

Positive Impact of Donation Bin Programs on Municipal Waste Reduction

Reducing Textiles in Landfill
While Supporting Social Impact



Item 10.3.1



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Halifax is a **registered charity** delivering programs to **youth facing adversity in HRM** since 1967.

Enable life-changing developmental relationships through intentionally matching youth with carefully selected and vetted mentors.

Professional staff support the matches on an ongoing basis to ensure optimum outcomes for the youth.

We, the **ORGANIZATION**, stand with the **VOLUNTEER** and the **FAMILY** – together, the **POWER OF THREE** - we empower youth to achieve their full potential.



Theory of Change



Big Brothers
Big Sisters
OF GREATER HALIFAX

THE FAMILY & YOUTH



Youth facing adversity AND in need of a Development Relationship.

THE ORGANIZATION



Professional agency staff trained to recruit and match volunteers, train and support mentors and mentees, and graduate youth to natural supports.

THE VOLUNTEER MENTOR



Volunteers working with professional staff to create a Developmental Relationship with youth needing support.

YOUTH OUTCOMES

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE

- ✓ Relationship Skills
- ✓ Social Awareness
- ✓ Responsible Decision-Making
- ✓ Self-Management
- ✓ Self-Awareness

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- ✓ Positive Identity
- ✓ Mental Wellness
- ✓ Social Inclusion & Empowerment

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT READINESS

- ✓ School Connectedness
- ✓ Commitment to Learning
- ✓ Enhanced Constructive Use of Time

THE LOCAL IMPACT

The outcomes of our programs are clear and measurable, and felt locally in our families, schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods.

We exclusively serve families and youth in HRM – youth at risk of not fulfilling their potential due to circumstances outside their control.

We facilitate mentoring for our community's future leaders, employees and citizens.

Studies show intentionally mentored youth:

- Better school achievement
- Improved mental health
- Greater confidence
- Reduced interaction with law enforcement
- Lower likelihood of engaging in risky behaviours
- Increased community connectedness

Every \$1 invested in Big Brothers Big Sisters programs results in an \$18 - \$23 ROI to the community.

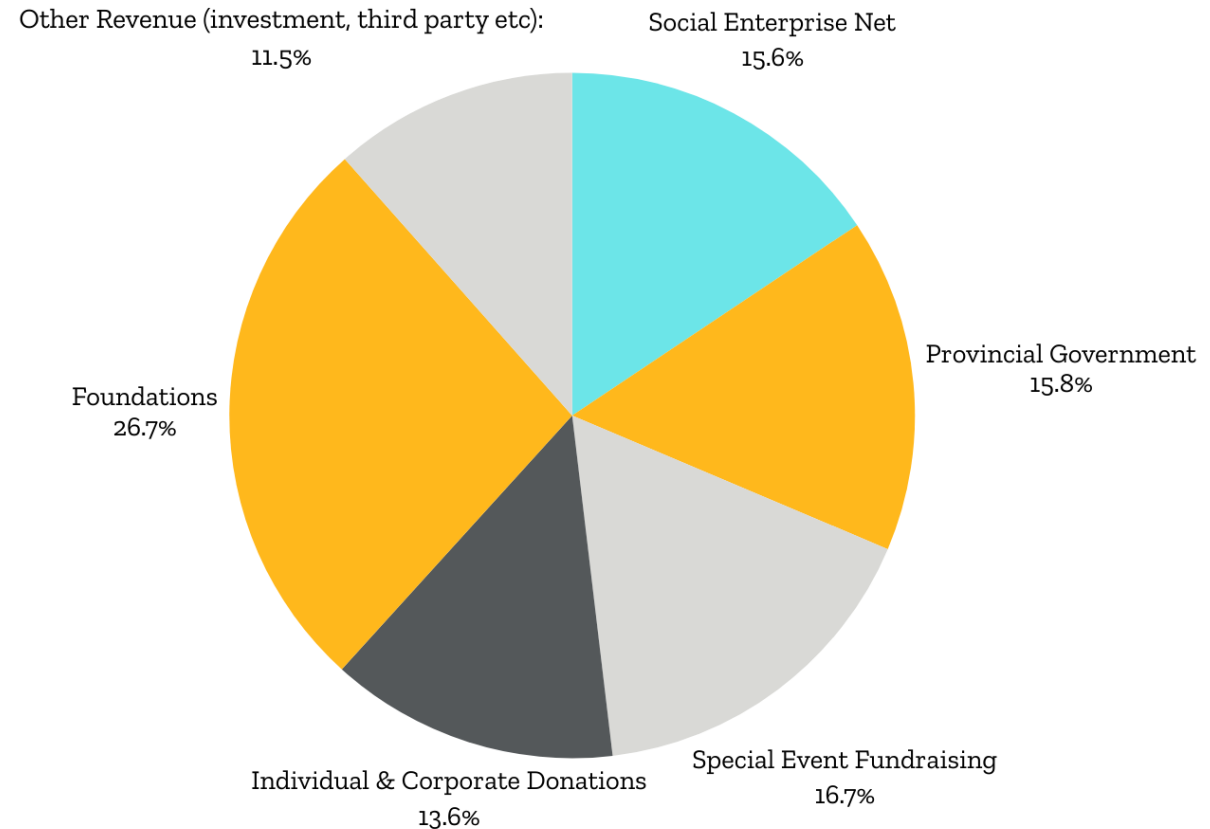




FUNDING THE IMPACT

We must **fundraise 85% of our annual budget** required to support the hundreds of youth and families we serve each year.

