

- **Name**

Liz Wismer-Van Meer

- **Enter the date of the meeting you wish to present to council**

Thursday September 5, 1:30 pm

- **Which is your preference for attending the meeting.**

In Person

- **Will there be anyone other than yourself addressing Council?**

Yes

- **Which is their preference for attending the meeting.**

In Person

- **Please provide the names of everyone who will be addressing Council.**

A volunteer mentor or former mentee - confirming the details at this time

- **Use the space below to clearly outline your purpose for presenting to council. Provide a brief outline of your subject matter including your suggested outcome.**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County would like to attend the council meeting on September 5th to share information about our agency and our current needs in the Woodstock area, raise awareness and celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month in September.

Woodstock has the highest number of young people on our waitlist, which at the time of this submission is over 145 mentees waiting for a mentor. As of July 2024, the number of young people in Woodstock on the waitlist was 70, more than double of any other municipality in Oxford County.

Our Executive Director, Kristen Ralph, will present and a volunteer mentor or former mentee will join her to share their experience with BBBSOC.

We kindly request 10 minutes for our presentation, if possible.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to share our presentation with the Woodstock City Council and residents.

- **Will you be providing any additional written information in addition to your summary above? If YES please note it must be provided to the Clerks**

department no later than 2:00pm on the Tuesday prior to the meeting

No

- **Will you be providing any additional electronic information in addition to documents you will be attaching? If YES please note it must be provided to the Clerks department no later than 2:00pm on the Tuesday prior to the meeting**

Yes

- **Have you appeared before council to discuss the same topic in the past?**

No

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH



Each September, we proudly celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month across Canada, recognizing **Big Brothers Big Sisters Day on September 18th.**

For over a century, our mentorship programs have inspired thousands of Canadians to help youth realize their potential.



VISION

All young people realize their full potential.

MISSION

Enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people

WHO WE ARE:

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been providing **mentoring services in Oxford County for 55 years**, providing mentoring relationships to thousands of young people in that time!

WHO WE ARE NOT:

Our name, unfortunately, does a disservice to our organization! Our name, Big Brothers Big Sisters is gendered, gives the sense of “fluffy, feel-good,” and the impression of a “nice to have,” and not a “need to have!”



WHAT WE REALLY ARE:



- ❖ Social Service agency with professional caseworkers supporting programs that offer measurable outcomes
- ❖ Strive to be a safer space and offer a sense of belonging to all
- ❖ No cost for families regardless of the program
- ❖ Both prevention and intervention for young people and their families
- ❖ Highly requested and often referred to by other social service organizations
- ❖ Subject to regular accreditation and quality assurance through our national standards
- ❖ Often considered the gold standard for screening and training new volunteer mentors
- ❖ Data trackers to support young people and communities the way they need to be supported
- ❖ Offer unique mentoring relationships and mentor training based on the needs of each child

Over 630 Young People in Oxford County were Mentored in 2023!



Through one-to-one and group mentoring, community and school-based.



Last year, BBBSOC saw an over **200% increase** in applications for service from the previous year

In the first quarter of 2024, we had already received 100 applications.

