

Good evening, friends,

We find ourselves in a period unlike any that we have experienced, within our communities and across the country and world.

During this time of social distancing and isolation, a mission such as ours—one built on the strength of human interaction and the intentionality of relationships—can be urgently necessary and yet gravely impacted.

We are committed to putting the safety of our volunteers, youth and staff first during this time of national health concern. And yet, we also want to challenge ourselves—and our community of supporters—to do what we do best: band together in times where it seems insurmountable to overcome. Together, we are bigger, and our mission has never been more urgent. And I have never been prouder to be part of this talented team at Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin and part of this supportive community.

As our agency continues to navigate the challenges we anticipate, and many more we haven't yet anticipated, we want to reassure you that BBBS will be guided by a purpose and a plan.

- **We're here for you.** While our office is physically closed, all staff are working remotely and can be reached by email and phone. Our contact info is on the website and we will use our website, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts, and email system to provide recurring updates. *To access updates or get signed up for e-news, go to www.bbbsecw.org*
- **If you're a mentor,** our program team will be reaching out to you over the next week to see how you are doing, answer questions, address challenges, and explore uncertainties so that you can continue to stay connected with your Little in via phone, email, and (with parent approval) social media and connectedness tools.
- **If you're a parent of a Little,** our program team is serving as a hub for hundreds of families and we are here for you. We will be reaching out over this next week to identify what you and your youth need, explore ways we can keep them connected with their Big, and better understand additional challenges facing you and your household at this time.
- **If you're a donor,** know that your funds are being used responsibly and that we are ramping up our support services to meet the needs of mentoring during this period of social distancing. We thank you for continuing to invest into our mission and services!
- **If you're an event participant,** we are prioritizing safety and will keep you up to speed on the latest developments on Bowl for Kids' Sake and other events. These events will be held later in the year and continued fundraising delivers critical financial support to our programs.
- **If you're in the process of enrollment,** we are utilizing technology to continue the enrollment process!

Finally, I want to say **thank you**. The key to our transition to and during this period is our army of advocates—you. We will continue to communicate what we are seeing and doing and we welcome resources and solutions to bridge this unprecedented time in our country's history. Together, our mission and impact will endure.

With gratitude,

Lindsay

P.S. If you would like to make a donation to sustain BBBS's work in our community, please visit www.bbbsecw.org/donate/

P.P.S. If you'd like to start the enrollment process to become a Big and meet the needs of a youth during this unsteady time, please visit: www.bbbsecw.org/bigs/application/