Final Grant Report

Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Dorado County
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Submitted By: Brenda Frachiseur, Executive Director

Grant Title: Stop The Cycle

Award Date: July 1, 2014

Grant Amount: $20,000 (split 50/50 with a total award to BBBS of $10,000)

Date Final Report Completed: July 14, 2015
PART I: PROGRAM NARRATIVE

BBBS and The Center developed a partnership in a continued effort to stop the cycle of inter-generational domestic violence. We agreed that early detection and intervention of domestic violence, as well as access to services were critical to the mental and emotional healing of a family in crisis. Our collaboration offered an enhanced network of services and a strong foundation for women, children and families within the entire community.

1. List the goals and objectives of the project/program followed by the progress made toward achieving each goal and objective.

   One of the primary goals for BBBS was to ensure that all staff members, Bigs and the families we serve, were aware of the resources that were available to them in our community. The following strategies were developed:

   a) Develop awareness strategy & educational curriculum for recruitment & training
      1. The Center provided training to all BBBS staff to help identify the children who would be most appropriate for the Second Generation Program. Each staff member is now aware of the resources available and can refer families who may be in need.
      2. The Center provided training for Bigs who mentored children of domestic violence. Each Big is now aware of the impact domestic violence has on a child and they too are aware of the resources that are available.
      3. BBBS has incorporated training on domestic violence into the initial training program and continues to educate Bigs on the appropriate ways to communicate with their Littles who may experience domestic violence. This training has provided Bigs with the knowledge and communication tools necessary for appropriate responses and reactions when dealing with children who have experienced domestic violence.

   b) BBBS will implement the assessment tools designed to detect DV at every enrollment
      1. BBBS has developed new enrollment protocols for the specific purpose of identifying domestic violence in the home (past and present). This change has assisted in the early detection of domestic violence and afforded the opportunity to make referrals to families in need.

   c) Complete implementation protocol & metrics tracking for use by both organizations
      1. Both The Center and BBBS have incorporated the standard of making a referral to the other’s programs upon intake. BBBS has redesigned and standardized the evaluation and assessment tools to incorporate a domestic violence component.

   d) Complete training curriculum/launch recruitment initiative for Bigs specifically qualified to mentor children receiving CVFR services
      1. The Center provided training for all BBBS staff and volunteers mentors. That initial training continues to be part of the BBBS curriculum.

   e) CVFR & BBBS will offer one to one mentors to 100% of the children who are enrolled in services through CVFR
      1. The Center now refers all appropriate children and families to the BBBS program. BBBS has agreed to “fast track” any referral that comes from The Center due to the emotional needs of the child.
2. **What difference did this grant make in your community and for the population you are serving?**

The collaboration between The Center and BBBS has created additional awareness of available resources in our community for the treatment of domestic violence. The generosity of the Women’s Fund afforded the opportunity to implement program changes and trainings that have proven to be very valuable to the families that both organizations serve.

Since the funding of the grant, the following outcomes have been achieved:

a) All staff from The Center and BBBS have been made aware of additional resources to their clients.

b) Approximately 125 Bigs have been educated on the impact of domestic violence and are now equipped to provide appropriate services.

c) Eight BBBS families (1 Hispanic, 2 Black, 5 Caucasian) and 15 children (ages 8-12) have been referred to The Center’s Second Generation Program.

d) One family has taken advantage of the Second Generation Program.

e) Five families plan to participate in the Second Generation Program at next offering.

f) Twelve children have been referred to the BBBS mentoring programs (none have participated at this time).

3. **Did you meet any unexpected challenges during the project/program? If so, how did you handle them?**

a) Surprising to BBBS was the fact that some families didn’t have an awareness of their own need for services. Upon interview/enrollment, they felt that the violence they experienced was in the past and there were no lasting affects on the children, or the children weren’t even aware of the abuse. Some families were hesitant to participate with The Center’s program until it was explained that the children were most probably aware and in need of services based on the behaviors they were displaying.

b) Some families did not want to participate for a variety of reasons. Some felt they could handle the situation themselves, some were ashamed of the situation, and others were simply in denial for the need for services. It is ultimately the choice of the families as to whether or not they take advantage of the services offered, but in those cases the BBBS Case Managers stay in close contact with the families and the Big is trained to be hyper-vigilant on the needs of the child.

c) While only one of the eight families who were referred actually participated in the Second Generation Program, there were several who sought other legal and financial programs that will be useful in their recovery. This will enable those families to take advantage of The Centers’ program in the near future.

d) We also learned that some of the families that were referred to BBBS by The Center were simply overwhelmed by the idea of enrolling their child in another program – even if it was to provide a Big Brother or Big Sister. The Center has developed a protocol that will trigger a follow-up referral to their families at various intervals.

e) Due to the lack of reliable transportation and the work schedules of the families we serve, there were several families who could not participate in the program. It might be a consideration to offer the program at alternate times.

4. **Describe lessons learned. What would you do differently?**

The lessons we learned are two-fold:
a) stopping Second Generational violence in the home is more than a one-year program. More awareness is necessary, there must be a lack of tolerance and acceptance, and the transition will be on-going.
b) that even though the resources are available, not everyone will take advantage of them. Putting an end to violence in the home will be a slow process.

5. Has this grant helped a) attract new funds? Or b) increase volunteer involvement? If so, how?
   While no additional funding has been identified due to this grant, we believe that the additional awareness and community visibility could potentially bring additional funding.

6. Please provide at least one success story from the project/program that was a direct result of the WFED’s funding.
   The story I would like to share is one that shows promise and the power of mentorship. One of the families that were referred to The Center chose not to participate, even though a history of domestic violence was well documented. The Little, Jason age 11, was home when a violent confrontation between his mother and father broke out. The police were called and both parents were arrested. Thankfully, the Big Brother was called and took temporary custody of Jason. The Big Brother had participated in the training and was very well aware of the impact this would have on Jason. He was able to allow Jason to share his feelings and knew the appropriate responses for this type of situation. This Big Brother will continue to be a positive role model in Jason’s life and with his influence; Jason will know this behavior is unacceptable. It is our hope that this family will take advantage of the program offered by The Center. Our trained BBBS staff will continue the referral process.

PART II: PROGRAM BUDGET

1. Please provide a copy of your approved budget, a list of actual expenditures of the Women’s Fund El Dorado grant funds during the project/program, and an explanation of any differences.
   Please see attached Budget Report.

2. How will this project/program be sustained in the future?
   Most of the expenses for this project were “up-front” costs for printing and training materials for BBBS staff and Bigs. BBBS will continue a variety of fundraising efforts and will be able to sustain the project going forward.