

2024

אחות בוגרות.
ISRAEL ישראל
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel (NGO) Annual Year in Review



Empowering children, youth, with a meaningful long-term relationships
with a volunteer mentors

Annual Report

A word from the CEO

Hello Everyone,

The year 2024 has been a very different one for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel in particular, and for the Israeli society as a whole. This year presented us with complex challenges but also emphasized the importance of promoting personal, social, and emotional support for children, youth, and young adults, alongside fostering community resilience.

The new security situations brought about by the war required us to expand and adapt our activities to meet different needs. We extended our mentoring program for children and adolescents who have lost a parent or close family member, aiming to provide them with emotional and social support during these challenging times. This program includes one-on-one and group sessions with experienced professionals, as well as social activities tailored to their needs.

At the same time, in response to the upheaval that left many children and youth spending extended hours alone at home in front of screens, we are actively advancing a program to prevent online violence. This initiative aims to encourage respectful communication and create a safe and secure online environment for children and teenagers.

Amid all this, our hearts go out to the families of the hostages. We hope and pray for their swift and safe return and for the well-being of all soldiers and civilians.

We proudly present this year's annual report as a testament to the extensive and impactful work carried out by our organization during such a challenging year. Our activities reflect our commitment to continue being there for the children, youth, and communities of Israel - to lead change, strengthen, and support.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who walks this path with us - our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners.

Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Sincerely,

Nati Kashi, CEO

**Members of the Board of Directors, the Management,
and the Staff of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel (NGO)**



A Few Numbers

In 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel supported **1,806** children, youth, and young adults at risk through a variety of unique programs. These included a mentoring program for orphans, mentoring program for children and youth with disabilities and their siblings, youth at risk, and more.

We are proud that some of the "Little Siblings" come back to us as Big Brothers and Sisters.

The Organization's Data for 2024

We tripled the number of beneficiaries in our "Connect" program.

Directed by Koren Maor

Significant growth by hundreds in the number of beneficiaries in our youth program.

Directed by Amichai Baharav

We achieved a 173 % growth in programs supporting orphans.

Directed by Noa Alagim

We continue to develop and expand our unique programs:

Mentoring for orphaned children and youth, support for children of divorced parents, and promoting an online violence prevention program.

Our Big Brothers



Yaron receives a certificate of appreciation at the recognition event for the volunteers of the city of Herzliya, alongside branch coordinator **Oved Solomon**.

Yaron Ben-Horin, a Big Brother, shares:

"When my children grew up, I looked for a way to give back to the community and knew I wanted to volunteer with children. The idea of Big Brothers Big Sisters appealed to me because it creates a personal connection with a child for an extended period. During my meetings with Ofek, we spent time together, traveled together, laughed together, and learned together. **I felt that through our personal relationship, my little brother grew, developed, and opened up to the world.** The truth is, the joy and learning were shared by both of us. I gained a lot from this relationship, and it evolved into a long-term bond of three years! I believe that volunteering with children is the greatest mission there is!"

Overview of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel (NGO)

Background

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel (NGO) has been operating since 2003 with the goal of providing professional and personal support to children, youth, and young adults at risk and in distress, placing them at the center of our efforts and enabling their healthy development into normative adulthood.

The core activity of BBBS of Israel is based on pairing volunteer mentors - "Big Brothers" and "Big Sisters" - who serve as significant adult figures for the children, youth, and young adults in need. Each year, the organization receives referrals for children, youth, and young adults in various life situations, including: children and youth or those who have experienced loss within their immediate family, children and youth at risk, those without family support, children and youth with disabilities, their siblings and more.

To provide optimal service, BBBS of Israel operates 14 different group and individual programs tailored to the specific needs of the target population. These include a mentoring program for orphans, a program for children and youth with disabilities or their siblings, and others. In recent years, the organization has had the privilege of supporting thousands of children, youth, and young adults, and we are proud to note that some of the "Little Siblings" return to the organization as Big Brothers and Sisters.



