

# CREATING A SMOOTH TRANSITION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

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# 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 COMPONENTS

## 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 data 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



University of Missouri

HIGHER EDUCATION  
NETWORK PARTNERS

# WHAT IS FIRST JOB?

- Workforce Development Initiative for Littles ages 15-18. Began in 2020.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> - Interviewing Skills
- April 19<sup>th</sup> - How to Find a Job
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – 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
  - Alumni Mentor Managers, Mentor Managers
  - 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
  - Discuss Seniors plan, Family, match relationship, etc.
  - Discuss resources, action plans , introduction conversations
    - Scholarship opportunities, Financial aid questions, completing college applications

## Events:

- Scholarship Information Night
- 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



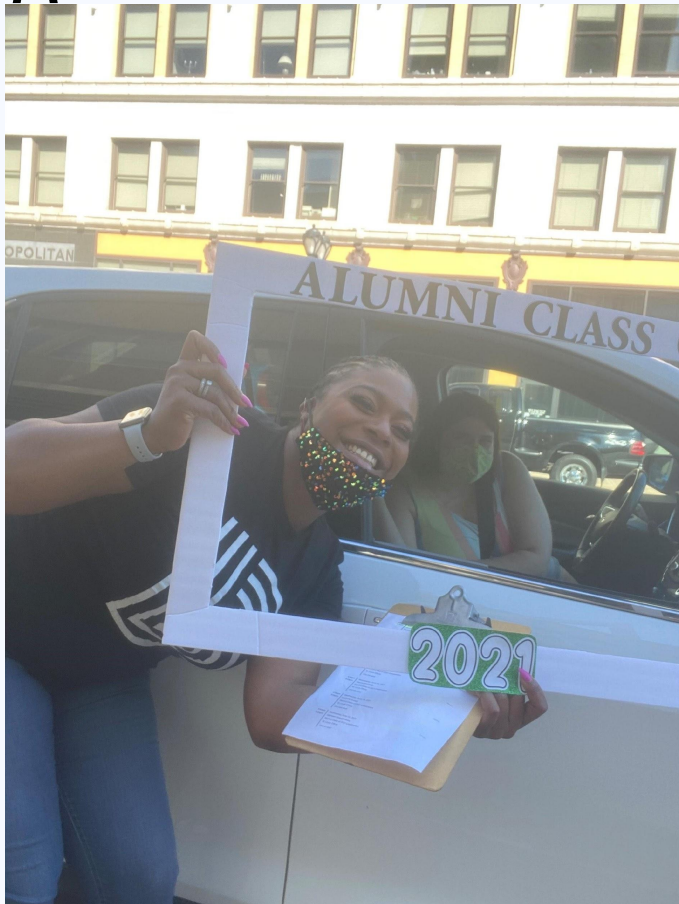
- Scholarships
- Internships
- Apprenticeships

HELPING YOU ALONG THE JOURNEY. #ADULTING



**Need help? We're here for you.**  
**The Big Futures Team**  
**bigfutures@bbbsemo.org**  
**314-690-1478**

# DATA, DATA, AND MORE DATA



## E3 MONTHLY & ANNUAL GOAL

80%

Enrolled	36%
Employed	43%
Enlisted	3%
Transition	18% (includes closed seniors)
<b>E3 Total</b>	<b>82% (214)</b>

# 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.





## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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