

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Chattanooga Announces the Launch of Big Futures Program to Serve Youth Beyond Age 18

Chattanooga, TN (Nov. 8th, 2023) – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Chattanooga is excited to announce the launch of a new groundbreaking initiative, the Big Futures Program, funded through a generous partnership with the Maclellan Foundation. For the first time, the Big Brothers Big Sisters will begin supporting youth and young adults through mentoring beyond the age of 18. The new program will expand the agency's services to begin preparing 9th-12th graders for success in adulthood and continue serving them past their adolescent years.

Big Futures is designed to empower youth as they transition into adulthood by offering unique opportunities that include company tours, career-related activities, networking events to connect with a variety of professionals, and exposure to workforce experiences. This innovative approach aims to help young adults realize their full potential and set them on the path to a successful future.

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Big Futures Programming with an exciting kick-off event this month," said CEO Jessica Whatley. "Supporting our youth's transition from adolescence into adulthood is crucial for their long-term success and the betterment of our communities. Through mentorship, coaching, and engaging events, our Big Futures Programming aims to provide the support and guidance needed to empower youth to thrive and achieve their full potential."

"Exposure and intentional connections are instrumental as our students move through their high school years," said Big Futures Manager Haile Nottage, who will be coordinating the program. "We want our mentees to grow not only in their knowledge of the variety of careers available to them in the future, but also in their confidence toward belonging and thriving in these spaces."

Big Brothers Big Sisters will rely on support from the community in the launch of Big Futures, seeking to utilize a diverse professional network of individuals willing to share their knowledge, experiences, and opportunities with students.

"We hope that by the time our students graduate," said Nottage, "they not only feel confidence and clarity toward the path they are beginning to pursue for their future, but also feel they have a healthy community around them to use as a 'toolkit' while transitioning into the workforce."

Big Futures Program Launch Details:

- November 30th, 2023
- 5:30 pm-7pm
- 2015 Bailey Ave. Chattanooga, TN 37404

For more information about the Big Futures Program and how you can get involved, contact Haile Nottage at haile@bbbschatt.org.

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Since 1957, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Chattanooga has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As a member agency of the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, we make meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and children (“Littles”), ages 6 through 14, in Hamilton, Marion, Bradley, Walker, Catoosa and Dade counties. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people in our community.

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.