

Important Updates from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Arizona

Marie Logan, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Arizona

Good afternoon friends,

This past week has brought challenges for all of us, across the country and right here in Southern Arizona. Yet, as I learn more than I ever imagined about pandemic protocols and terms like social distancing -- **I have never been more proud to be part of the talented team at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Arizona, and part of this supportive community.**

Over the next few months, this agency—much like many nonprofits here and across the country—will be faced with tough decisions. But, with unique problems, we have the opportunity to craft unique approaches, to innovate.

Beginning Wednesday March 18th our team will begin working remotely, and for the first time ever, BBSSA will begin interviewing volunteers; leading orientations and trainings; and conducting child and family interviews via videoconferencing software.

Perhaps most importantly, **our Match Support Specialists will continue to serve as a hub for hundreds of families—providing resources for those who may be affected by loss of income, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and anxiety due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19.**

Now, perhaps more than ever, **the mission and the impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters are evident and urgent.** And as we continue to navigate the myriad of challenges we anticipate (*and many we haven't yet anticipated*) in the coming months, I want to reassure you that BBSSA will be guided by a purpose and a plan:

- *If you're a donor*, know that your funds will be used responsibly as we continue to serve hundreds of youth and their families during this time of need.
- *If you're an event registrant*, we'll prioritize your safety, and we will keep you up to speed on the latest developments on Bowl for Kids' Sake and other events as plans are developed.
- *If you're a mentor*, we'll provide resources for your Little and his/her/their family, as well as information to help you stay connected during this time of limited social interactions.
- *And, if you're in the process of becoming a mentor*—though we've put a temporary halt on introducing new matches, we'll continue providing orientations and trainings, processing applications, and conducting background checks.

Finally, **I want to say thank you.** Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for believing in the kids we serve. And thank you for standing beside us for the last fifty-seven years, and now—as we face the challenges ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Logan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marie Logan
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Our leadership team will evaluate the COVID-19 situation on a daily basis. We've set up a website to inform the public of our activities, as well as provide much needed community resource information for our families and volunteers. For more details, visit SoAzBigs.org/Resources. We'll also continue to keep you up to date on our social media channels – @soazbigs on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter .