



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana Named Nonprofit Agency of the Year
Organization recognized by Fusion Five for leadership, community engagement, and unwavering commitment to mentoring youth in Southwest Louisiana

Lake Charles, LA – December 1, 2023 – [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana](#), the region’s largest donor and volunteer supported 1-to-1 mentoring network, has been named **Nonprofit Agency of the Year** by the [Fusion Five](#) organization. Fusion Five is a young professional organization that works to cultivate new leaders in Southwest Louisiana and create a better place to live and work.

“It is an honor to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Big Brothers Big Sisters of SWLA,” said 2023 Fusion Five Chair Morgan Algero. She adds, “Their unwavering commitment to youth in Southwest Louisiana embodies the spirit of leadership and community engagement that Fusion Five champions, making them a shining example for all leaders. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to witnessing their continued growth.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana CEO [Erin Davison, MBA](#) accepted the award on behalf of the organization at Fusion Five’s 3rd Annual Banquet held November 30 at The Brick House in Lake Charles.

“We’re so thankful to Fusion Five for recognizing our team’s heartfelt work and achievements as we serve more than 300 youth in six parishes,” said Erin Davison. She adds, “We’ve overcome great challenges since 2020 but have remained laser focused on the mentoring programs that achieve proven positive outcomes for young people including better grades, higher graduation rates, and an increased belief that they can say no to drugs, violence, and skipping school.”

In choosing BBBS of SWLA for the award, Fusion Five noted many of the agency’s tremendous achievements during a time of great upheaval that included the pandemic, two hurricanes, an ice storm, flooding, and a prolonged insurance battle to repair the nonprofit’s headquarters. Some of these successes include:

- Expanding youth mentoring programs in Beauregard and Vernon Parish plus opening a satellite office in DeRidder.
- The Bigs with Badges program in partnership with the DeRidder Police Department and Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office.
- Launching the [Big Defender Fund](#), an endowment that creates long-term investment opportunities in support of youth mentoring programs.
- Recognized as a Five Star Affiliate by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.
- Named 2022 Board of the Year for Small/Mid Affiliates by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.
- Placing youth mentoring programs at JRTC/Fort Johnson in Vernon Parish.
- And more!

BBBS of SWLA facilitates life-changing mentoring relationships for youth ages 6 to 18 in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis and Vernon parishes. Their programs focus on empowering marginalized youth and promoting justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

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About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana

As the region's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana](#) (BBBS SWLA) facilitates meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers and children ages 6-18 in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis, and Vernon parishes. Since 1979, the agency has been defending the potential of marginalized youth by creating and growing innovative mentoring programs with a focus on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI).

BBBS of SWLA believes that one-to-one mentoring relationships will ignite the power and promise of youth so they can achieve their full potential.

For more information visit www.bbbsswla.org.

About Fusion Five

Fusion Five is a Young Professional Organization (YPO) that is making a positive impact on SWLA by exchanging ideas, developing its members, leading the community, and creating a better place to live and work. Fusion Five cultivates a positive impact on Southwest Louisiana by connecting and engaging young professionals in regional opportunities for growth and development. Across America, YPOs are running entrepreneurial projects, increasing awareness, and providing young professionals a voice in their community. For more information about Fusion Five please visit www.fusionfive.org.

Media Contact

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