

The Mentoring Effect

on Youth in Care



Mentoring changes the course of young lives which, in turn, can change the future of **communities** by making them **better** places to work, live and thrive.

We believe every child should have the **opportunity** to reach his or her full **potential**, both as individuals and citizens—that by doing so, they will not only do well, they will also do good.

The Challenge:

40% of former youth in care **have been homeless** or “couch surfed” at some point since leaving care. Only **30%** of kids involved with the care system graduate high school. Youth leaving care are over-represented in the youth justice, mental health, and shelter systems.

The Solution: Mentoring

Mentoring = More Graduates

- **52% are less likely** to skip a day of school
- Girls are **2½X more likely** to be **confident** in their ability to be successful **at school**.
- Boys are **2X more likely** to believe that **school is fun** and that **doing well academically** is important
- **63%** have **post-secondary** education.

Mentoring = Less Risky Behaviour

- Girls are **4X less likely** to **bully, fight, lie** or lose their temper.
- Teens who engage in mentoring are **half as likely** to engage in: **binge drinking, drug use daily cigarette use, or alcohol use**
- Boys are **2X less likely** to develop **negative conducts** like bullying, fighting, lying, cheating or losing their temper.

Mentoring = Future Success

- **92%** feel **confident** and **96%** say they are **happy**
- **87%** have **strong social networks**
- **13%** **higher earnings**—\$315,000 higher lifetime earnings
- **47%** hold **senior leadership positions**

Mentoring Works.

For over one hundred years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been making a positive difference in the lives of Canada's youth by developing and implementing a wide range of mentoring programs. Mentors teach by example the importance of giving and giving back, of **staying in school** and of having respect for family, peers and community.

Across Canada, Big Brothers Big Sisters has over 115 agencies supporting 300 communities which serve more than **42,000** children and youth; however, there are still **thousands more Canadian children and youth waiting for mentors**.

Stats referenced come from these studies:
Boston Consulting Group - Social Return on Investment Study • Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters • Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) longitudinal study • Search Institute Survey