



June 1, 2020

Honorable Mayor and
Esteemed Members of the City Council
City of Warrensburg, Missouri

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the potential of youth. Our mentoring program helps build bridges and break down barriers by pairing one adult volunteer (Big) with one child (Little) and supporting each Big/Little match at every stage.

With more than 240 agencies across the country, Big Brothers Big Sisters has served nearly 2 million children in the past 10 years.

As Executive Director of BBBS and a life-long resident of Johnson County I am proud and grateful that our community has supported this impactful youth organization for the past 22 years.

With everything our children face, the coronavirus pandemic presents a whole new set of challenges. Mentoring is more important than ever, as it can be that extra support system that youth rely on in this time of crisis. Social distancing has not slowed down Big Brothers Big Sisters' commitment to keeping their mentoring matches connected - socially and emotionally. The agency has found innovative ways to make sure Bigs (mentors) and Littles (mentees) are still meeting virtually. On top of social isolation, many of the youth BBBS serve face societal barriers and opportunity gaps including poverty and discrimination. Facing these barriers together with their Big builds confidence and resilience, which I know you will agree benefits everyone in our community.

On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County, I would like to request continued support from the City of Warrensburg in the same amount as the year 2020. That amount equals to financial support quarterly of \$1400.00. The support is made up of \$1250.00 for mentoring program support and \$150.00 reimbursement for funds spent on upkeep and services to the Barnett House.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is beyond appreciative of the support by the City of Warrensburg both financially and through the partnership with the Warrensburg Parks and Recreation for our office location at Shepard Park. We continue to work with Jeff Coleman from the Park Department to aid in the upkeep of the park and with the help from UCM students painted the restrooms located in the park this past spring. We are proud to call the Barnett House home to Big Brothers Big Sisters and know that our location serves the community very well. Please let me know if I can provide additional information and thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dana Phelps
Executive Director
660-238-5974