

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF WOOD BUFFALO

2022



Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

Someone once asked me why I volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo. I grew up in a somewhat chaotic household. My parents divorced when I was young, and my sisters and I were often left to fend for ourselves. I was very fortunate to have some teachers, coaches, and employers who guided me through some tumultuous teenage years. I didn't realize until much later how much those people invested in me. I am now driven to create safe and welcoming environments for my family, my community, and my workplace. Being a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo board has proven to be an amazing place for me to contribute to others as so many have contributed to me.

This June will mark the beginning of my final year with the organization as I am in the third term of my stay. I have witnessed the organization steadily, reliably, and sustainably grow every year since I first joined and see nothing but a positive future ahead. Our board is cohesive, collaborative, hardworking and connected. We have attracted some exciting new talent to the team, and I am confident that they will carry on delivering the mission and vision as effectively as ever.

Our executive director Vanessa is one of the most remarkable human beings I have met, and I believe all our stakeholders reap the benefits of Vanessa and her high performing team as they find new and creative ways to deliver to the community.

The community continued to rally around our cause with Ledcor and Sunbelt making BBBSWB a significant beneficiary of their 2022 golf tournament. Larry and Brad with SMS Equipment are a cornerstone of the organization with the 2022 SMS Wine Auction passing the one-million-dollar mark since Dennis and Andrea hatched the idea 12 years ago. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize Marty and the Northstar family for Marty's time as our MC at the SMS Wine Auction and the generosity of the Northstar employees.

Summer is once again upon us, covid seems a distant memory and Fort McMurray seems to be on another upswing which will bring new families to the region and more stakeholders to serve.

My deepest gratitude to all of our supporters, volunteers, and advocates for keeping Big Brothers Big Sisters Wood Buffalo the vibrant and thriving organization that we are.



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**KEITH BERGEY, CHAIR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

To be 'Bigger together' means recognizing the power and impact that can be achieved when individuals, communities, and organizations come together for a common purpose.

You have frequently heard me say, 'We are bigger together.' It's in our hashtags on social media, my speeches, proposals, and calls for action. Being 'Bigger together' embodies the spirit of unity, empathy, and shared responsibility. It means understanding that we are stronger when we work together, combining our resources, talents, and perspectives to tackle challenges, address social issues, and uplift those in need.

It acknowledges that no single person can do it all alone.
Our communities' young people cannot do it all alone.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we recognize that our work is part of a larger movement to create a brighter and more equitable future for our region's young people. Our mentors have empowered these young individuals, nurturing future leaders, change-makers, and compassionate members of society. In 2022, 476 young people were served through 41 different programs. However, the impact of our programs goes beyond the immediate beneficiaries, as these young people grow to become mentors and advocates in their own right, paying forward the support they have received.

I believe I am who I am today because of the mentors I had in my life. I do this work to pay it forward for the support and guidance I received. In 2022, we had over 72 volunteers and 21 staff members who did the very same. They continually showed up for our youth as compassionate friends and guides, offering invaluable support and guidance during critical stages of a young person's life.

I am immensely proud we have positively influenced the lives of these children and youth in the past year. However, I acknowledge that our work is far from complete. There are still countless young individuals in our community who are in need of guidance, support, and opportunities. We must remember that 'We are bigger together' lets continue to create a network of caring individuals who believe in the power of mentorship and are united in our commitment to transforming the lives of young people.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported us, whether through financial contributions, volunteerism, or advocacy. None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication and generosity of our community.

Stay tuned to see the impact we will make in 2023!
It is going to be BIG!"

**VANESSA MACNEVIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



The impact of our programs extends far beyond our statistics. We have witnessed countless stories of personal triumph, where our young people once burdened by self-doubt and limited opportunities have blossomed into confident individuals, ready to take on the world. With every interaction, our mentors have seen the seeds of inspiration and aspiration take root in the hearts and minds of our mentees.

By fostering strong and trusting relationships between mentors and mentees, we have provided a safe space for children to share their dreams, fears, and aspirations. Through these meaningful connections, we have nurtured a sense of belonging, instilled resilience, and equipped them with the tools needed to navigate life's challenges.

OUR PROGRAMS

Community- Based Program:

Mentors and mentees are matched one-to-one mentoring relationships known as our Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Big Couple Matches. In 2022, there were **34** one-to-one matches

Full Circle Mentoring Program:

This made in Wood Buffalo specialized Indigenous culture-based mentoring program is a group mentoring program that strengthens cultural awareness and pride among our Indigenous children and youth in the Wood Buffalo region. In 2022, **297** young people enrolled in this program.

Game on Program:

Provides young boys with the information and support to make informed choices about a range of healthy lifestyle practices. In 2022, **20** young people enrolled in this program.

Go Girls Program:

A group mentoring program for young girls with focus on physical activity, balanced eating and self esteem. In 2022, **77** young people enrolled in the program.