We have diverse revenue streams, of which our clothing donation social enterprise is a vital component. We collect and sell reusable goods to generate between 15% and 20% of this revenue every year.





**Your donations
can change a life.**

DontThrowItOut.ca



Big Brothers Big Sisters



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**

DONATIONS

DONATIONS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE = LOCAL IMPACT

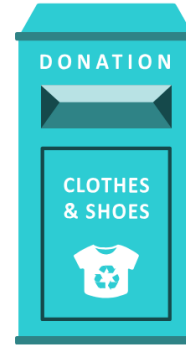
CHARITY OPERATED - 100% LOCAL SINCE 1999



Our initiative is completely charity-run.

This means everyone from our drivers to our call centre representatives are locally-based employees.

We're proud to be a local employer contributing to our local economy, all while keeping nearly 2 million pounds of goods out of landfill every year.



Our donation bins are owned and managed by us.

We don't engage a third party to maintain or service our bins, and we pride ourselves on being prompt and diligent in keeping the area around them clean.

We gain express permission to place our bins on host sites and highly value the relationships we have with those property owners.



100% of the funds generated by this initiative are used **LOCALLY - to support children and youth in neighbourhoods all over HRM.**

Donations improve the lives of local families and strengthen our community,

FUNDING THE IMPACT – The Power of 3

Donation bins have a significant economic, environmental and social impact. For charities, increased volume of textiles resulting from additional support of textile recovery practices would lead to increased resale revenues, and in turn support local jobs and community social programs.



Economic

- Local jobs
- Support of other local businesses
- Savings on tipping fees



Environmental

- 2 million pounds of reusable items diverted from landfill every year



Social

- Each bin generates approximately \$6K in revenue per year
- Revenue supports charitable work
- Directly impacts local families and youth

Textile Waste – A Growing Problem

(Based on 2023 Divert NS provincial landfill audit, 2024 Halifax Solid Waste Strategy survey, 2017 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee research.)

- Textiles = over 18% of landfill content in NS
- 50% of reusable items still thrown out by HRM residents
- 37 lbs discarded per household annually
- Some fabrics take 200+ years to decompose

Convenience of Donating a Major Factor

- 85% prefer bins due to convenience (per Solid Waste Survey in 2024)
- 18% survey respondents said if bins were more accessible it would increase their textile diversion
- Reduced bin access = fewer donations
- Municipal support for bin locations is key to success in diversion



Collaboration & Accountability

Other communities across Canada have set precedent for increased accountability for donation bin operators, and Big Brothers Big Sisters would be supportive of this approach in Halifax. In addition, helping charities secure donation bin locations and directing residents to donate through comprehensive campaigns would see a certain decline in textiles being sent to landfill.



Requiring bin licensing or permits with reasonable, low fees for charity owned bins.



Agreed upon standards of practice to ensure trust and a high level of accountability.



Support the work of charities collecting textiles through marketing initiatives and collaborative digital campaigns.

Recommendation

Permit the placement of donation bins operated and managed by charities on municipal property.

HRM facilities are central, in or near every neighbourhood in the municipality and are frequented by community members. This would address the need for more convenient donation locations throughout the region.

Big Brothers Big Sisters would strongly support requiring special agreements with bin owners/operators to ensure:

- Cleanliness of bin sites addressed
- Customer service response to donors and bin site hosts
- Tracking volume of goods collected



Commitment to Partnership

OUR PROMISE TO OUR BIN HOSTS:

- ✓ We ensure high standards of tidiness at all times by collecting donations from the bins on a daily basis if needed.
- ✓ We will promptly remove any items from around our bin that are not suitable for donation.
- ✓ Our bins will always be managed by Big Brothers Big Sisters, ensuring the highest level of accountability.
- ✓ We will always ask permission before placing or moving a bin on a partner's property.



Tangible Impact

**"IT TRULY
MADE ME FEEL
VALUED AS AN
INDIVIDUAL."**

Former Little Brother, Brendon

"Growing up I had no male role models whatsoever...my Mother tried her best to fill in that empty gap, but it wasn't the same. Having Vern in my life allowed me to come out of my shell as a person. I'll always cherish the memories I have of us fishing together at his cottage. Vern took me into his family, and they greeted me with open arms."



“

I had someone I could wholly trust and confide in when mental health struggles were evident during my teenage years. My Big Sister helped me to help myself. She was the first to know my struggles and has consistently been a voice of reasoning for me.

~ Former Little Sister Jessica

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“

I was destined for the street, jail or dead. My Big Sister was the first, instrumental person in my life to change that for me. I spent years in foster homes, detention centres and group homes, and she was there for me no matter what - she always said I could and should choose my own path.

I'm happy to tell you I have earned 3 degrees, I'm employed as a social worker, I've been married for 10 years, I'm active in my community and I have 3 wonderful sons. My Big Sister is my best friend - my inspiration.

~ Former Little Sister, Danette

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www.DONTthrowitout.ca
POSITIVELY IMPACTING LOCAL YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES