



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BBBS Contact: Bella Costa  
Phone: 850.433.5437  
E-mail: [bcosta@bbbsnwfl.org](mailto:bcosta@bbbsnwfl.org)

### **The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart Becomes the Newest Partner of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida School to Work Program**

Pensacola, Fla. - On Wednesday, January 22, 2020 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida (BBBSNWFL) spent the day at Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart with 20 Littles from Pensacola High School for their first day of School to Work. BBBSNWFL and Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart are excited to see these matches grow and watch the students find their purpose to motivate their academic performance and graduate.

The School to Work program is a two-year program for high school students that starts when they are juniors and continues through their senior year up until their graduation day. The students enrolled in the School to Work program are matched with a volunteer mentor employee, also known as a "Big." The program provides a first-hand look at the business world and real-life work experience for high-school students. The students are transported from school to the work site and back. For 4 hours, once a month the students meet with their mentors where they get an insight into career path goal-setting, soft skill development, and motivation to graduate with the added support of a 1-to-1 friendship.

"Without someone to consistently help in stressing the importance of education and sharing the do's and don'ts of this critical transition from high school to the next steps in life, our Littles often get a bit lost." Said Paula Shell, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida. "The School to Work project aligns perfectly with our community's emphasis on increased high school graduation rates, post-secondary completion rates, and overall employment & prosperity."

"Joining the School to Work program was something we immediately knew we wanted to get involved in." Said Cat Outzen, Director of Community Relations & Children's Programs of The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart. "We care for children every day, so being able to take the next step with them and walk them through these critical transition points that will affect their future is overwhelming and we are so excited to watch each and every one of them grow and succeed."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida has been the area's leader in one-to-one mentoring for 30 years by serving children ages 5-18. Our mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida served 646 children in Northwest Florida. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida, please visit [bbbsnwfl.org](http://bbbsnwfl.org).

The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart is Northwest Florida's only hospital solely dedicated to the care of sick and injured babies and children. The Children's Hospital provides quality, compassionate care to children, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. We offer a wide range of services to meet all of a child's medical needs, from the area's only Level III neonatal intensive care unit to pediatric intensive care, cancer care, rehabilitation and a medical staff of more than 120 board-certified

doctors, caring for kids across 30 pediatric specialties. Please visit, [studerfamilychildrenshospital.com](http://studerfamilychildrenshospital.com).

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida  
1320 Creighton Road  
Pensacola, Fl. 32504  
850-433-5437  
[bbbs@bbbsnwfl.org](mailto:bbbs@bbbsnwfl.org)

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