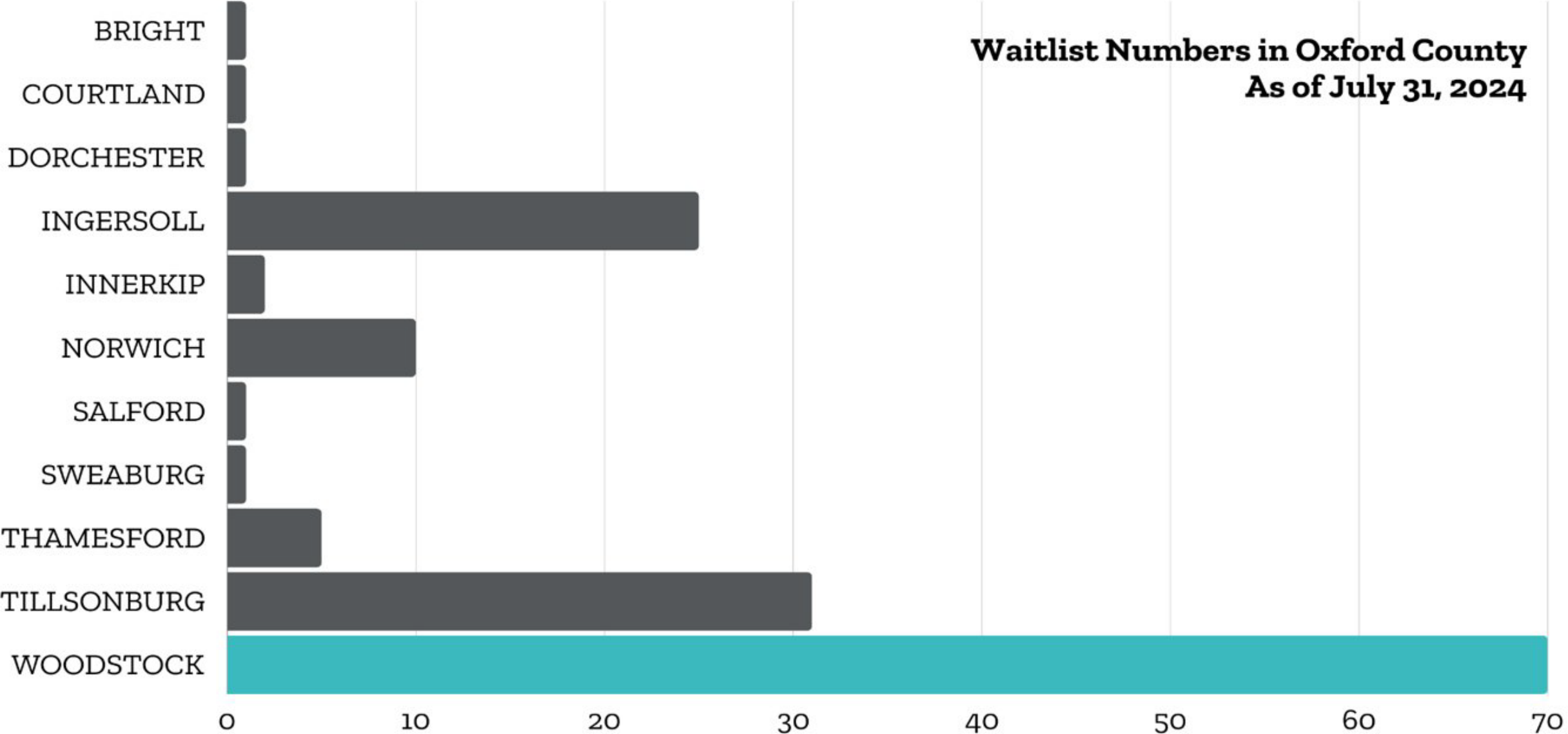
Pandemic-induced negative impacts on:

