



For Immediate Release

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampden and Franklin Counties Merge to Create a Stronger Impact Across the Region

New Agency Name to be Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western Mass

Western Massachusetts, November 27 2023 - The mentorship agencies of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Franklin County, and BBBS of Hampden County, both founded in 1967 have announced they will merge into one organization. The combined agencies, who will operate under the name BBBS of Western Massachusetts (BBBSWM), will become the largest mentorship org in the region.

Executive Director of Hampden County, David Beturne, who has been acting as Interim Executive Director in Franklin County since April of this year, will lead the new agency. Beturne brings 23 years of experience with BBBS, and plans to maintain all staff at both locations.

“The Franklin County office will remain open with minimal changes,” said Beturne, “We are thrilled and energized about this new partnership and know it will bolster our ability to serve more youth and make a stronger impact across our communities.”

Both agencies have a long history of fostering connections in their respective counties, and plan to grow to serve areas without an established BBBS office.

“We have plans to expand into Berkshire county, which is an exciting prospect for all of us,” said Beturne.

The merger does not include the Center for Human Development’s BBBS program, which will continue to serve the Hampshire County Area. BBBS of Hampshire County can be reached at (413) 478-8547, or BBBSHC@CHD.org

BBBSWM plans to merge duplicate social media accounts, and can currently be found at the below handles: Facebook, @bbbsfc @BBBSHampden; Instagram, @bbbsfranklincounty @bbbsshampdencounty.

BBBS creates connections between children, “Littles” with qualified and vetted mentors (Bigs) in the community to create fulfilling relationships. BBBS monitors all matches to ensure safety standards are upheld and that the relationship is positive and empowering for the children involved.

Children are not excluded on the basis of race, religion, national origin, color, gender, marital status of parent, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability; and volunteer mentors are not excluded on the basis of race, religion, national origin, color, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or disability.



Media Contact:

Noah Pfeiffer

Marketing Coordinator

npfeiffer@bbbs-fc.org

413-834-8123