



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of South Huron

February 7, 2019

Re: Economic Development Funding

Dear Municipality of South Huron,
Cc Mayor George Finch

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron is a not-for-profit registered children's charity, providing mentoring programs to children and youth (known as Littles), ages 6 to 16, who are in need of a positive role model. We have been proudly operating in the South Huron region for nearly 40 years, creating a legacy of positive change in our community. Our purpose is to provide a safe forum where children in need can form meaningful, positive relationships with caring adults, in order to foster their personal development. Our Littles are matched with screened and trained volunteers (known as Bigs). Our programs allow Littles to access direct support and mentorship from a Big, whose focus is to provide a strong and safe environment of support. Bigs and Littles are able to create their own relationship and schedule that works for them, meeting a few times a month. Our casework management is in accordance with the National Standards set out by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

Although we are a part of a National organization, our Agency receives no base funding from our National office, nor do we receive any government financial support. Our Agency relies solely on grants, sponsorship, fundraisers and individual donations to be able to continue to do the work that we do.

Our Agency is currently in a period of transition. This past summer, we were asked to relocate from a donated office space that we had been operating out of for the past 10 years, in a relatively short period of time. The Exeter Lions Club generously stepped in, offering us a home within the Exeter Lions Youth Centre. We are extremely grateful for their support, however, this location is not a long-term solution for us, and so we continue to look for a permanent home that offers our Agency stability. Our Agency operates on a very limited budget, and is currently not in the financial position to support ourselves in a standalone location. Throughout this transition, our focus has been on developing solutions for long-term, sustainable funding, as well as creating a home for our next 40 years.

Two times a year, we run a successful Mom2Mom Sale, both as a fundraiser and to assist the families in our community with an opportunity to access affordable children items. We are proposing to open a children's consignment store in Exeter, to operate as a year round Mom2Mom Sale. This will provide our Agency with permanent office space and more visibility within the community. The profits made from the consignment store will provide the financial growth required to cover all overhead

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expenses, as well as our office expenses, reducing the financial burden on our Agency.

We have tentatively secured the ideal location, at 355 Main St. S. This location will provide our Agency with ample room to operate this retail store, provide us with the office space that we require, as well as provide us with adequate storage (which we currently have off site).

The next step in our journey is securing the capital funding required to purchase the necessary materials and supplies to ready this space for opening day. Capital funding would be used towards renovations (which would include creating 2 separate locked offices and separate storage), to help us with purchasing the necessary shelving and clothing racks to set up a store, up-dating our washroom facilities, as well as properly furnishing our office. Funding would also go towards advertising and signage, to ensure that our store, and our generous sponsors, are well recognized in our community. We feel confident that \$10,000 would be adequate funding to establish the store, and make the right statement to our community, and prospective customers.

By opening a consignment store, we are confident that the funds raised will offer our Agency sustainability and will cover our operating expenses (rent, utilities, insurance, phone/internet, store manager, etc.) annually. Our consignment store would be in a location that is accessible to families and will increase Agency visibility in our community. It would also assist the families in our community to access affordable family merchandise.

Our Agency has been serving the community of South Huron for 40 years, and with you support, we will continue to serve our community for another 40 years! If you require any more information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Wilhelm

Amy Wilhelm
Caseworker/Resource Coordinator
On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron

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