CREATING A SMOOTH TRANSITION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

Jasmine Harlan
Megan Mills
WHO WE ARE

Purpose: Partner with young people in their pursuit of a meaningful, stable, and independent life

Relationship organization serving children ages 5-25 years old - urban, suburban and rural markets

Integrated programs/services empowers 10,000+ youth in partnership with 4,000 parents and volunteers, three (3) school districts and 100+ community partners.

- One-to-One Mentoring
- Group Mentoring
- ABCToday Schools
- First Job
- Systems Navigation + Direct Aid
- Big Futures/Alumni Mentoring
SERVICES PROVIDED BY BBBSEMO WITHIN SCHOOLS

We begin Pathways to Success by starting to work in educational spaces at the youngest levels

1. Mentoring - both 1:1 and Group Mentoring
2. Intensive supports for students
3. ABCToday Program – supporting Attendance, Behavior, Course Performance in Reading and Math
4. Big Futures
HISTORY OF ABCTODAY

• 2005 BBBSEMO Board of Directors challenge
• Partnered with Cape Girardeau Public Schools
• Nine months of focus groups and discussions
• Landed on ABCToday!
• 2015 began whole school model
• Now in 18 schools in 3 school districts
ABCToday Network
• Each school is supported by a network of community partners responsible for leading responses to student data

ABCToday Data
• Each quarter school districts electronically transfer date to BBBSEMO for organizing

ABCToday Cycle
• Celebrate, Clarify and Customize
GROUP MENTORING

Started in collaboration with Cape Girardeau Public Schools, then expanded into St. Louis Public Schools

Opportunity to provide additional caring adults, experiences, and resources

- Students work side-by-side during established times during the school day to build: **confidence/self-worth, sense of belonging, respect for self and others, belief in self-competence, identity, and coping skills**
- Monthly, organized out-of-school experiences to build connection

Based on data, schools identify students who would be a good fit, identify best times and frequency of meetings, and provide space for staff to work alongside youth in the school

Goals are created and monitored for each student
EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AT WORK IN ABCTODAY & GROUP MENTORING SCHOOLS

TRADE & CAREER FAIRS

CAMPUS VISITS

HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK PARTNERS

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Washington University in St. Louis

SEMO

University of Missouri
WHAT IS FIRST JOB?

- Workforce readiness training
  - Banking & Savings, How to find a job, Mock Interviews, Customer Service, Social Networking, etc
- Campus Tours and Job fairs
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- Participants felt they were in school after school.
- Zoom fatigue, Getting back to in person
- Participants love incentives.
- Feedback from Job interviews

Workshop/Conference Style
- April 5th - Interviewing Skills
- April 19th - How to Find a Job
- May 19th – Half Day Conference
- Same information included in all sessions.
FIRST JOB TESTIMONIALS
WHAT IS ALUMNI MENTORING/BIG FUTURES?

• Support our Alumni ages 18 – 25
  E3 – Enroll, Employ, or Enlist
  Transition
  Life Skills
  Soft Skills

• BBBSEMO one of the first affiliates to launch the initiative.

• Alumni Mentoring became a national initiative in the most recent BBBSA Strategic Plan.

• Not curriculum based, rather based on the voice of our participants.
LET'S PASS THE BATON: SNAPSHOT OF SENIOR TRANSITIONS

• Senior Planning Committee
  o Alumni Mentor Managers, Mentor Managers
  o Sub committees: Operations and Celebrations
    ▪ What worked? What didn’t work? Any changes to our process?
    ▪ How do we want to celebrate our Seniors?

• Mentoring Managers complete High school Check Ins with Senior Littles

• Alumni Mentor Managers schedule senior transition Conversations
  o Discuss Seniors plan, Family, match relationship, etc.
  o Discuss resources, action plans, introduction conversations
    ▪ Scholarship opportunities, Financial aid questions, completing college applications

Events:
  o Scholarship Information Night
  o Summer Vybez
What Does This Look Like?

❖ Opt-In
❖ Center & Elevate Alumni (#ADULTS)
❖ Leverage Bigs & Caregivers as Needed
❖ First 6-12 months = Monthly Contact
❖ Inactivate 3-4 times/year

Active Alumni: 214 (includes closed seniors)
Class of 2023: 75+
2023 Active Alumni Goal: 220
Our Approach & The Team

Own Your Future
THE BIG FUTURES TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU

Connections
- College/University Contacts
- Military Recruiters
- Employers

Experiences
- Leadership Conferences
- Job Fairs
- Social & Cultural Activities

Opportunities
- Scholarships
- Internships
- Apprenticeships

HELPING YOU ALONG THE JOURNEY. #ADULTING

Need help? We’re here for you.
The Big Futures Team
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314-690-1478

Tashanna  Raven  Bradford  Jasmine

www.bbbsemo.org  |  Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri  |  (314) 361-5900
### E3 MONTHLY & ANNUAL GOAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlisted</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>18% (includes closed seniors)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E3 Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>82% (214)</strong></td>
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**80%**
What We Are Learning!

Center Alumni! #ADULTS

When working with adults, we work with adult obstacles & challenges.
Our Littles need to OWN THEIR FUTURE.

Our relationships with Caregivers & Bigs are unique in this space.
Littles need more caring adults in their corner!
**Today** is “No”, **Tomorrow** is “Yes”.

Informal approach is BEST.

**BE GENUINE. BE YOU.**

Write EVERYTHING down. Create structure for the department.

**Matchforce is our Friend.** Be creative and use what you have.
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