Being a Big Brother means giving your little brother a sense of comfort, freedom, and security.

At the end of August, Ronen and his Little Brother Guy from the Tel Aviv branch participated in the national summer event of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Israel, held at Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv. The event included a shared picnic and a "Race for the Million" competition. During the competition, Ronen and Guy demonstrated exceptional teamwork and won third place.

The event, which took place in a festive and unifying atmosphere, highlighted the deep connections formed among the participants and created an exciting and empowering experience for everyone involved.

Mission Statement

Vision

BBBS of Israel aims to lead society across all sectors in Israel towards a reality in which every child, youth, and young adult has an equal opportunity for self-actualization, while strengthening their sense of belonging and capability, in order to continually improve the quality of life for individuals and society as a whole.

Our Goals

Empowerment and provision of relevant and tailored responses to the diverse needs of children, youth, young adults, and adults through mentoring processes and meaningful activities, facilitated by mentors, instructors, and social group coordinators who serve as inspirational role models.

Our Values

The activities of Big Brother Big Sister Israel are based on the following values:

Hope



Empowerment

Inspiration

Equality

Human Dignity

Generosity

Collaboration

Perpetual growth

Commitment

Being a mentor means building a genuine connection with the girl I mentor, as well as with the girl within myself. It helps me to be authentic and simple, bringing a lot of light into my life.



Avia and her younger sister **Zohara** enjoy a popsicle after Avia received a certificate of excellence for her significant volunteer work with the Big Brother Big Sister Israel.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel Programs

To provide optimal service, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel operates 14 different programs tailored to the needs of the target population in two models:

Individual Model

We recruit and train Big Sisters and Big Brothers (i.e. Bigs) - mentors who support Little Sisters and Little Brothers (i.e. Littles) - children, youth, and young adults in need of guidance. The long-term response focuses on empowering the Little Brother or Little Sister and assists them in:

- ✦ Identifying their strengths and abilities
- ✦ Understanding the importance of education and helping them succeed
- ✦ Recognizing the significance of giving and helping others
- ✦ Distinguishing between right and wrong
- ✦ Alleviating feelings of loneliness
- ✦ Maintaining physical and mental health
- ✦ Mentoring for youth also supports a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood - facilitating integration into employment, education, and more.

Core Operation

Mentorship
for Orphans

The 100
Program

Yated
Program

Someone to
Read With

Group Model

BBBS of Israel operates several programs that provide group support for children, youth, and young adults in need of emotional, social, and/or educational guidance. The programs address varying needs:

- ✦ Improving behavioral patterns and instilling positive habits.
- ✦ Teaching social skills and promoting social integration.
- ✦ Enhancing communication and strengthening the connection between little brothers and sisters and their families.

Leaders of Change

Connect

Karmiel Youth
Clubs

Parents
and Kids

Leadership

Orphan Group
Support

Young Adult
Mentorship

Anchor
Program
(in development)

Female
Leadership
(in development)

We are in the midst of promoting an innovative program for preventing online violence, in collaboration with dedicated professional partners. Further updates on the program's progress will be provided in the next report.

Individual Model Programs

In 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel supported 1,806 children, youth, and young adults. The organization mentors children from a wide range of populations, backgrounds, and unique needs. Read about our special programs:

Big Brother Big Sister - Core Operation

This is the core program that operates in collaboration with local authorities to provide personal, social, and emotional support to children and youth aged 4-21 who are at risk and need a supportive and meaningful adult figure in their lives. This is achieved through the pairing of a volunteer mentor - Big Brother or Sister - aimed at preventing risky behaviors and developing a positive future self-image for them.

Mentorship for Orphans

In Israel today, it is estimated that there are approximately 35,000 orphans under the age of 18. Since the beginning of the war, over 900 orphans have joined the bereaved. Most of these children are not recognized by the social services departments and, therefore, do not receive assistance from welfare agencies. In collaboration with organizations that provide services to the Ministry of Defense and the Jewish Agency, we offer these children, who have lost one or both parents, emotional and social support to prevent risky behavior, according to our core program model. Throughout the year, dozens of orphaned children have been supported, and many additional pairings are currently being processed.

