



## **CONTACT**

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### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri Awarded Gift by Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott**

**ST. LOUIS – May 25, 2022** – Today, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri announces its receipt of a donation of \$6 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. This one-time, unrestricted gift is equivalent to the agency’s annual operating budget of \$6.2 million. Scott’s transformative donation will support the mentoring agency’s investment in and commitment to partnering with young people in their pursuit of a meaningful, independent, and stable life.

Becky Hatter, CEO and President of BBBSEMO, states, “We are excited, honored and humbled by this generous gift. For decades our organization, represented by the Board of Directors, staff, parents, youth, volunteers, donors, and partners has been working to make a measurable impact in the lives of children and families. Our commitments to youth and families will only expand and intensify. We are eager to come together to imagine an even brighter future for all.”

This generous gift comes at a time when the impact of mentorship for young people and the building of relationships are critical to society. The agency will take time to assess the investment and how to best leverage the opportunities it brings. Each non-profit was selected through a rigorous process and has a strong track record of serving under-supported needs. BBBSEMO intends to honor this process as we determine the wise use of these funds. We will be inclusive of the Board, agency staff and those we serve (e.g. parents, youth, volunteers, partners) in making final decisions about the use of funds.

#### **About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri (BBBSEMO)**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri has served youth and community since 1914. Through BBBSEMO’s 1,100 active matches in its 1:1 mentoring program and signature one-to-many efforts, youth outcomes are improved. BBBSEMO’s initiatives encompass supports for education and workforce development; these include ABCToday (in 17 schools, K-12), Big Futures (young people ages 18-25), and First Job (ages 15-17). The agency supports children and families in St. Louis City and County; St. Charles and Jefferson Counties; and Cape Girardeau and Scott Counties. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri is a proud member of the United Way. For more information, contact Kristy Fairbanks (email - [kfairbanks@bbbsemo.org](mailto:kfairbanks@bbbsemo.org), phone - (706) 974-3673) or visit [www.bbbsemo.org](http://www.bbbsemo.org).