

## 48 WAITING LITTLES

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### Helping youth bounce back!

The past year was tough on many kids. Right now, the 1-to-1 support of a mentor can help them move forward. Big Brothers Big Sisters is proud to launch *The Big Recovery* to help youth bounce back from the pandemic.

**Our goal is to recruit over 204 new mentors by the end of the year.** As kids enjoy their summer and head back to school this fall, it will take the goodness of our whole community to help them get back on track for success in the classroom and in life.

Meet Little Brother Tommy and Big Brother Michael! Tommy has been waiting for a Big for the last four years, but this dynamic duo was finally introduced just a few weeks ago. Tommy's sister was previously matched with a Big, and he has been anxiously waiting for his turn!



Tommy is a funny, helpful and energetic 12-year-old, but he's been through challenges most kids will never experience. Tommy has a severe visual impairment which has resulted in a few cases of bullying at school. These events have really affected his self-confidence. As a result, Tommy doesn't have a positive attitude toward school. He struggles to apply himself, and last year during the pandemic, he started middle school, which was a difficult transition with so many learning interruptions.

The pandemic became even more difficult when Tommy lost his father and grandfather due to COVID. At the time, Tommy's grandfather was the only positive male influence in his life. Little Brother Tommy reconnected with his father during the pandemic and began to establish a relationship before he passed away earlier this year.

Big Brother Michael's main goal for their relationship is to simply be a consistent presence in Tommy's life. The duo plans to focus on the importance of education and confidence-building so Tommy can reach his own goal of going to space one day!

The pandemic presented so many new challenges for kids, even on top of the difficulties they faced beforehand. *The Big Recovery* is an opportunity for kids to succeed in the classroom, navigate the traumas of life and know they always have someone by their side, no matter what.

You can help make a difference in the lives of kids like Tommy. **Your support is urgent!** Please, consider [becoming a mentor](#) or [help fund our matches!](#)

**THE BIG RECOVERY**

### Become a virtual mentor!



MentorU, powered by the Charles E. Lakin Foundation, is here! Leverage the proven power of mentoring to help high school youth achieve academic and career success. Communicate with your mentee weekly online and then join in-person activities just once a month at their school.

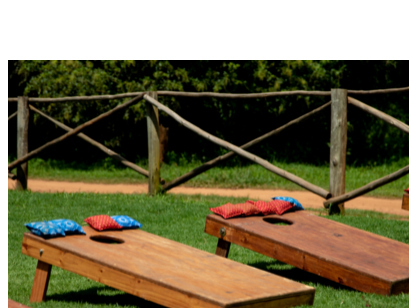
**Join us over the lunch hour from 12 to 12:30 pm for a virtual info session and Q&A to learn more!**

- Wednesday, July 7th

- Tuesday, July 20th

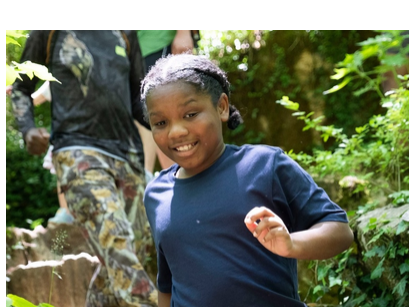
**RSVP TODAY!**

### End of summer fun!



Bowl For Kids' Sake, our largest annual fundraiser, is taking the year off, but we'll be back next year at Maplewood Lanes. Until then, grab your bowling crew, help raise some funds and we'll meet later this fall to celebrate your support. Stay tuned for more info!

### Mentoring is greater outdoors!



**This summer we're getting outside with Merrell!** We believe that the power of 1-to-1 mentoring can be even more impactful when we introduce our Littles to the power of being outside. Show us how mentoring is #GreaterOutdoors and visit [merrell.com/bbbs](http://merrell.com/bbbs) to learn more.

**GET STARTED**

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