

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri Names Kristen Slaughter as President & CEO

**ST. LOUIS – March 8, 2023** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri’s Board of Directors selected Kristen Slaughter, BBBSEMO’s Chief Operating Officer as its President & CEO. Slaughter has acted as Interim CEO since Becky James-Hatter’s retirement in December 2022.

“We are excited to continue the great work of the agency and believe that Kristen is the right leader,” said Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Board Chair, BBBSEMO. “She has been a dedicated member of the leadership team for over 20 years and brings a wealth of expertise and passion to the space. I’m excited about our next steps and look forward to supporting Kristen in her new role.”



For 21 years, Slaughter has grown with BBBSEMO and has experience in every facet of the agency. Her career here began as the Director of Business Development. She was then promoted to the Director of School-based Programs, where she grew this program from its infancy of approximately 75 mentoring relationships to a program with the capacity to serve hundreds of children. In 2005, she was again promoted to the Senior Vice President of Accountability, then to Chief Operating Officer in 2015. Slaughter oversaw a multi-disciplinary team that handles all Finance and Administration of a \$6 million budget, IT, Facilities, Human Resources, Data and Performance, Policy Compliance and Grant proposals of over \$3 million annually. Slaughter’s hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence contributed to the agency’s #1 Quality Award from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for the past 10 years.

Becky James-Hatter, who held the position of BBBSEMO’s President & CEO for 28 years said, “This has been a long time in the making. Kristen has been preparing herself for this role for almost 22 years. She’s stayed the course and is bringing the best to our youth, families, schools, staff and partners.”

Slaughter’s dedication is also evident in her time spent as a Big Sister. For 20 years she has maintained a strong relationship with her Little Sister Kiara. They are still well connected and each February, they celebrate their birthdays together. Slaughter commits time to serve with her sorority Gamma Phi Beta and was the Chair for their National Convention this past summer in St. Louis. She has a spirit of giving and has been active with various other volunteer roles for the past 25 years.

“I want to thank Board members who encouraged me to step up. I want to thank staff who gave me confidence to step up. Timing matters. Over the last couple of months, I’ve seen what we’ve been able to do. I’ve learned and listened. I am passionate about this team, Board, and our Littles, families, Bigs and partners,” said Slaughter. “With our solid foundation, we are prepared to build programs and services that expand opportunities, today and in the future, for youth.”

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri located at 501 N. Grand Blvd in St. Louis, has served youth and community since 1914. Through BBBSEMO’s 750 active matches in its one-to-one 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 its newest initiatives in Group Mentoring for middle schoolers. 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.

### **CONTACT:**

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