

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2018

**Big Brothers Big Sisters is Honored with  
National Quality Award for Third Consecutive Year**

**Traverse City, MI | March 15, 2018** – We are proud to announce that the Big Brothers Big Sisters Nationwide Leadership Council recognized our local Bigs office with the National Quality Award. This award is bestowed to individual agencies nationwide for meeting or exceeding goals related to program quality, number of children served and financial stability.

“I am so proud of our Board and staff for making quality programming a priority for our community’s youth,” said Cecilia Chesney, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan. “Receiving this Quality Award for the third year in a row is a great testament to the commitment and passion of our entire team.”

In the past year, Bigs served nearly 400 children in a five-county region by connecting them with supervised, trained and supportive adult mentors. Bigs is committed and will continue to focus on fundraising efforts to increase its case management staff to reach its goal to serve an additional 200 children over the next three years.

“We are thrilled about this accomplishment,” said Executive Director, Cecilia Chesney. Our team’s ongoing efforts mean more impactful mentoring relationships and brighter futures for youth in northwestern Michigan.”

Out of nearly 300 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies, Bigs is one of 28 that will be recognized as Quality Award Winners at the 2018 Big Brothers Big Sisters National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri on June 26.

**For More Information:**

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**About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan:**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan is a local nonprofit that is supported by donors and volunteers. It is an organization *that provides Opportunity and Hope for Children to Succeed*. These matches have a proven and measurable positive impact on at-risk youth, including improved self-confidence, better relationships with peers, and increased ability to trust adults to help with their problems. It is part of the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the US, but it is self-sustaining and must raise its own funds. Currently, the agency has approximately 132 at-risk children on the waitlist, and needs funding to match them with volunteers. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan, please visit [bigsupnorth.com](http://bigsupnorth.com).