Our mission is to ignite the power and promise of all youth, so it is excruciating to continue to bear witness to acts of systemic racism that limits that promise. Youth today are growing up in a country that is ripped apart by racial conflicts, divisive leadership, and for many youth of color - the feeling that they are not physically safe out in the community. At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County, our core services involve bringing people together, valuing each person, and recognizing differences as assets that make each of us unique and valuable.

We live in a country that has created and perpetuated systemic barriers for people of color. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County strives to remove barriers for all young people by connecting them to a mentor- a caring adult who will stand by their side. Our vision is for all youth to achieve their potential. We are defenders of potential which requires us to call out systemic wrongs. Our agency is committed to promoting connection and the value and dignity of every single person. We will continue to work alongside community partners to build a healthier and more equitable community.

Now more than ever, it is important for us to work to bring about peaceful, systemic change, and to remember that we are Bigger Together!

Aimee S. Mangan
Executive Director