

2009 SUCCESS GRANT GOALS STATUS

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

(as of 12/31/2009)

<p>2009 Goals:</p>		
<p>Current Progress:</p>	<p>Number of "Little" to "Big" Matches:</p>	<p>840 children served</p>
	<p>Cost per Match (\$amount):</p>	<p>\$962.00</p>
<p>Commentary & Additional Information:</p>	<p>2009 proved to be an incredible year for BBBST in light of the economic climate. Of BBBS's 406 agencies across the nation most lost 10-20% or better of their operating revenue from 2008, sadly some even lost much more and had to close the doors in their communities. Our national organization even lost substantial revenue. While the final numbers nationally are not complete, it appears that less than 5% of our agencies stayed on par or grew slightly. BBBST had serious concerns during the first quarter. After a few years of explosive growth as a very young agency some of our lead Corporate and Private Foundation funders stop their grant making for 12-24 months. We pressed on and by the year's end actually closed slightly above the previous year's budget at \$1,035,000.</p> <p>In addition, we refocused our commitment to quality and "strength of relationships". As noted we had been in an explosive growth mode as a young agency. For mentoring "match length" and retention rates (or the inverse match closure rates) are a measure of quality. Nationally, through a century of service we know that 12 months is the optimal time to see real measurable results in a child that can last long term: results such as academic progress, coping skills, reduction in drug use and violence, as well as a marked improvement in their sense of self worth and value for the future. National research from <u>Public Private Venture</u> shows that each month longer the results grow exponentially.</p> <p>In 2008, our average match length was 10.2 months and our Closure Rate was 44% (nearly half of all the matches we made during the year were not lasting the year). When dealing with at-risk and transient youth retention is normally a challenge, in a year when unemployment and regional stability is a problem it becomes a greater challenge for our volunteers.</p> <p>In 2009, we re-tooled our training, match support efforts, and ongoing tracking. We embraced the mantra – Longer Stronger Matches. And while we had less program & development staff due to some early right-sizing we managed to surprise ourselves. In 2009, our average match length increased to 15 months, and our Closure Rate dropped 6% to</p>	

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38%.

With our renewed commitment to assure long term quality outcome measures for each match we decided to enter a public/private partnership to compete for national mentoring research grant. This multi-million dollar multi-year grant would be awarded to only 1 organization (private, government, or non-profit) out of a whole country of applicants. Due to our specific focus on mentor quality and our track record of success we were approached by several national firms to partner, including the prestigious Pacific Research and Public Private Ventures noted above. In the end we decided to partner with Durham based RTI International. We are proud to have won that competition and will be adding new quality control measures in place and an additional effectiveness index for 2010.

As you know, in 2008, we built and launched our Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program (M-COP) piloting 60 children that year. This population has extensive additional needs as a high-risk population so cost per match can be considerably more – typically \$1,700 - \$2,000 annually per match. During 2009 we expanded this program and took the lead in organizing a NC State Association of all independent BBBS affiliates to join us in reaching out to these vulnerable children who are 72% likely to end up incarcerated themselves. After extensive work in developing a partnership with the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice, Crime Control & Public Safety, Prison Ministries and 6 agencies serving from the coasts to the mountains and in all our major NC cities, we established the North Carolina Mentoring Children of Prisoners Initiative.

BBBST then led the NC M-COP to compete nationally for limited Federal funds from the Department of Health and Human Services. Starting for 2010 we were awarded the largest award of its kind in the country with a \$2.8 million dollar grant over 3 years to support 2,400 of these youth specifically across NC. Approximately \$400,000 annually will be passed on to the other BBBS agencies in NC assuming they meet set goals, our high standards, and monitored performance out of the Triangle to assure highest quality with measurable outcomes for children. These funds require 50% non-federal match, so community partners like you will be even more critical.

What does this mean for 2010? The agency has started the new year with a **\$1.8 million dollar budget; 80% higher than 2009** (\$1.4 stays here in our community as reflected by the support for other agencies in NC). While we are now a long way removed from the agency that started it all in the basement of the Northgate Mall in Durham a with a couple of hundred matches and a few dollars, our commitment and impact on local children remains stronger than ever. Our influence on mentoring across NC is at its highest, and our reputation as an agency of high standards for youth and measurable outcomes has reached national recognition.

We will spend a good portion of the year continuing our commitment quality in our services. A good portion of the year will be spent ramping up for this new phase in our history as we integrate new roles such as a Director of Special Initiatives (to coordinate our M-COP, Healthy Child Initiative, and MIT learning center), and our Quality Assurances Coordinator. We will retain our commitment to our philosophy *that we care for other people's children with other people's money*; our commitment to youth safety and impact along with efficient and effective use of the hard earned dollars of our donors.