The 100 Program: Mentoring children with disabilities and siblings of children with disabilities

The program has been operating since 2019 in collaboration with the Tel Aviv municipality. It follows the mentoring model of Big Brother\Sister adapted to the unique target population in Tel Aviv-Jaffa - children, youth, and young adults with disabilities, as well as siblings of children with disabilities.

Individual Model Programs

“Yated” Program

The goal of the program, since its establishment in 2019, is to empower young adults aged 18-26 through personal mentoring and to assist them in overcoming the challenges associated with the transition from adolescence to young adulthood - integrating into meaningful service, employment, and higher education. The program is based on the belief that every young person in Israel deserves the opportunity to successfully integrate into Israeli society while experiencing personal growth and contributing to the community.

Someone to Read With

The program was designed during the COVID-19 pandemic for elementary and high school students, and it has two main objectives:

- Reducing educational and emotional gaps among elementary-aged children: The mentoring focuses on the student's strengths and abilities, as well as practicing reading and writing skills.
- Developing leadership skills and strengthening the sense of self-efficacy among adolescents by training them as mentors for elementary-aged children. The youth are empowered through their activities: as mentors, they serve as role models for the children they assist.

Group Model Programs

Group Support for Orphans

As part of the activities of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel, a group program is held to support orphaned children and youth. In this program, participants meet for a social-emotional support session where they engage in educational, social, and emotional activities. The goal is to create a supportive, safe, and inclusive space for them. Through these meetings, participants have the opportunity to share, listen, build meaningful connections, and strengthen their sense of belonging and personal resilience.

Youth Leadership

In recent years, following the Swords of Iron War and the COVID-19 pandemic that have affected the country, it has become evident that among students in various schools, there has been a decline in social motivation, along with social and emotional gaps that need to be addressed, resulting from uncertainty and social distancing. The Youth Leadership program has committed to providing social and emotional support to school students, along with tools for building their confidence. Participants in the program are accompanied weekly by a coordinator who will provide them with leadership and social action skills. With these tools, they will become a new generation of Big Brothers and Sisters. The program will connect high school students with students in upper elementary grades to serve as mentors for younger elementary school students, who will act as Little Brothers and Sisters, with the mentors being positive and significant role models for them.

Female Leadership

The Female Leadership Program was established for the first time in collaboration with the Karmiel-Misgav Women's Forum. The forum, which serves the communities of Karmiel, Misgav, and Pittsburgh, works for the benefit of women and the community by providing opportunities for initiatives and the development of unique women's projects.

Group Model Programs

“Anchor” Program for Children with Divorced Parents

The Anchor Program is a unique initiative that trains and matches adolescents who are children of divorced parents with younger children whose parents have divorced or are in the process of divorce. Participants in the program are accompanied weekly by a coordinator, with the goal of providing tools in leadership and social action, and with these tools, they will become a new generation of Big Brothers and Sisters.

Connect

The goal of the program is to teach a second language in a creative and enriching manner. Through language studies, participants gain a broader perspective on the world, get to know additional cultures and improve their capacity for empathy and acceptance of others. Another objective is to develop leadership among veteran "connectors" - youth who will mentor younger "connectors" both in group and individual settings.

Karmiel Youth Clubs

The organization operates two youth clubs in Karmiel, in collaboration with the Karmiel Welfare Department. The purpose of the clubs is to prevent aimless wandering and provide a consistent and positive educational and social framework. The clubs advocate for providing tools to improve behavioral patterns, instill positive habits, and enhance the relationships of youth with their families and social circles.

Group Model Programs

Leaders of Change

Since 2020, we have been partners in implementing the "Leaders of Change" program, initiated by the Administration for Educational Settlement in the Ministry of Education, led by Dr. Yaakov Malkamo. The program provides a unique response to students from the Ethiopian community through social integration, strengthening the connection between the participants and their families, and fostering an understanding of the culture and traditions of the Ethiopian community in Israel. The program operates in 25 boarding schools and youth villages, and approximately 696 children and youth are accompanied by staff members who speak the Amharic language.

Parents and Children Program

The Parents and Children Program is based on the "Fathers and Sons" program and aims to enhance the quality of the relationship between parents and their children through educational-sporting activities and group guidance meetings. The program generates positive changes in how parents interact with their children, as well as in the social behavior of the children, and it has the potential to prevent and reduce risky situations within the family and risky behaviors among adolescents.

Program in Development - Preventing Online Violence

The program for preventing online violence, developed by Dr. Avshalom Aderet and undergoing processes of development and adaptation to changing target audiences and current needs, offers a comprehensive educational response to the challenges of using digital networks. It aims to equip elementary school students with tools for wise, respectful, and safe usage of the internet and social media. It is designed to raise awareness of dangers and preventive measures, enhance personal responsibility for preventing harm to others, and provide effective strategies for dealing with harmful behaviors online.

As part of the program, students will learn how to maintain norms of respectful behavior, develop tolerance for differing viewpoints, and avoid inflammatory or harmful actions. They will also receive practical training in online safety rules, such as creating strong passwords, protecting privacy, and managing risks. The program emphasizes the importance of developing these skills at a young age, recognizing that habits formed at this stage will accompany students and serve them throughout their lives.

How do the Little Brothers and Sisters Reach Out to us?

Referrals to the organization are made by social workers, school counselors, and therapeutic figures who know the child and recognize their need for a connection with a significant adult. The team of BBBS of Israel conducts an introductory process with the child and learns about their needs through home visits and discussions with the referring professional. We support children, teenagers, and young adults without regard to religion, race, or gender, striving to provide a quality response to an increasing number of beneficiaries.



Volunteering and contributing to others have always been very important to me. Six months ago, I met the wonderful Shai-Li, and since then, I have been her Big Sister. Our meetings together are a shared journey. We meet once a week; sometimes I prepare ideas for activities in advance, and sometimes Shai-Li chooses what we'll do during our time together. It's very important to me that our time is enjoyable, empowering, and meaningful for her. Together, we love to draw, cook, talk, take walks in the garden, and read books. I feel that our meetings contribute to her (and also to me!), and it's the most fun and exciting experience there is.

Our Big Brothers and Sisters

The volunteer mentors are the core of the organization's activities and serve as significant figures in the lives of the young people they support. Each selected volunteer undergoes a rigorous selection process, in which their reliability, sensitivity, and genuine commitment to supporting young individuals facing risk situations are assessed. Upon joining, the mentors receive close supervision and professional training throughout the mentoring period, aiming to provide them with practical tools and personal support. This approach ensures that young people receive high-quality, empowering, and meaningful support that contributes to their personal development and enhances their self-confidence.



Our Pairings



Yuri Zuglin, a Big Brother, shares:

“The first picture is from David's birthday celebration, as he turned 10 years old. We celebrated David's birthday together at the karting track in Haifa. David has recently 'fallen in love' with karting thanks to our shared meetings; he took a course there and started attending a club. Sometimes we go there and ride go-karts together”.



Impact

Current Evaluation and Measurement Process - 2024

We are excited to announce that we are in the midst of an in-depth quantitative research study, made possible by the significant support of the Ruderman Family Foundation. The research is being conducted by an external, professional, and independent entity. After the process, we will receive a comprehensive and valuable overview of the impact of the programs of BBBS of Israel on the young people we support, which will help us shape the future action plans of the organization.

During 2024, we conducted an evaluation and measurement process as part of the Someone to Read With program. Initial results of the process indicate that among the Little Siblings, there has been a significant positive change in reading comprehension, as well as in order and organization in their studies.

Key metrics reflecting our impact in the Someone to Read With program:

✧ A significant and notable positive change was observed in **reading comprehension**, with an average score rising from 6.0 to 7.6 (!).

✧ 63% scored 6 or above at the beginning of the program compared to 86% after the program.

