BIG RESULTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters®
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

2022–2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR WHY

OUR MISSION

We create and support one-to-one mentoring **relationships** that ignite **the power and promise of youth.**

OUR VISION

Our vision is that **all youth** achieve their full **potential.**

OUR JEDI COMMITMENT

We recognize, affirm, and celebrate the diverse backgrounds, lives, and experiences of all of our stakeholders, **including youth, families, donors, volunteers, and staff.** For our community, we are committed to providing opportunities for all voices and perspectives to be **heard and honored.**

Every young person in our community—regardless of ability, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender identity and expression, race, or sexual orientation—should have the opportunity to **reach their full potential.**

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Merridith Crowe

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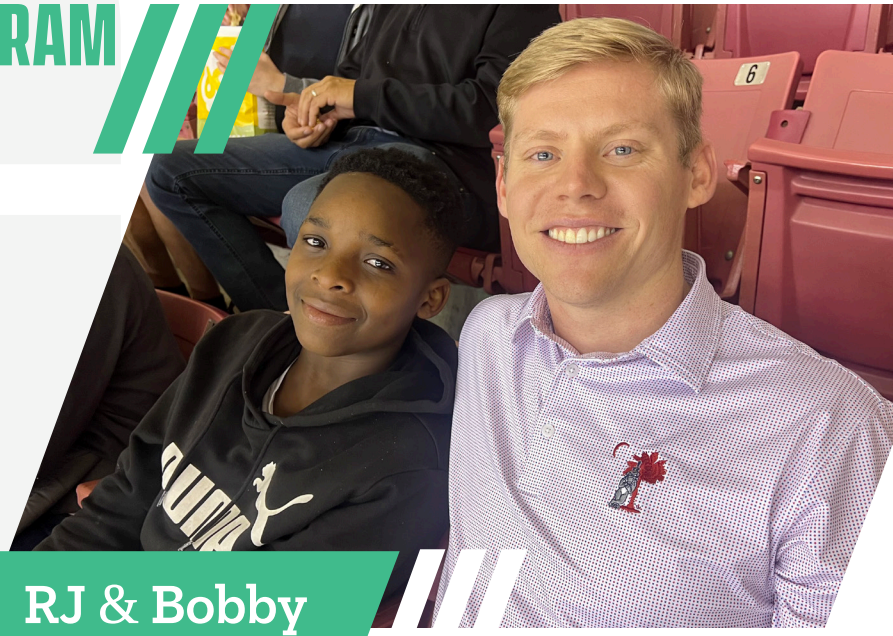
COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM



DISCOVERING HIS PERSONAL DRIVE

RJ & Bobby

Growing up, Little Brother RJ's mother was a Little Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and wanted the same positive experience for her son. She enrolled him in our program in 2019 and RJ was thrilled to find a reliable and positive role model in his Big Brother, Bobby.

Bobby has a strong belief in the power of mentorship because he has been blessed with many mentors. "I had a strong father, coaches, teachers, and business mentors throughout my life from whom I have been able to learn. I wanted the opportunity to give back in that same capacity. I have a passion for mentorship and I felt that joining Big Brothers Big Sisters and becoming a mentor for RJ was the right thing to do," said Bobby.

Bobby and RJ first met four years ago and began having regular outings going out for meals and getting to know one another. Bobby worked with RJ and his mother to decide what RJ was interested in and what things they could do together that they would both enjoy. They quickly bonded over their love of sports and the outdoors. Over the years, they have collected memorable experiences at sporting events, fishing on Bobby's boat, exploring nature trails, trying new recipes, and visiting trampoline parks.

Bobby's most poignant memory is when he took RJ fishing for the very first time. They shared conversations about oceanic wildlife, ecosystems, and music. "We caught a lot of fish that day, but the most fun part was just jamming out to the stereo and seeing RJ with his hat on backward, bobbing his head to the music as we went through the Charleston Harbor. I will have a vivid image of that in my head for the rest of my life," said Bobby.

Since being matched with Bobby, RJ's mother has seen his behavior improve and his communication skills grow. He more easily completes homework, his math grades have improved, and he has been successful in connecting with his classmates at his new school. RJ's mother feels the match with Bobby has put RJ " on track to become a successful adult."