ConocoPhillips Corporate Mentoring Program:

This program is designed for youth to learn about post-secondary options with a focus on career readiness. In 2022, **27** young people enrolled in this program.

RBC Big Possibilities Program:

The program taps into the strengths of mentorship and adds an intentional focus on skill development and expanding future possibilities to expand future possibilities to increase educational engagement and career readiness. In 2022, **21** young people enrolled in this program.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Thank you to our program funders



OUR DONORS

We extend a sincere appreciation to our dedicated donors for their invaluable support, making our mission possible.

\$80K +

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Ledcor & Sunbelt Rentals

\$25k - \$50k

SMS Equipment
ConocoPhillips Canada
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada - RBC

\$10k - \$25k

Suncor
Fort McMurray First Nations
Giles Family Foundation- Northstar Ford
Manitoulin Group of Companies
Bouchier Family Foundation

\$5k - \$10k

Jumpstart
Canadian Natural Resources
ATB Financial
Syncrude
Cummins Sales & Service
AirCon Technologies
Leavitt Machinery
Lisa Hartigan - Coldwell Banker
Canadian Tire

\$1k - \$5k

CNOOC Petroleum
Heavy Metal Equipment
Thompson Construction Group
CNC Industries
Tuccaro Group
JADCO
Komatsu
Mammoth Equipment & Exhausts
Novamen Inc.
King & Company
Kinsmen Club Fort McMurray
Kinette Club Fort McMurray
Harley Owners Group - Toys for Tots
Pembina Pipeline
Hope in Christ Ministries



We like to acknowledge the hundreds of other donors who supported us this year via our annual events or in-kind contributions.

Every \$1 invested in BBBS returns \$23 to society.

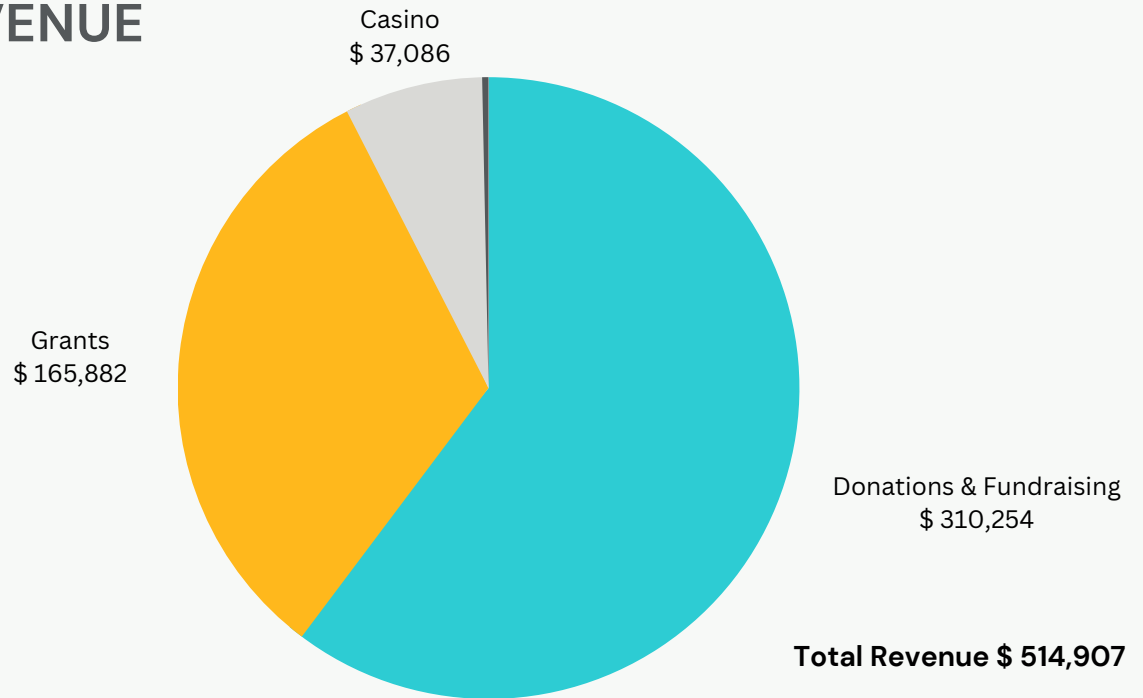
Any donation big or small matters!