There was considerable progress in the ability of the younger students to understand complex texts, identify key ideas, and analyze their meanings.

✧ A significant and notable positive change was observed in organization and order in studies.

There was considerable progress in the ability to manage study tasks, prepare for exams, and adhere to deadlines.

The significant improvement reflected in the findings indicates that the program contributes to strengthening critical skills that directly impact the academic and personal success of the young participants. Furthermore, the results highlight the potential inherent in an educational approach that combines **personal guidance and long-term support**.



Activities of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel in 2024

Training for Big Brothers and Sisters about Resilience and Trauma in Children and Youth

Under the guidance of the coordinators of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, an in-depth and enriching training session was held on the topic of resilience and trauma among children and youth. This subject, which is of utmost importance, especially in the current period, is an integral part of the organization's ongoing activities. At BBBS of Israel, there is a strong emphasis on empowering mentors and providing them with practical tools and professional knowledge, based on the belief that meaningful mentoring can bring about positive and significant change in the lives of children and youth. This training reflects the organization's ongoing commitment to creating a supportive and empowering environment for all those involved in its activities.



Purim Event at Tel Aviv University

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel celebrated the holiday of Purim with a special national event that brought together pairs from all over the country. The event took place at the School of Music at Tel Aviv University and included a variety of fun activities, a lavish meal, and a raffle with particularly valuable prizes. We were delighted to see our pairs in elaborate and unique costumes enjoying and participating joyfully with broad smiles on their faces. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen the connections within the organization's community and was hailed as a great success.



Distribution of Purim gift baskets in Or Yehuda

We are proud to share about an exciting Purim activity that took place in the city of Or Yehuda, in collaboration with the municipality. First-grade students throughout the city prepared mishloach manot (gift baskets) for seniors, which were delivered by pairs from BBBS of Israel to the elderly in the city. This activity connected generations and contributed to strengthening the sense of community and mutual responsibility. Participants reported a meaningful experience - the students felt a sense of pride, the pairs enjoyed social mingling, and the seniors expressed great joy at the gesture. The initiative received enthusiastic responses from all sides, and we see it as a wonderful example of the power of collaboration in creating intergenerational connections and nurturing a supportive community.



Activities of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel in 2024

Distribution of Laptops to Orphaned Children and Youth

In 2024, the organization worked to provide significant support to orphaned children by distributing laptops. These laptops were given to the children to enable their access to digital education and to help them cope with the challenges of remote learning that have become part of everyday reality. This contribution not only improved the children's learning capabilities but also strengthened their sense of belonging while maintaining connections with teachers and classmates. We are proud to be part of the effort to equip these children with the tools for success, thus enabling them to tackle the significant challenges they face and invest in their future in the best possible way.



Organizational Emergency Program in Collaboration with Ashbel Company and the Israeli Volunteer Council

During the year, a comprehensive process was conducted to write an organizational emergency plan for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel. This process was led by our team in collaboration with the Israeli Volunteer Council and Ashbel Company. As part of the process, a thorough assessment of the organization was carried out, and an emergency response for its activities was developed. The process also included training and simulation for the management team, during which the plan was presented, discussions on personal and organizational resilience took place, principles of operational continuity were discussed, and a review of team tasks during the transition from routine to emergency, management during emergencies, and returning to routine was conducted. Especially in these times, such a program is critical to ensuring the operational continuity of the organization in times of crisis, maintaining ongoing support for children, volunteers, and families, and strengthening organizational and community resilience.



Activities of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel in 2024

Launch event of the book "From Three Comes One" by Ofra Elroi

In September, a launch event was held for the book "From Three Comes One" by Ofra Elroi. The event was hosted by Efrat Agmon, a specialist occupational psychologist and a member of the Board of Directors, at her home. Ofek Rishon attended the event to share her personal story as a girl who faced bullying and her educational and social activities as the commander of the "Bullying Patrol," a contribution that left a strong impression on the participants. The event was emotional and inspiring, and Ofra's book received enthusiastic recommendations for its unique and profound writing style.