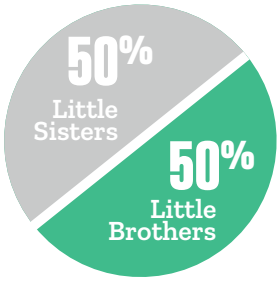
Throughout their time together, Bobby and RJ have had many conversations about personal values. "RJ has grown significantly from a 9-year-old boy to his entry into young adulthood. He has gained an understanding of what it means to be a man in a family and the maturity and responsibility that are needed. Being respectful, loving, working hard, and being honorable are values that he has begun to embrace," said Bobby. Bobby has helped RJ grow his business acumen, explore entrepreneurship, and develop a strong work ethic. RJ's favorite memory is running a hot chocolate stand and a lemonade stand with Bobby's help. "I love doing the lemonade and hot chocolate stand in Bobby's neighborhood," RJ shared. "You can make money, talk to people, meet new people around the neighborhood, and I get to see Bobby's family. It has taught me to run a business and I like doing business with people."

RJ used the money that was made at the hot chocolate stand to buy Christmas gifts for his mother and siblings. Always generous and caring, RJ even asked Bobby if they could buy food for a homeless person they saw on the street. Bobby shared that RJ radiates curiosity, positivity, kindness, and graciousness. Seeing RJ's increasing empathy towards others has inspired Bobby and left him feeling incredibly proud of the young man RJ is becoming.

> **I hope that RJ always feels comfortable in our relationship and continues turning to me for guidance or questions. I hope that someday RJ will be comfortable becoming a mentor himself and that he has a fruitful life.**
>
> **- Big Brother RJ**

