# Annual Report 2023

#IgnitePotential



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Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley acknowledges that we take space on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish People,

huy ch q'u hay ce:p **q**ə

S'olh Temexw, now referred to as the Fraser Valley, was the traditional territory of the Stó:lō People long before colonization. They cared for, continue to care for the land and have a sacred connection to it.

### The Land of the Moss

The area currently known as Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Surrey, Langley and Delta is the traditional territory of the Katzie (qı́cə́ý) People. Katzie hold a deep connection to the lands and the

Katzie hold a deep connection to the lands and the rivers, sloughs, creeks and wetlands of the area.

We recognize the impact of colonialism since the first contact and how it shaped many systems including the concept of mentoring. We acknowledge that we are responsible for ensuring that our work is inclusive, respectful and mindful of the colonial impact.

We commit to challenging our ways of thinking and working with a focus on cultural safety.

### Abbotsford (Head Office)

200 - 2445 West Railway St.
Abbotsford, BC V2S 2E3
t: 604.852.3331
e: fraservalleyadmin@
bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

### Chilliwack/Hope/Agassiz

1000C - 46361 Yale Road
The Neighborhood
Learning Center,
Chilliwack Secondary School
Chilliwack, BC V2P 2P8

### Mission/Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows

22554 Lougheed Hwy Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2V1



# Our 2023 Staff

(BACK, L - R)
LIA BUDIMAN, CHERYL UNGER, PHOEBE NICKERSON,
CANDACE CRAIGEN, LEANNE HILDERMAN,
CASSIE SILVA, CORINA CARROLL
(FRONT, L - R)

KARAH GARDEN-MICKLA, KATARINA BELL, DEVON

# Christmas 2023

(BACK, L - R)
PHOEBE NICKERSON, LEANNE HILDERMAN, CASSIE SILVA
(FRONT, L - R)

LIA BUDIMAN, RACHEL SANDERSON, ADINA SPIVAK, CHERYL UNGER, KATARINA BELL, CANDACE CRAIGEN, BARB ROBINSON, KARAH GARDEN-MICKLA



# Our 2023 Board of Directors

Brian Vickers, Chair
Haley Duke, Vice Chair
Artur Delorme, Treasurer
Sheri Yakashiro, Secretary
Dean Fuller, Director at Large
Brittany Hutchison, Director
Carrie McCulley, Director
Daniel Sorensen, Director
David Dick, Director
Glen Robertson, Director
Lorraine Gross, Director
Peter Gemmell, Director

# Our Mission

WOOD

To enable life-changing mentoring relationships, to ignite the power and potential of young people.

## Our Vision

That all young people realize their full potential.



# A Message from the Staff and Board

2023 was an exceptional year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley, marked by a triumphant return to normalcy following the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. With all programs resuming to in-person, we witnessed remarkable growth and achievement.

After navigating four years shaped by the pandemic and its aftermath, our organization not only rebounded but surpassed the number of children served in 2019. In 2023, we provided mentoring services to 574 children and youth, a remarkable 29% increase from the previous year and a significant 10% rise from 2019, when 517 youth were served.

In June we hosted our 34th annual Golf For Kids' Sake Tournament at Ledgeview Golf Course, a testament to the unwavering support of our community. We extend our deepest gratitude to our returning golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, while also warmly welcoming new partners. This event was also an opportunity to honor our esteemed Program Director, Cheryl Unger, who celebrated an impressive 30 years of employment with us.

The summer brought a bittersweet farewell as we bid adieu to our Executive Director of six years, Corina Carroll. Corina's profound understanding of our programs and commitment to youth development significantly contributed to our success. She leaves behind a legacy of stability, fiscal health, and boundless potential. We extend our heartfelt wishes for her continued success in all her future endeavors.

In the fall, we proudly met the review standards set by our National governing body, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada, successfully completing our accreditation, a process conducted every five years.

Moreover, we revived a cherished fundraiser from pre-pandemic times – the "Harvest Dinner." October 2023 saw the return of this event, reimagined as the "Sip & Social." This delightful evening of mingling, culinary delights, vendor showcases, and live music resonated deeply with the attendees, marking it as a resounding success. We eagerly anticipate making this the newest addition to our annual calendar, with plans to host it again in September 2024.

All these achievements were made possible by the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, supporters, and Board of Directors, who generously contributed their time and talents, especially during the transitional period during the Executive Director vacancy, and subsequent search for her successor, a position successfully filled with the hiring of Madeleine Buhlau in April 2024. We are also immensely grateful for the passion and commitment of our 2023 staff, whose tireless efforts propelled us to new heights.

Brian Vickers, Board Chair Cheryl Unger, Program Manager Leanne Hilderman, Manager of Administration and Finance





Number of youth served: 574

Number of volunteers: 367

Number of different programs:

"When I was doing a mid point check in today I asked a mentee if she felt safe and comfortable with her mentor.

She responded 'yes'.

When asked to describe why, she said,

'She has a warm heart.' "

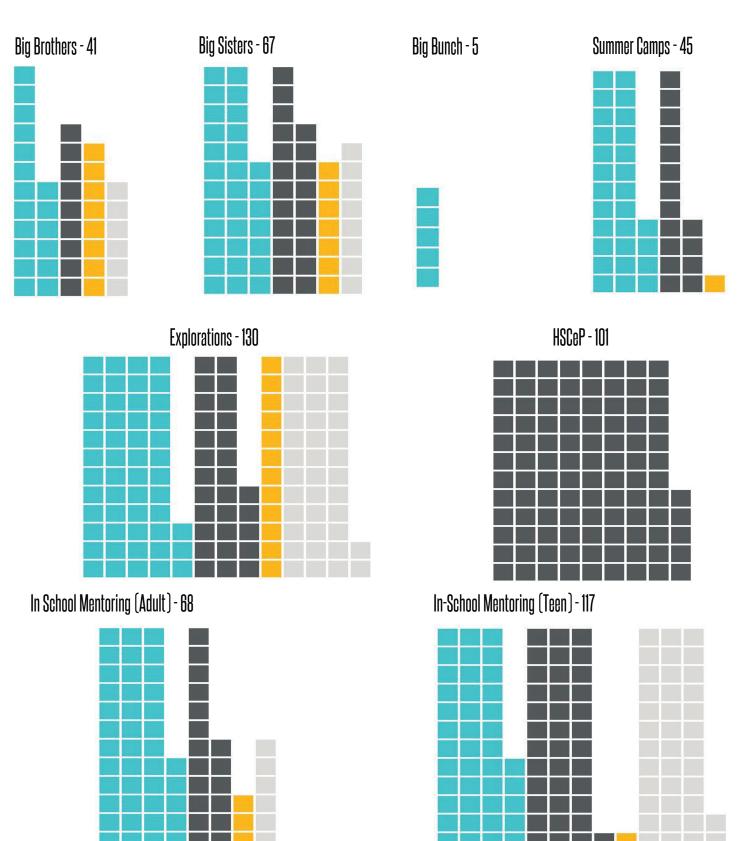
Mentoring Coordinator, Rachel



# Our 2023 Matches

# Matches by Program

1 matched child from Abbotsford
 1 matched child from Chilliwack
 1 matched child from Mission
 1 matched child from Ridge Meadows





# Matches by Region

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley serves a far-reaching and diverse region that includes the cities and municipalities north and south of the Fraser River, from Pitt Meadows to Agassiz, and Abbotsford to Hope. Today within our region, we serve 574 young people, with 69 waiting for their mentor.

- 1 matched child from Abbotsford
  1 matched child from Chilliwack
- 1 matched child from Mission
- 1 matched child from Ridge Meadows
- 1 waitlisted child from Abbotsford1 waitlisted child from Chilliwack
  - 1 waitlisted child from Mission
  - 1 waitlisted child from Ridge Meadows



# Our Programs Community-Based Mentoring

### Guidance. Connection. Caring.

This mentoring model, the familiar Big Brothers and Big Sister mentorship program, has been serving our community for 55 years (since 1969 in Abbotsford!). It pairs youth with a role model, a friend to talk to and with whom the Little Brother or Sister can share the experiences of growing up with someone who is outside the family circle.

Through regular outings, the mentor and the young person develop a relationship that is built on trust and common interests, supported by our experienced Mentoring Coordinators.

The result is a life changing experience for both the mentor and the mentee. Our mentees are youth who can benefit from the guidance, connection and example of a caring adult friend who is genuinely interested in their



Cruise + Deklin Since 2021,

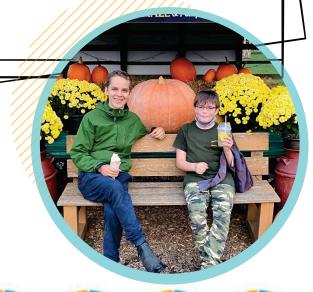
Cruise and Deklin have formed a unique and deeply supportive bond, characterized by patience and understanding. Despite facing challenges, Cruise's unwavering commitment has provided Deklin with a vital support system.

Through regular communication and shared laughter, their relationship has evolved into a brotherhood, with Cruise serving as both mentor and cheerleader. Their journey exemplifies the transformative power of genuine connection and steadfast support.

Simon + Braydon Since 2020,

Simon and Braydon have cultivated a meaningful bond, particularly amid the challenges of the pandemic. Simon's support has provided Braydon with opportunities to explore his interests, from hiking and foraging to making pies together. Despite facing personal transitions, Simon remains committed to their connection and to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Their relationship has evolved to include deeper conversations and new experiences, fostering Braydon's growth and providing him with a supportive outlet to navigate life's challenges. Despite occasional distance, their bond remains strong, reflecting the enduring impact of mentorship and genuine connection.



# **In-School Mentoring**

Trust. Self-Confidence. Healthy Decisions .

This program provides youth with a role model and friend at school, someone with whom they can talk and share the experiences of growing up. For one hour a week, a mentor meets with their mentee and engages in activities such as board games, crafts, or just hanging out in the playground.

The In-School Mentoring program requires a weekly visit for one hour for the duration of the school year. Matches do not meet over the summer break, or during the other school holidays.

The program strives to:

- Provide a role model and a friend for youth.
- Promote the importance of staying in school and healthy relationships with family and peers.
- Instill trust and self-confidence to make healthy decisions.
- Encourage leadership skills and independent thinking.
- And above all, make a difference while having fun.



"BBBS Mentoring programs have a positive impact on our students. They look forward to their mentor time, engaging in activities such as playing basketball, chatting over a game of cards, or taking a walk together. Some of these students have a difficult time connecting with their peers, so to be able to connect with their mentor is very beneficial for them. Their connection provides a valuable source of support and guidance for young people in our schools."

- Eugene Reimer School Teacher

# **Teen Mentoring**

The Teen Mentoring program matches teen volunteers with youth in middle school.

"I view him (Little Brother) as a younger me. Cohen has a lot of traits that I used to have at that age. We are fairly close for the short time we have been meeting each other, and I look at him as a little brother. Which made me think about why it is called 'Big Brothers Big Sisters.'

I enjoy meeting with Cohen, and with tests and academics in my way, it is an awesome way to take my mind off school, and focus on having fun."

- Bosco, Big Brother





The Explorations Program is an ideal setting for students to develop social skills, social engagement, and gain exposure to a variety of new activities and experiences in a small group setting with adult mentors that are screened and trained.

'Explorations' runs once a week, for 2 hours after school for 7-8 consecutive weeks, on school grounds, where youth are able to enjoy a wide variety of activities, crafts, and games together.

'Explorations' strives to achieve the following:

- Provide youth with the skills and support they need to cultivate personal wellness and growth through interactive learning sessions.
- Create a positive environment for youth to develop new friendships.
- Guide youth in learning to strengthen self-esteem and selfawareness.
- Promote healthy decision-making skills.
- Establish healthy and trusting relationships with their mentors.

• Create a positive environment for youth to develop new



# **Explorations quotes**

When mentees (youth)
were asked how
participating in the
program made them feel:

"Good, because I don't get left out in it"

"Happy, safe and calm most of the time"



# When asked what they learned from the program:

"I learned to look out for everyone"

"My health is important"

"That I know I can be positive"

# **HSCeP** quotes

"I feel like I look at situations through a new lens. I also understand my feelings and other people's feelings more than I did before joining HSCeP."



"My overall goal for this program was to expand my learning. I have absolutely done that and have gone above my expectations."

# HSCeP

Innovation. Life-Changing. Partnerships.

Human Services Career enrichment Program (HSCeP)

HSCeP Mentors are role models and friends to teens interested in developing Human Service skills that will make the difference as future professionals in the field. Mentors co-train with their mentee over 8 Saturday sessions throughout the school year.

### WHAT DOES AN HSCeP MENTOR DO?

- Mentors are typically UFV students who are paired with high school students interested in developing human service skills.
- They attend 8 Saturday workshops (Sept.- May) receiving co-training with their mentee on topics such as human rights, mental health, leadership, peer counselling and trauma informed care.

### WHY GET INVOLVED?

- Because human service professionals not only need IQ, but also EQ (Emotional Intelligence).
- Develop leadership and human service skills.
- Help a teen jump-start their post secondary life.
- UFV students receive recognition on their Co-Curricular Record.

This Program is possible thanks to the partnerships between School District 33, University of the Fraser Valley, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley.











My mother, a teacher's aide for special needs children in Langley, inspired me to join the Big Brothers program after witnessing the joy it brought to the kids. I met my little brother, Mike, when he was 9 years old. Despite his shyness, we formed an immediate bond, united by our love for sports.

Over the years, I watched him grow, attending his games and being a constant presence in his life. When his family moved to Surrey, we lost touch briefly, until a surprise invitation to his 30th birthday party reconnected us. It was then that I realized the impact I had on his life, as he spoke fondly of our time together and how it shaped him into the man he became.

While his brother succumbed to a troubled path, Mike thrived, becoming a devoted father and husband. The irony of our shared names, with my older brother also named Mike, added a humorous twist to our story.

Reflecting on our journey, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Mike's life. Despite never seeking recognition, the experience taught me the profound difference a mentor can make in a young person's life. As "Little Mike" stood tall at his wedding, with my wife and me by his side in lieu of his mother, I knew our bond would last a lifetime.

Thank you, Big Brothers, for allowing me to be a part of someone's life—it's a privilege I'll forever cherish.

Warm regards, Ryan

Ryan + Mike

# **Match Highlight**

Since 2016, Simrun and Bethany's bond has blossomed from the In-School Program to the Community-Based Program, evolving into an extraordinary friendship. They've stood by each other through life's twists and turns. When Simrun got married recently, she honored Bethany by inviting her to be in her wedding party. In the midst of personal tragedy, as Bethany mourned the loss of both her parents in recent years, Simrun was a constant source of support, attending to her needs and rallying support from the community.

Their connection has exceeded all expectations, demonstrating the profound impact of mentorship. Over the span of nine years, Bethany's confidence has flourished under Simrun's guidance. She now articulates her growth with eloquence, expressing gratitude for having someone who believed in her and provided unwavering support.

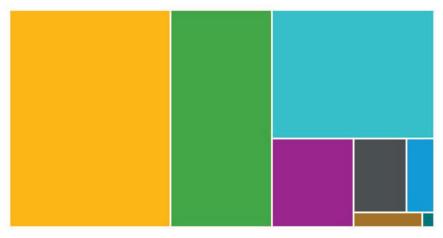
Recently, Bethany took on a leadership role in our Spring Break Camp, guiding activities and fostering teamwork among the children. Her reflection on the experience revealed the depth of her appreciation for the support she received as a Little, now paying it forward as a Big. As their time in the program draws to a close, there's a bittersweet sense of parting ways, yet the bond between Simrun and Bethany transcends program boundaries, promising a lasting friendship.

As they prepare to graduate, both from school and the program, there's a sense of loss tempered by the certainty that Simrun and Bethany will remain lifelong friends. Their journey exemplifies the transformative power of mentorship and the enduring impact of genuine friendship.

Simrun + Bethany



# **Our Volunteer Hours**



- Big Sisters 6968 hours
- Big Brothers 4160 hours
- Explorations 778 hours
- Summer Camps 200 hours
- In School Mentoring Teen 4366 hours
- In School Mentoring Adult- 1443 hours
- HSCEP 408 hours
- Big Bunch 36 hours



# **Our Financials**

# Revenue



- Government Funding \$256,612 (29%)
- Mentoring Grants \$176,995 (20%)
- Fundraising \$170,059 (19%)
- External Agreements \$160,898 (18%)
- Other Grants \$66,707 (8%)
- Interest Revenue \$22,736 (3%)
- Other Revenue \$22,282 (3%)

# **Expenses**



- Charitable Programs \$674,451 (77%)
- Fundraising \$96,481 (11%)
- Management and Administration \$99,328 (11%)

# Corporate Supporter of the Year - 2023

Every year our Board of Directors Acknowledges and Awards a

Distinguished Corporate or Community Sponsor

who has contributed to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley through ongoing contributions and encouragement of volunteerism.

For 2023, we are excited to present this award to CI Assante Wealth Management.

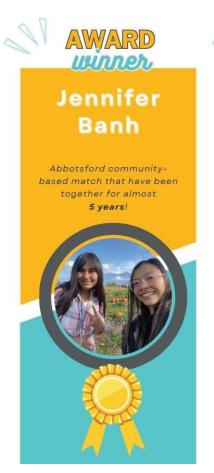


Since 2004, CI Assante has worked together with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley to significantly contribute to the success of our Golf for Kids' Sake Tournament, transforming it into the thriving fundraiser it is today. CI Assante has provided unwavering support both in sponsorship, and in countless volunteer hours.

# Volunteers of the Year - 2023

The Volunteer of the Year Award honours exceptional individuals who exemplify the spirit of igniting potential and inspire others to make a difference!

Thank you to the 2023 winners for helping to raise youth in our communities!









# Celebrating 15 Years

15 years ago, our friends came together, donating time and talents, to re-build our office building.

Gifting us a mortgage-free "home"!



# Building Friendships!

Lonny & Heather
Andrews

Province of British Columbia Dan & Agnes Ratzlaff Dave Holmberg, Sr. Jim & Shirley Barkman F & E Strumpski Foundation

### Leader's Circle

Abbotsford Developmental Corporation, Abbotsford News, Alvin & Karyn Unger, BA Blacktop, Bert's Electric Ltd.,

Blackwood Building Centres, Cascade Communications & Security Inc., Eagle West Cranes Inc., JMV Woodworks, John & Lorena Redekop,
Ratzlaff Development Corp., Reimer Hardwoods, Saxon Mechanical, Todd Kesslar

### Mentor's Circle

Abbotsford Paint & Decorating/Martin Prus, Abbotsford Printing Inc., Aldergrove Credit Union, Alliance Door Products, Apex Siding, Apollo Industries, Ben Siemens, Central Valley Engineering (2004) Ltd., Challenge Concrete, Clayburn Industries Ltd., Clearbrook Iron Works, D'Arts, David Tyrell Architect, Design Lighting, Eric Peterson Surveyors Ltd., Four Seasons Insulation, Fraser Valley Acoustics, Fraser Valley Building Supplies, Gator Landscaping, Glen Robertson, Graestone Ready Mix

### Friendship Circle

Abbey Window Coverings, Abby Locksmith, Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service, Alexandria Mitchell, Andy Jamieson, BC Plumbing Supply,
Big Steel Box, Bobcat Country, Bobcat West, Brad Puffer, Brenda Knoppi, Carly and Mark Ferguson, Carrie and Rick Yargeau,
Centra Exteriors Ltd., Chace Sales, Cheryl and Paul Unger, Citrus O Carpet Care, Clearbrook Glass, Clearbrook Roofing & Cedar Products,
CM Signs, Coast Form Rentals, Cobra Steel, David Sheach, Diane Rauch, Douglas Dunn, Dryline Drywall, Edwin and Angela Palsma,
EKS Solutions, Emco Corporation, First Choice Fire Stop Solutions, Get Custom Blinds and Shutters Inc., Gerwyn and Iris Mills,
H. Hans Trucking Ltd., Ingrid Epp, iNet Solutions, Insigno, Integrity Woodcraft, Jake and Greg Dyck, Jim McCaffery, John Falk, John Peters,
John and Cara Lawson, Jordan Air Balancing, Josh and Vicky Bach, Josh Tonks, Karen Bergen, Lotusland Vineyards, Mario Miniaci,
Madeleine Hardin, Malkin Contracting, Marv's Excavating, Mt. Lehman Contracting, Norm Friesen, Norma Thurley, Pam Alexis,
PCL Constructors Westcoast Inc., PFG Glass, Pyramid Truss Ltd., Rapid Copy and Print, Raven Roofing Ltd., Redman Bobcat,
Regehr Contracting Ltd., Ridge Sign Design, Riteway Fencing, Ron Howard, Save on Foods, Sears Canada Inc., Shirley Wilson,
Sierra Distributors Ltd., Steve's Custom Home Lighting (1982) Ltd., Swan Nurseries, Teigen Excavating, Townline Drywall,
Triple M Investments, Western Elevator, Western Explosives, Western Rock Products, Wolsely Canada, Woodline Trophies & Awards,
Yardwork Supply Ltd., Yohan Wijesirewardane



# Our Donors

### \$200,000 +

Province of BC - Community Gaming Grant

### \$100,000 +

Savers/Value Village Chilliwack and Mission

### \$50,000 +

Abbotsford Community Foundation

### \$10,000 +

**RBC Future Launch** 

United Way of British Columbia

Canucks for Kids

Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs

TD Bank Group

E. & K. Start

Knight Road Legacy Association

PepsiCo

Norehyn Foundation

Boston Pizza Foundation

The Federation of Community Social Services of BC

### \$5.000 +

Abbotsford Bingo

Gulf & Fraser Foundation

Adventurer Foundation

Enbridge

London Drugs Limited

ScotiaBank

Maple Ridge Community Foundation

M. & G. Munday

### \$1.000 +

Abbotsford School District

Charities Aid Foundation of Canada

G. & L. Cochrane

Rick G. Gendemann Inc.

Todd Kesslar

Valley First a Division of First West Credit Union

Fraser Valley Fire Protection Ltd.

Raymond James Foundation

Banter Ice Cream Inc.

Port Moody Firefighters Charitable Society

Sukhchaan Sahota

City of Abbotsford

# Our Sponsors

### \$10.000 +

CI Assante Wealth Management Zacharias Vickers McCann LLP

### \$5000 +

Clearbrook Iron Works Ratzlaff & Co.

### \$1000 +

Nation Ramps

RDM Lawyers LLP

Polar Electric

Abbotsford Chrysler

**Envision Financial** 

Trans Mountain Canada Inc

Canadian Benefits Investment & Insurance Group.

Saxon Mechanical

Plumbing On Tap

### \$500 +

Ritchie-Smith Feeds Inc.

Core Group Consultants

Manning Elliott LLP

Sapphire Sound

A1 Insulators Inc.

Dale Ratzlaff Developments

**Bourquin Printers** 

PepsiCo

The Offy Bistro

COBS Bread Abbotsford



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia





# Raise Your Gaze!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley is seeking Ambassadors!

# Helping us reach our Mission and Vision

As a mentoring organization for children and youth, our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. Our programs are made possible through the passion, dedication and skills of our volunteers. They have a vast understanding of the organization's mission and vision. They are aware of our services and supports, and they effectively communicate and convey a positive image of what the organization offers to the community. They post on social media, network at events, post blogs, and seek donors.

# Head and Heart extends our reach & People Equals Power

Credible Volunteer Messengers

Compelling Stories

=

Resources/NEW STAKEHOLDERS

We invite you to come and join our team of volunteers!



# **Professional Advisory Committee**

PAC Members should have representation from a variety of disciplines (i.e.: helping professions and academics). Meetings to be held every 2nd month (6 per year). Professionals to be called upon based on their area of expertise.

### Purpose:

- 1. To offer advice and guidance for the self-help model of the organization with the professional expertise in the area of mentoring, relationship development, mental health, education, IT, finance, social media etc.
- 2. To help maintain the vision for the future of the organization.

# Strategic Alignment Committee

Committee Membership should have representation from at least one Board Member and volunteers with background in diversity, with special emphasis on representation from represented target populations. Meetings to be held every 2nd month (6 per year). Strong focus on developing partnerships with local Chamber of Commerce, City Officials, School Boards and other essential community partners from a variety of sectors.

### Purpose:

- 1. To develop and increase strategic community partnerships that further enhance and support our mission, vision, and mandate.
- 2. To increase visibility and impact as a leader in community of mentorship support.

## **Events Committee**

Plays a supportive role in all or some of the following: marketing, ticket sales, event setup and ushering, finding and confirming and/or being a guest speaker, fund development, and activity or community table leadership, recruitment activities. Please include on your application what you would like to support us with for future events. Meetings to be held monthly (12 meetings per year).

### Purpose:

- 1. Deliver events that align with the mission, vision, values and themes in the strategic plan.
- 2. Actively promote the agency, events, and fundraise in the community.

More information available on our website: www.mentoringworks.ca



# Join us!

### GOLF FOR KIDS' SAKE 2024

Thursday June 20th, 2024 Ledgeview Golf Club 35997 McKee Rd, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2L6

Sip & Social 2024

Thursday September 26th, 2024 Barn on White House Farms Arnold Rd, Abbotsford, BC

Visit us at www.mentoringworks.ca to learn more

