

The Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls  
Mayor Shawn Pankow and Council  
77 Beckwith St. N.  
Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2B8

March 6, 2023

Dear Mayor Pankow and Council members,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your recent commitment to continue partnering with us by providing funding of \$30,000.00 to support our WAK youth program. We are committed to providing support to the youth of our county through our mentoring focused programming.

In reviewing our history of youth services in preparation for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Lanark County, we discovered these notes and thought this might be of interest.

- The United Way sponsored a series of youth forums in 2015/16 (Smiths Falls and Almonte) to hear from local youth, community organizations, schools and churches about what was needed to serve youth in each community. Committees were formed to do follow up work but soon fizzled out.
- BBBS worked through the application process to bring Boys and Girls Club to Smiths Falls in 2016/17. The new BGCC CEO at the time determined he was not interested in co-branding.
- The Smiths Falls Club for Youth closed in summer of 2017. The Mayor of the Town of Smiths Falls called BBBS to ask for help in serving youth left without service.
- BBBS called YAK and other youth organizations to learn about models for youth programs. YAK worked closely with BBBS to develop programming. Mentoring was built in as a key component.
- The 3 partners went to County Council to ask for funding to get a youth after school program started. The County redirected \$10k from SFDCY to BBBS to make this happen.
- The Town of Smiths Falls donated space at the Youth Arena. BBBS took administrative lead





**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**  
OF LANARK COUNTY

- Other partners were invited to offer programming and work as partners – YAK, Community Justice, RNJ, and The Table were first to step forward. Many others followed.
- Enough money was sourced to hire program staff. The WAK (We Are Kids) program launched October 1, 2017

It has been an incredible journey to secure this program for Smiths Falls youth, and we are now welcoming an average of 25 youth each night. We are so appreciative of your generosity and thank you for believing in and valuing the work that we do. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Angie Beaupre  
Fund Development Manager