WHO WE SERVE
ALL FULL OF POTENTIAL

254
MATCHES
2022–23



50% Little Sisters

50% Little Brothers

GENDER

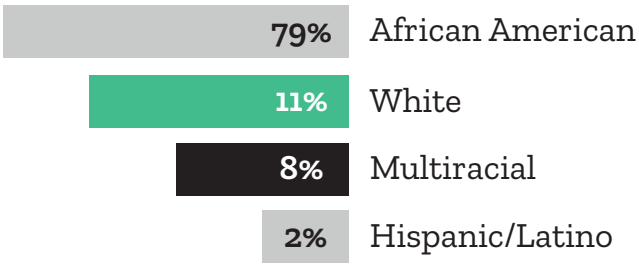
27% Age 6–11

40% Age 12–15

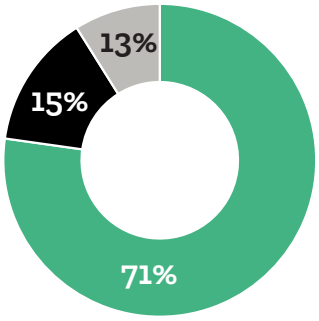
33% Age 16–24

AGE

RACE/ETHNICITY

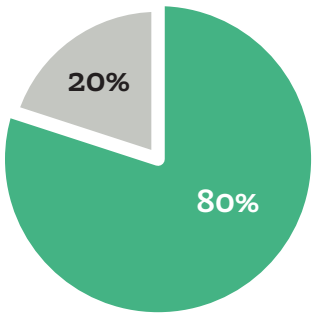


WHERE OUR LITTLES LIVE



- Charleston County
- Dorchester County
- Berkeley County

OUR LITTLES' HOMES



- Homes **Without** Two Parents
- Homes With Two Parents

1:1 COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING RESULTS

RELATIONSHIPS & BEHAVIOR

94% Feel they can lean on their Bigs when something is bothering them

92% Say their relationship with their Big is very important to them

82% Believe they can make and stay friends with other kids

88% Feel good about their relationships with their parents

97% Avoided risky behavior like drugs, alcohol, and tobacco

100% Had no contact with law enforcement

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

86% say doing well in school is important

92% are sure they'll graduate high school

79% say they are doing well in school

77% avoided detention or suspension

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

EMBRACING NEW EXPERIENCES

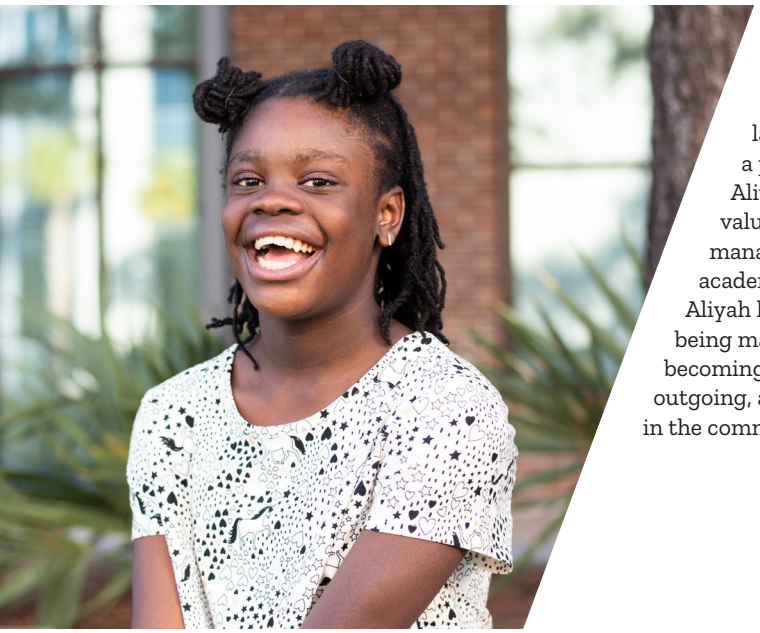
Yeakia & Aliya

Big Sister Yeakia and Little Sister Aliyah embarked on their mentorship journey through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry in the spring of 2021. Big Sister Yeakia, a Senior Project Manager at Boeing, became a mentor because of her vast interest in coaching youth. "I wanted to be able to impact one person consistently to see how they grow and develop throughout their life," said Yeakia.

When Aliyah and Yeakia first met, they had conversations about her interests and connected with Aliyah's mom to ensure their time together was enjoyable and enriching. Their first outing was at Riverfront Park. Yeakia knew that Aliyah loved art so she brought some paint and easels and they Googled photos of things they could draw. Although their paintings didn't turn out QUITE how they looked online, they shared plenty of laughter and created a cherished memory.

Their journey together has been filled with adventures from hockey games, volunteering in the community, exploring STEM events, and Yeakia attending Aliyah's school performances. Yeakia is dedicated to exposing Aliyah to new opportunities and helping her grow.

"I like having Yeakia as a Big Sister because she is nice, kind, caring, and she has fun with me. Yeakia takes me places I've never been, ever," said Aliyah.



Beyond the fun and laughter, Yeakia has been a positive influence on Aliyah's life. She teaches her valuable life skills like money management and provides academic support. Aliyah has blossomed since being matched with Yeakia, becoming more confident, outgoing, and eager to engage in the community.

Aliyah's mother originally signed her up for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry to encourage her to get out of the house and experience new things. Through her partnership with Yeakia, Aliyah has indeed discovered the joy of trying new things and the importance of having a caring mentor by her side.

As Yeakia points out, it's crucial for young women like Aliyah to have mentors who represent different backgrounds and experiences. These mentors help shape their potential and provide the inspiration they need to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

> **For a young girl to see how a woman maneuvers through life is very important. It shapes who she can be and gives her the potential to tap into everything she has to become who she wants to be. It's important for young girls to have a positive representation of themselves.**
>
> **- Big Sister Yeakia**

BIG BEYOND CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS MENTORING RESULTS

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

100% say doing well in school is important and are sure they'll graduate high school

82% say they are doing well in school

80% feel their Big is very important to them

88% feel good about their relationships with their parents

RELATIONSHIPS & BEHAVIOR

98% avoided risky behavior like drugs, alcohol, and tobacco

had NO contact with law enforcement

avoided detention or suspension

KEY FINDINGS

More one-on-one time spent between Scholars and mentors improved their social and emotional behaviors

- Feel their mentor helps them plan for the future
- Know what careers interest them
- Believe they can perform well in a job interview
- Can set goals and figure out how to achieve them

The **BIG BEYOND SCHOLAR** curriculum supports growth in:

- Self-image and empathy
- Goal-directed behavior
- Career planning & financial management

THANK YOU!

to our BIG BEYOND Curricular Partners!

BECU

EY

JAMES ISLAND CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS

EVERFI

MUSC Health
Medical University of South Carolina

STARBUCKS

BIG BEYOND SCHOLAR PROGRAM

BUILDING HIS FUTURE

Jahmod & William

Jahmod is a 17-year-old high school student from Charleston, South Carolina. Jahmod joined the BIG Beyond in 2021 when his mother learned of the program and wanted her son to be a part of something positive. Jahmod was shy at the time and wanted to meet new people and find a Big Brother to help him in school and assist him in navigating what direction to go after high school. He found his perfect mentoring match in his Big Brother, William.

The BIG Beyond has benefitted Jahmod immensely and has helped him accomplish his goals of getting higher grades and being more focused and productive in school. William and Jahmod have grown close since being matched and have bonded as they focus on goals and how to achieve them. Jahmod is grateful that William is helping him navigate his choices after he graduates high school this year.

"Our match is going really well. We communicate and do things outside of the regular meetings and I feel like I can talk to him about anything," said Jahmod.

