

BGC Bigs Today

Celebrating 10 Years

Restructuring

Our agency became known as BGC Bigs on July 1st, 2011 as we formally joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton under one brand. At the time, an organizational restructure of this magnitude was largely uncharted territory, both for the local organizations themselves, and also their national affiliates (Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada). As BGC Bigs assumed its new identity, its board, staff, volunteers, and community stakeholders redoubled their efforts to continue providing services to the children and families in our community. The results have been astounding.

Funding

Merging these two well-respected, long-standing, youth-focused organizations required a thorough and exhaustive study of all potential out-comes. The leadership team met with funders early in the process to gain support for the restructuring. Consistently, funders supported the amalgamation, maintaining, or even increasing funding in some cases. Today, our capacity to serve the children and families in our community has only grown, through the generosity and loyalty of these partnerships. In 2012, we reported approximately \$6 million in support of our programs. In 2020, we reported \$8.1 million. Repeatedly, as the need for our services increases, our funders are always present and willing to support us in any capacity.

Programs & Services

Throughout the merger, programming and service delivery was maintained to the same standard that children, families, volunteers, and community partners have come to experience. The mantra "Better Together" emerged during this time. Staff began to recognize that the two organizations could be better together, and that together might be different than that they had come to know. Staff worked diligently to improve our programs so that services to children and families would be prioritized. United, BGC Bigs is better positioned to reach more children, families, and volunteers through diversification of programming. Regardless of whether a child enters the organization through a referral to mentorship or a club, they can access programs in both areas of service delivery. This has strengthened the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs. Truly, we are better together. In 2011 we served 4,320 kids and with the support of 2,156 volunteers. In 2020, pre-pandemic, we served 4,800 kids with over 2,600 volunteers. As our capacity grows, so does our reach.

Community

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of BGC Bigs, we celebrate each and every person that has helped create safe places and positive relationships for the children and youth in our community. If you have ever volunteered with us, or been a part of our agency in some way, share your story with us! We want to hear from you – because you make all the difference.

Email us at corey.dodge@bgcbigs.ca or share your story on social media using the hashtags #BGCBigStories and #BGCBig10yearstogether.



Boys & Girls Clubs



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Edmonton & Area