive listening, shared curiosity, and a deep respect for one another's individuality.

Ryleigh entered the match navigating self-esteem challenges and uncertainty around how to express herself. Erica's quiet confidence and fearlessness offered a powerful example: that fitting in is not a prerequisite for belonging. Through steady encouragement and shared experiences, Ryleigh has grown more comfortable taking up space as her authentic self and expressing her creativity, style, and ideas with increasing confidence.

Their time together has included moments both playful and profound. Whether painting rugs at the park or facing a haunted house together for the first time, Erica modeled courage without pretense, acknowledging fear while moving forward anyway. That approach left a lasting impression.

Today, Ryleigh is more adventurous and self-assured. She is discovering and pursuing interests she once hesitated to explore, particularly in the arts, where she now confidently articulates the meaning behind her work. She is drawn to helping others and imagines a future in teaching or another caring profession, goals rooted in empathy, creativity, and service.

"She shows me how to step out of myself, be bolder, and not be afraid to ask questions."

— Ryleigh

"We'll do it scared — scared, but together."

— Erica



FINANCIALS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh is supported by a variety of grants, donations, events, and campaigns.

628,954
FOUNDATIONS

841,121
GOVERNMENT FUNDING

151,299
CORPORATE GIVING

195,304
INDIVIDUAL GIVING

647,537
EVENTS

124,614
EARNED REVENUES

**TOTAL
REVENUE:**

\$2,588,829

LITTLE STEPS BIG DREAMS



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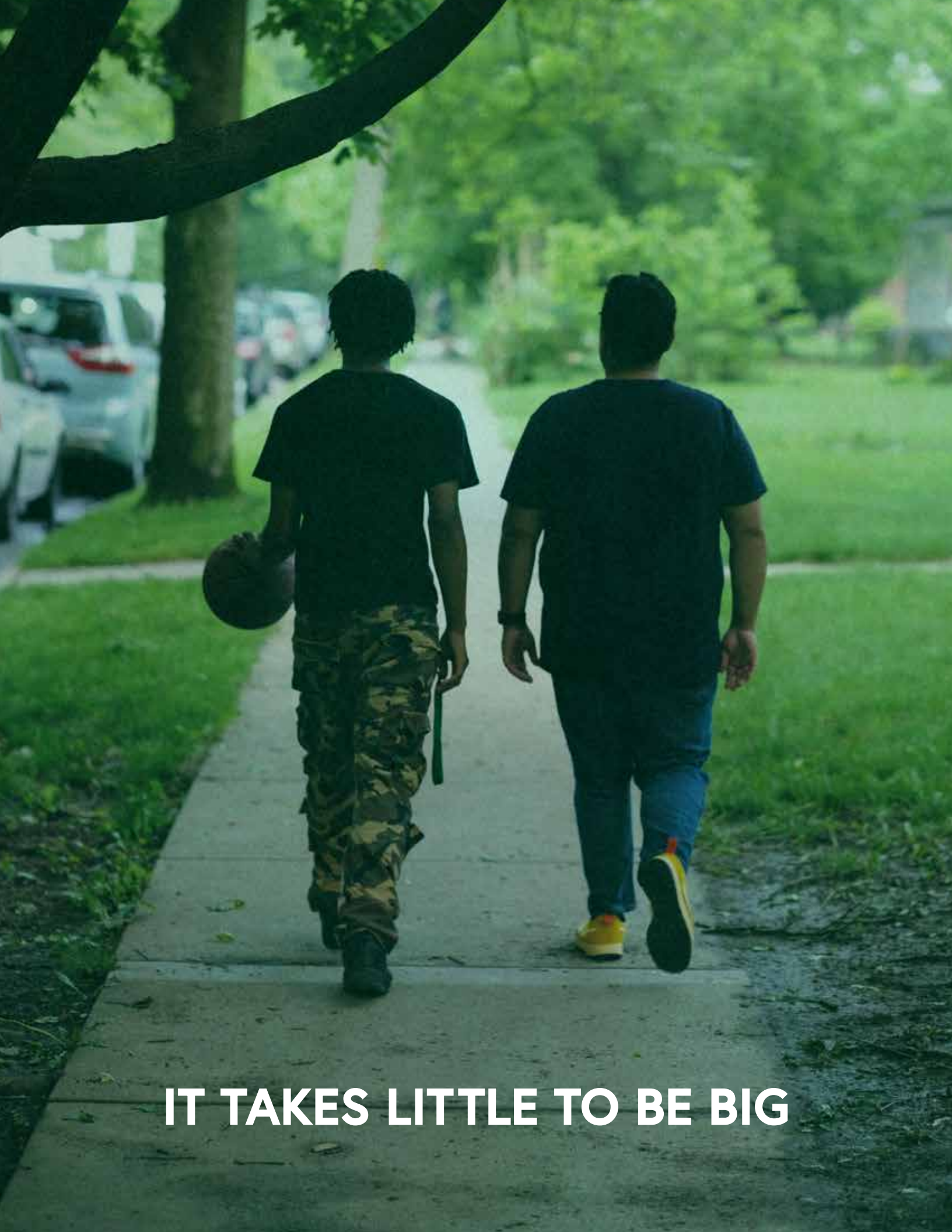
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