



# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF MONTANA Quarterly Progress Report TANF Funding

December 1, 2013 – March 30, 2014

Below is the second report from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana. While not a requirement of the TANF appropriation through the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana is sending quarterly updates to all of the members of the HHS Subcommittee as well as the Interim Committee on Children, Families, Health and Human Services as part of our due diligence to appropriately use TANF funds for direct services and report back to the legislative committees responsible for oversight of the Human and Community Services Division and TANF money.

Once again, thank you for the TANF appropriation for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana for \$350,000 per year in State Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015. These funds have helped each of the BBBS programs in Montana serve more children.

From July 1, 2013 through March 30, 2014, TANF funds were put toward program support, which aided in the ability to make 319 new matches. 319 young children matched with an adult mentor is a number the BBBS Executive Directors are proud to report. For a kid matched with a caring adult, one match is a life changing number.

Through the TANF funds, BBBS of MT is tasked with meeting TANF goal number three: Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies. Big Brothers Big Sisters is not a single-issue prevention program, but rather a best practice, multi-issue prevention program that addresses a wide range of detrimental and risky behavior issues in children and teens, including pregnancy prevention. In accordance with the contract, BBBS programs have made a concerted effort to address early pregnancy prevention with their match support staff, Bigs, Littles, and the families involved with the program. Both mentors and mentees are taught about healthy relationships and healthy decision-making.

BBBS of MT feels that our work with TANF will move Montana towards a reduction in dependence by helping to support working families through professionally supported mentoring relationships for their children, by broadening the horizon's of mentored youth so they might see beyond the cycle of poverty, and by helping mentored youth to show improved self-confidence, social competence, and the aptitude to care about their future which will ultimately play a key role in their ability to avoid risky behaviors and early pregnancy.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana

**A story from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula, as reported by a match support specialist:**

*I asked a mom if she believes that her first-grade son having a Big Brother has helped or influenced his ability to prevent an early pregnancy, thinking that she may choose 'not a problem' or 'I don't know' from our multiple-choice answers. What she gave me was a much deeper conversation. She explained that she had her first daughter when she was only 15 years old. She went on to say that her daughter is now 15 years old and she recently told her family that she is pregnant.*

*The mom explained that her first daughter never had a Big, and looking back she wished she would have put her daughter in the program so she would have had a positive adult to help influence her decision making. She said that she was a teen mom and now her daughter will be a teen mom and that it is not an easy thing to deal with at home. The mom went on to say that her children have their siblings so there are playmates for them at home but she thinks it's important that they have another friend and also another adult to check in with, to be a positive influence, to look up to - that it definitely helps. She finished with the following statement, "The more people who are loving and caring in your life, the better-off you are and that's what Big Brothers Big Sisters has the chance to give my other two kids."*

*The mom's twin son and daughter, both in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, are now matched to a Big in the Missoula site-based program. They are both dealing with early pregnancy at home, but fortunately also developing a healthy relationship with a mentor who they can look up to and who can have a positive impact on them.*