William also feels that the program has impacted him positively. He has seen a change in Jahmod over time and likes that he is directly helping him and guiding him in ways that Jahmod needs. "I like that I am able to mentor, inspire, and bond with Jahmod and expose him to things that he may not have experienced before," said William.

As Jahmod begins his senior year of high school, William is helping him choose a major for college and supporting him in discussions on his plan for after graduation. "Jahmod has definitely opened up a lot more and his perspective on life after high school has changed. Initially, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do but now he is talking about college and the schools that he would want to go to. He has also decided that he wants to pursue something that involves computers, specifically computer hardware," said William.

Jahmod's mother is thrilled with the progress she has seen in Jahmod since joining the BIG Beyond program.

> **With William as his Big Brother, he has become a more active and outgoing person. He works his part-time job every weekend and he likes it. Jahmod has grown into a young man with ambition,**
>
> **- Jahmod's Mother**

#TEAM500 INVESTORS

Corporations & Foundations

BIG THANK YOU

DREAM BIG

Advanced Technology International

Blackbaud

Boeing Employee Credit Union

HCA Healthcare

The Leon Levine Foundation

Timothy Walter & Danielle Ziff Foundation

Wells Fargo

DEFEND POTENTIAL

Cummins Foundation

Daniel Island Community Fund

Enterprise Holdings

Holland Family Charitable Trust

Kennedy-Hertrich Foundation

Moovila

Patrick Family Foundation

TD Bank

EMPOWER POTENTIAL

Bakker Family Foundation

Bank of America

Benefitfocus

Boeing Employees Community Fund

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Domininon Energy Charitable Foundation

Herzman-Fishman Charitable Fund

Ingevity

James & Christina Fei Memorial Fund

Lowcountry Unity Fund – Coastal Community Foundation

Publix Supermarkets Charities

SouthState Bank

Starbucks Foundation

Synovus Corporate Foundation

The Beach Company

T-Mobile

SPONSOR A MATCH

Bridge Commercial

Charleston Prestige Cleaners

Chastain Construction

Diversified Trust

First Choice by Select Health of SC

Grandsouth Bank

Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering

Ledford's Termite and Pest Control

Lovely Law Firm

Mossy Oaks Smile Foundation

Motley Rice

Nucor Steel

Patrick Properties Hospitality Group

Paul Davis Restoration

Pierce Sloan Wilson Kennedy & Early

Pleasant Places

SC Ports Authority

Southeastern Janitorial Services

Synovus

Twinkling Eyes Foundation

Universal Broker & Installation

Walmart

Weidemeyer Giving Fund

Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

Wise Family Fund

KICKSTART A MATCH

Apollon Wealth Management

eLifeSpaces

Palmetto Parking

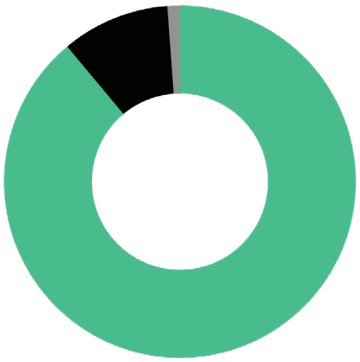
Signal of Charleston

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In our fourth year of operation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry aims to achieve organizational stability long-term.

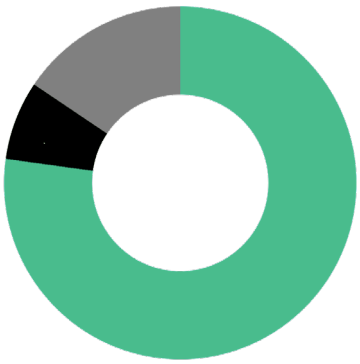
At the end of 2022-2023, we took a big step towards delivering our promise. We set up a dedicated operating fund, and we established a policy requiring 3-6 months of cash reserves at any time. Further, we have launched a Big Dreams Endowment.

We take YOUR financial trust in us seriously, and we will continue to be good stewards of funds.



TOTAL REVENUE

89%	Contributions & Grants	$696,381
10%	Fundraising Events	$77,706
1%	Miscellaneous	$9,005
	TOTAL REVENUE	$783,092



ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

77%	Programs	$522,599
7%	Administrative	$49,034
16%	Fundraising	$105,502
	TOTAL EXPENSES	$677,135

We exemplify industry best practices with more than 70% of funds used for programmatic purposes. Given our age and growth projections, our auditors confirm we are operating well within appropriate ratios.

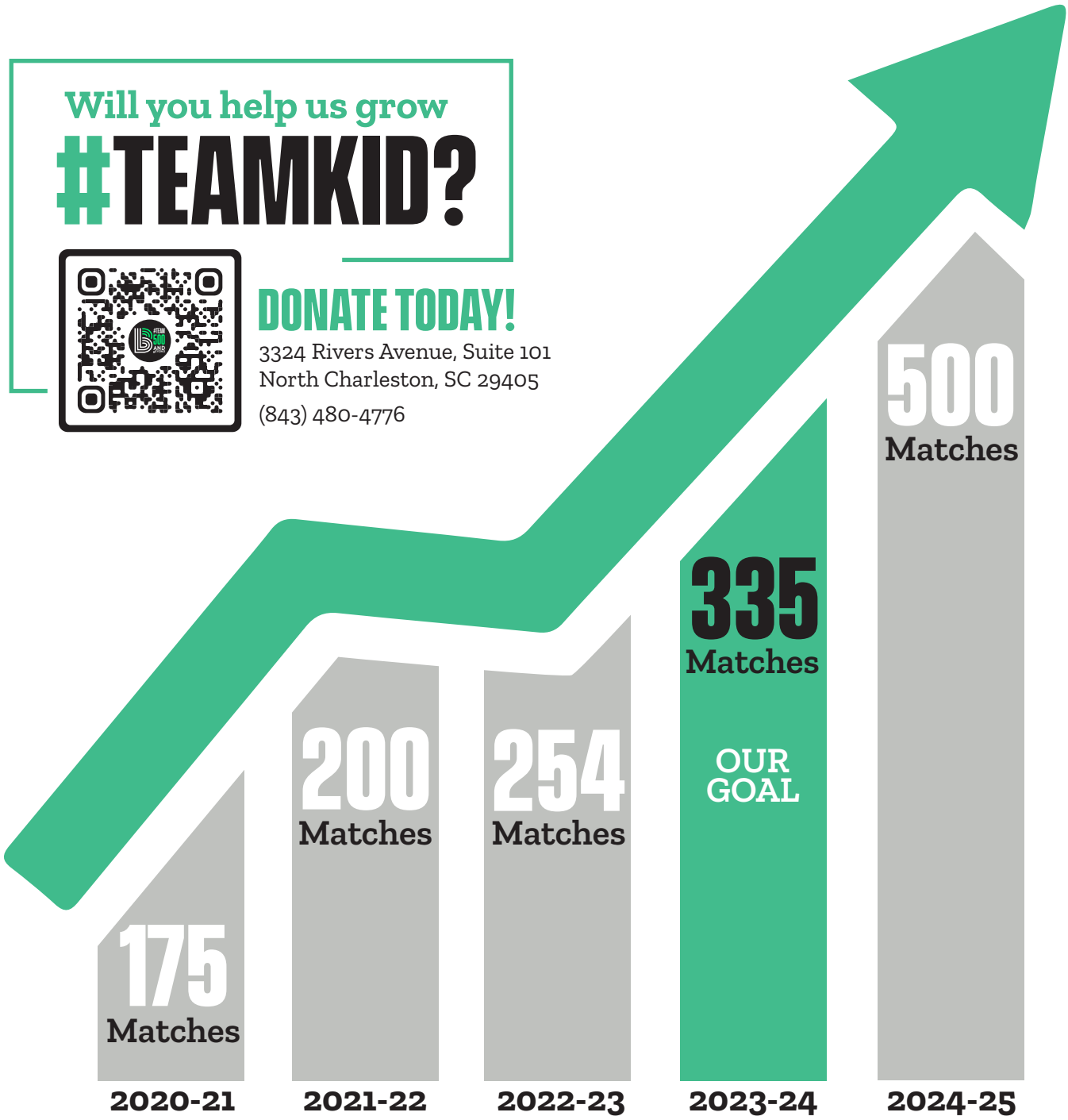
IMAGINE 500 KIDS...
DISCOVERING THEIR POTENTIAL

In **FY 22-23**, we continued to **GROW #TEAMKID.** While we crossed the mid-way mile marker to create **500** life-changing mentoring relationships annually. We still have a long way to go!

Will you help us grow #TEAMKID?

DONATE TODAY!

3324 Rivers Avenue, Suite 101
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 480-4776



WE MADE A BIG MOVE!

OUR NEW ADDRESS:
3324 Rivers Avenue, Suite 101
North Charleston, SC 29405

STOP BY AND SEE US!

Big Brothers Big Sisters. OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Big Brothers
Big Sisters®
OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

3324 Rivers Avenue, Suite 101
North Charleston, SC 29405

(843) 480-4776

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Defend Potential.
JOIN #TEAM500

bbbslowcountry.org