National Peak Event at Yarkon Park

At the end of August, we organized a national summer event at Yarkon Park for our Big Brother\Sister pairs. The gathering included a shared meal where the pairs met other pairs, and a "Race to the Million" competition, in which the pairs competed in various fun sports challenges. The winners of the competition received special prizes, including a tablet, ice skating vouchers, and a couple entry to Fly Box. The event connected the pairs and was an exciting and empowering experience that highlighted the bond that developed between them. Beyond the fun and activity, the event strengthened community ties and emphasized the spirit of sharing and community. Throughout the event, the special connection that formed between them during the activities was evident.



Facing forward

In honor of the New Year, we organized a team meeting where each program coordinator presented their activities from the past year. We analyzed the achievements of the programs and the challenges faced and suggested ideas for improvements. The emphasis was on how we continue to operate to maintain a high standard and achieve continuous improvement. The meeting allowed us to deepen our understanding of how to streamline our work and enhance our impact on the community while upholding values of quality and innovation. It was also an opportunity to strengthen as a team and plan the way forward with new working methods that address the changing needs of our beneficiaries and partners.



Thank You

On this occasion, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, and volunteers of the organization, who enable us to continue supporting hundreds of children, teenagers, and young adults. Your support, kindness, and partnership are the heart of the organization. We would like to thank:

To the dedicated Board of Directors:

Oded Agam(chairman) | Orly Gerti-Sarusi | Nimrod Gevah |Efrat Agmon | Jackie Amsalem |
David Turgeman | Itamar Levi | Osnat Hazan| Safa Rabi |Tali Laufer | Magi Koren |
| Dr. Limor Sahar-Inbar |

the Audit committee:

Oded Ledrer | Estrella Cohen

To the families of the young sisters and brothers: for the trust and cooperation.

To the young sisters and brothers: who teach us anew about love and hope, allowing us not only to give but also to receive.

To our dear and dedicated volunteers: who dedicate their time, abilities, and immense sensitivity to mentoring children, youth, and young adults

Special Thank you to:

Our legal advisors: Adv. Vered Sadot | Adv. Talia Danieli| Adv. Hadas Shahar Kam

Dear Yossi and Sarah Zarfati: Thank you for your significant support of the "Someone to Read With" program and for your willingness to fund the program from its establishment until it became self-sustaining.

Our Photographer: Yishai Ben Yitzchak

Our devoted professional team: Nati Kashi, Noa Alagim, Dr. Avshalom Aderet, Tali Kreyenin, Lotem Lupski, Oved Solomon, Nofar Klein, Naama Katz, Noa Yaron, David Yosef, Elisheva Ouaknine, Daniel Ben Avner, Aviv Liron, Itamar Shalev, Amihai Baharav, Alex Tsur, Odelia Danan, Elit Vered Vaknin, Ariel Kimhi, Koren Maor, Yohai Brokner, Mayan Golan, Shani Bar, Itai, Vigoary, Sigal Kaplan, Efrat Meshulam, Moti deri, Roeh Salem.

to the foundations:

Mr John Gandel AC and Mrs Pauline Gandel AC
are proud Patrons of Big Brothers Big Sisters Israel



Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston
for their swift response and support for the Computers Project

Yad Hanadiv Foundation

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Ten Gav Association

For your significant participation in the project of distributing laptops to orphaned children.

the Government Ministries

The Ministries of Education, Health and Welfare
for your support of the organization's activities



the Municipalities

Tel-Aviv, Giv'atayim, Or Yehuda, Herzelia, Hod-HaSharon, Ashdod, Karmiel and Haifa
for your support of our activities

Thanks to McDonald's

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Joseph and Christina Kasirer Foundation

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The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee





Contact Us

Become partners of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel and help us create change in the lives of children, teenagers, and young adults.

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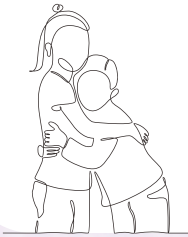
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