



## Healthy, Thriving Children and Youth

### Changing lives through mentorship: A Little Brother's story

Thanks to Big Brothers of North Simcoe, a United Way of Greater Simcoe County funded agency, Jacob has been inspired to “give back” to his community by becoming a Big Brother volunteer.

Jacob is 19 years old and was a Little Brother for 4 years. Jacob was the youngest of three children living in a single-parent family in Springwater Township. For two years as a child, Jacob's father did not exercise his visitation rights, which prompted an inquiry for mentoring services.

Through funding received from United Way of Greater Simcoe County, Jacob and other boys like him were placed in Big Bunch, a program for Littles awaiting a one-to-one Big Brother match. Big Bunch gave Jacob the opportunity to enjoy meaningful recreational, educational, and cultural experiences in a small group setting where he received regular personal attention from caring Big Bunch leaders.

Big Bunch attracts volunteers who cannot commit to a one-to-one match, but who very much want to make a difference in a child's life. Jacob is now participating in the Big Bunch program as a junior volunteer. Although Jacob did not have a one-to-one match himself, he very much benefited from the Big Bunch group program and wanted to continue to participate in a helping capacity.



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