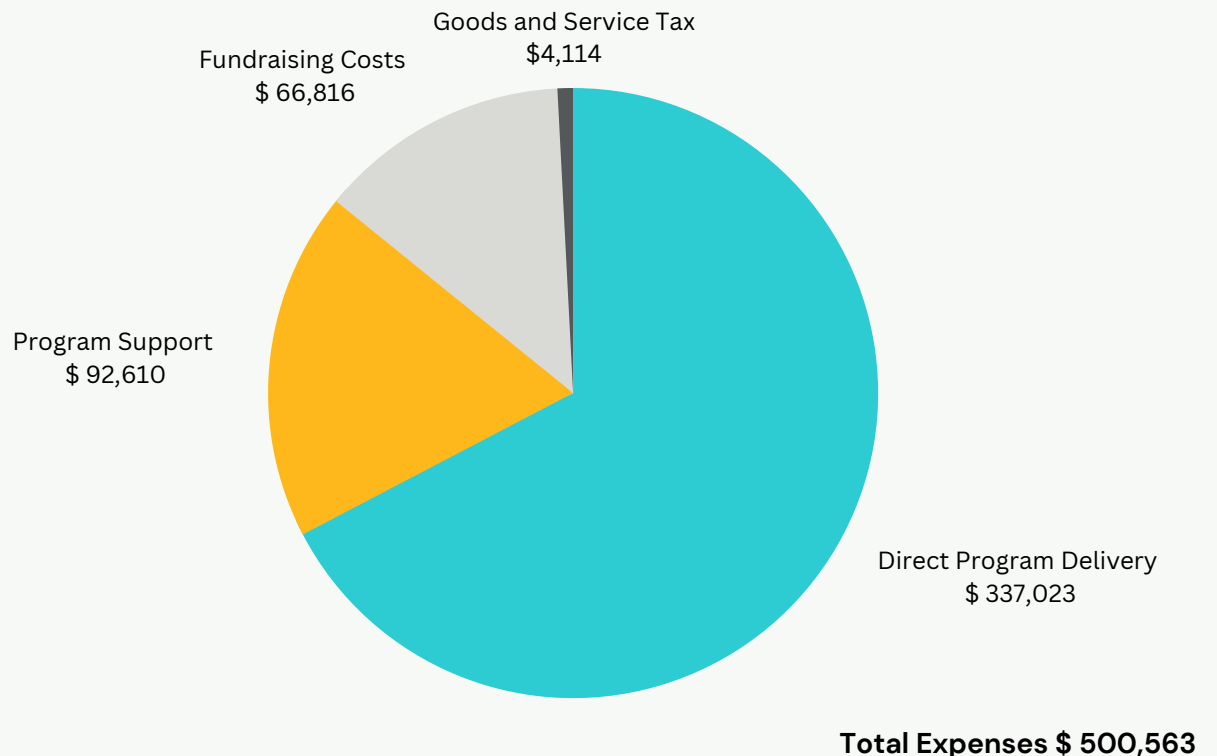
FINANCES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Excess of Revenue over Expenses : \$ 14,344

ANNUAL EVENTS

In March 2022, our Bowl for Kids' Sake returned to The Alley YMM. This two day event saw over 110 bowlers who came out to support our cause! The event raised \$36,570. Big congratulations to the top pledger, Big Brother, Jeff Thompson!

Spring of 2022 the preparation began for the 12th Annual SMS Equipment Wine Auction which was held in September. It was the first in-person wine auction event since the onset of the pandemic. The event welcomed 275 attendees to our 'Secret Garden'. Marty Giles made the evening fun and engaging as our Emcee. We had young local talent highlighted throughout the night and many amazing wine/ spirits to try,

The event raised \$ 153,441 and SMS Equipment officially hit **\$1 million dollars** raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wood Buffalo with support of their sponsors and attendees.

On Labor Day 2022, our 22nd annual Rubber Duck Race, looked a bit different. The rubber ducks decided they were bored of the running a river race for the last 22 years and wanted to try their luck at being dropped out of a helicopter. You should have saw those ducks fly, or we could say drop! The event raised \$ 21,106 to support our mission.

Thank you to our incredible sponsors and event attendees for making our 2022 a successful fundraising year!

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Keith Bergey - Chair
Trevor Butler - Vice Chair
Samantha Simpson - Secretary
Lori Stevens - Treasurer
Lois Potvin- Gibson - Director
Kathryn Morgan - Director
Joshua St. Louis - Director
Rita Dizak- Director

Staff

Vanessa MacNevin - Executive Director
Janelle Fleury - Program Manager until Feb. 2022
Julie Penney - Program Manager
Samantha Collins - Mentoring Coordinator
Janelle Watton - Program Coordinator
Jennifer Wayne - Community Engagement and Events Coordinator
Margie Lohnes- Bookkeeper
Janis Kendell - Full Circle Facilitator
Yvette Friesen - Full Circle Facilitator
Pollyanna McBain - Full Circle Facilitator
Bev Pierce - Full Circle Facilitator
Michelle Janvier- Full Circle Facilitator
Gloria Wheeler - Full Circle Facilitator
Tracy Patenaude- Full Circle Facilitator
Robin Elson - Full Circle Facilitator
Darcy Lewis- Game On Facilitator
Raquel Holodniuk - Go Girls Facilitator
Holly Hashimi - Go Girls Facilitator
Dan Righ- Game on Facilitator
Shannyn O'Callaghan - Go Girls Facilitator
Destiny Smorong - Full Circle Facilitator

Our organization is profoundly grateful to our remarkable board and staff whose passion, expertise and invaluable contribution drive our mission forward!