Mental Health

Education

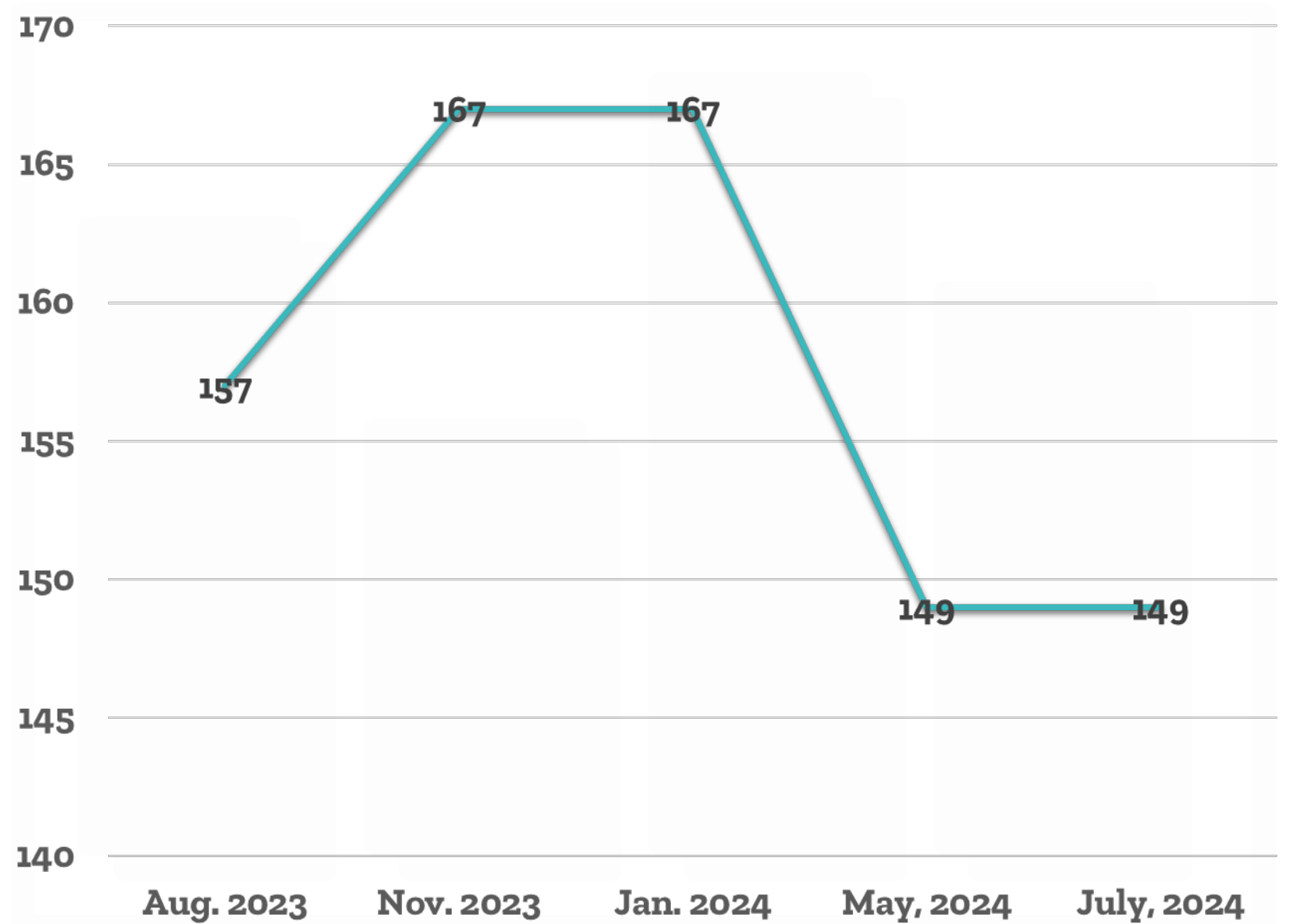
Social Competencies

Waitlist Numbers in Oxford County As of July 31, 2024

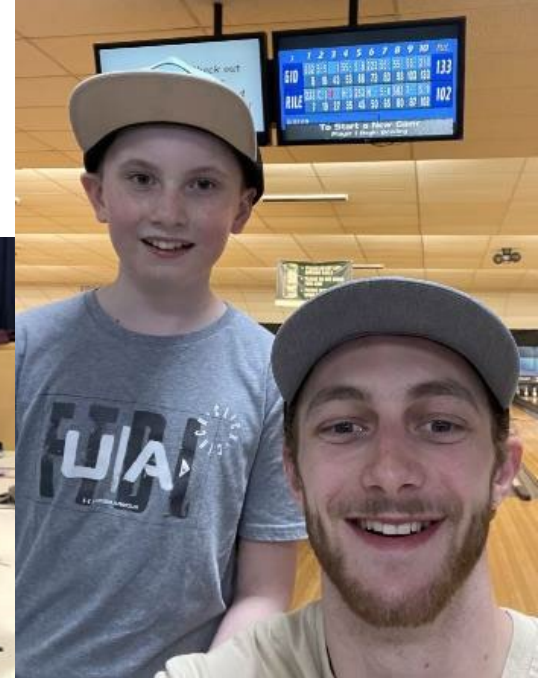


We saw our waitlist numbers decrease through the first quarter of 2024.

Unfortunately, this has slowed down and the numbers have remained unchanged over three months.



HOW WE DO, WHAT WE DO!



STRONG & PASSIONATE TEAM

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

What you may not know is, BBBSOC does **NOT** receive ongoing government funding - any funding we receive from government entities involves an application for a grant(s).



Our funding comes from:

- United Way Oxford
- Fundraising Events
- Sponsors
- Donors
- Grants

WHAT'S OUR BIGGEST NEEDS?

MENTORS & FUNDING!



WHAT CAN WOODSTOCK DO?

HELP BBBS SAY YES!

You can support BBBSOC by:

- Highlighting what we're doing in your community,
- Encourage folks to consider mentoring,
- Attend our events,
- Share our social media posts and content.



Testimonials From A Caregiver:

“My son has experienced a lot of mistrust from male figures in his life. Trust isn’t something that comes easy for him. His mentor has shown patience and built trust with my son. (My son) looks forward to every time (his mentor) comes and does whatever he can to prevent (his mentor) from leaving.”



Testimonial From A Mentee:

“He's a really kind and caring person who really listens to people. He's been able to help me find some logic when my anxiety gets too much for me.”

Testimonials From A Mentor:

“I can already see a lifelong friendship being built.”





BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES...

TOGETHER!





QUESTIONS?

Kristen Ralph

(She/Her)

Executive Director

Kristen.Ralph@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca