

FEBRUARY 2019

A MESSAGE FROM BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR ANTHONY URSINO

Dear Friends,

As winter begins to wind down and an exciting 2019 season is upon us, we must keep our eyes open in all directions seeking inspiration. I personally find myself most inspired by my little brother Tajae, his grandma Pamela, and all the other Bigs who have dedicated their precious time to change lives and be role models. I am constantly impressed and amazed by the incredible people I meet throughout the organization and the experiences it has afforded me. It is a tremendous ray of hope in a world where the news more often than not is a greedy attention grab.

With all of that inspiration, I urge you to keep two people in mind this month. One is the Big Brother or Big Sister who may be new to the program or have a new Little and is struggling to make a strong connection in the early phase of the relationship. The second is your friend or relative who by all accounts should be a Big but has not taken the leap yet or maybe does not know about the program.

A courageous Big recently reached out to me explaining his challenge with gaining a strong connection to his Little and he was about 5 months into his match. I would like to share with everyone what I felt at that moment. First, you are not alone if you are in this situation. Second, there is an endless amount of help and advice available to you. Finally, these can sometimes become the strongest relationships, and it will turn around for the better. Patience is key!

Now is the time. Now is the time to search your soul if you are not a Big or to examine the conscience of your friends and family if you are already a Big. You definitely know someone who would be an amazing role model or even just a shoulder to lean on through life's challenges. When you bring up the topic of being a Big to that person you've been thinking about, remember you are not asking them to do something but rather gifting them an incredible opportunity with a friendly push.

Thank YOU for all that YOU do and the amazing person you are. I am certain you are already making a positive difference in the lives around you. May you have a wonderful 2019!

Sincerely,

Anthony Ursino

Big Brother of the Year

BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR ANTHONY URSINO & LITTLE BROTHER TAJAE

Anthony and Tajae were matched in March of 2015 while Tajae was in 7th grade. Anthony has supported Tajae through his middle school graduation, beginning high school, and training for both basketball and football teams. Anthony's positive outlook and loyal support for Tajae has been the foundation of their friendship. Matched for 4 years, Tajae is now a junior in high school and credits Anthony for teaching him how to think differently about his life. They enjoy sharing a meal, playing basketball, and going to the park - but truly Anthony and Tajae are just

happy to be together no matter what activity they choose.



BIG RECOGNITION EVENT

Bigs, supporters, staff, and board members attended our annual recognition event held at Tommy's Tavern + Tap in Sea Bright in celebration of National Mentoring Month. Executive Director William Salcedo formally announced the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Year: Community Based Big Brother Anthony Ursino, Community Based Big Sister Sandra Casci, Workplace Mentor Janet Leppo, and School Based Big Victoria Murray for their outstanding commitment to their Littles. A BIG thank you to all who came to celebrate, and to Tommy's for hosting this great event!



MATCHES LEARN CPR

Bigs and Littles spent a recent Saturday morning with healthcare professionals learning how to react during emergency situations and perform CPR. Thank you to our partners at Hackensack Meridian Health for this important workshop that can help save lives!



BIGS AND LITTLES LEARN IMPORTANT LIFESAVING SKILLS

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Mission Maker
THE MORRIS & CLARA WESHNAK
Family Foundation



Hackensack Meridian Health

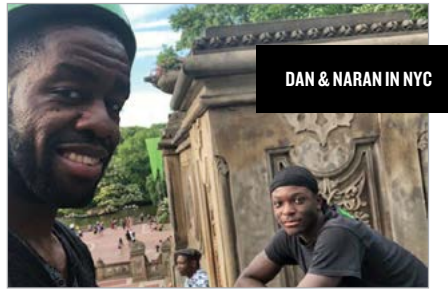
Mentor Makers

Provident BANK
Commitment you can count on.™



MATCH HIGHLIGHT - Big Brother Dan & Little Brother Naran

When Dan met Naran, he was an athletic, talkative, and joke-loving 13-year-old. He seemed a perfect match for Dan who is a scientist by profession and also athletic, a conversationalist, and someone who loves a good laugh. Not much has changed about Naran or Dan's personalities or interests over the four years since they met. Dan has had the chance to see Naran perform on the football field and track, and they have gone bowling, to the gym, to a Jets game, and a haunted house. The pair visited NYC and Great Adventure and have enjoyed an occasional action movie. Dan said what has impressed him most about Naran this year is his maturity. Naran sought a new high school that would better support his academic and athletic future and was accepted into a prestigious private school



where he's having a very successful sophomore year. When asked what makes Dan a good Big Brother, Naran responded, "I can tell him anything and he gives me good advice." When asked what the nicest thing Dan has done for him was, Naran said, "He was the first person to take me into the city" which is his best memory in their friendship so far!

LOOK WHO HAS A BIG!

Last year, second grader John was featured in our newsletter as he waited for a Big Brother of his own. John was an active boy just looking forward to the chance to spend time with a Big Brother who likes to play sports and is willing to go to a skate park with him. We are happy to report that John was successfully matched with his Big Brother Scott almost 10 months ago! John says he's enjoyed his time with Scott and is always proud to tell his Case Manager when he beats his Big Brother at basketball or bowling. We recently asked John what he



likes most about spending time with Scott and he replied "all the stories" that Scott has told him and all that he's learned from them.

FESTIVAL BENEFITED BBBSMMC

The Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick hosted their third annual Craft Beer & Spirit Festival to benefit the BBBSMMC mentoring programs.

Over 600 people attended, and guests sampled dozens of beers and spirits and enjoyed a variety of food offerings. It was a great night!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR FEBRUARY MATCHES

- Big Sister Lindsey & Little Sister Majiah 7 Years
- Big Sister Sandra & Little Sister Caitlin 6 Years
- Big Brother Doug & Little Brother Xavier 5 Years
- Big Brother Dan & Little Brother Naran 4 Years
- Big Sister Lauren & Little Sister Kylie 3 Years
- Big Sister Heather & Little Sister Kelis 3 Years
- Big Sister Stephanie & Little Sister Rosie 2 Years
- Big Sister Sofia & Little Brother Alejandro 2 Years
- Big Brother Matt & Little Brother Dai'Ryus 1 Year
- Big Brother Brian & Little Brother Jihad 1 Year
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Mia 1 Year

BE A BIG.

YOUR COMMITMENT:

- 2-3 hours with your Little twice a month for at least one year

YOUR IMPACT:

- Defending and igniting a local child's potential

bbbsmmc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2019

BOWL

For Kids' Sake

It's not about bowling, it's about helping kids!

Run or walk with us in Asbury Park, NJ

ASBURY PARK TUTU 2.2

Saturday April 27, 2019 9:30 a.m.

Join us at Cross & Orange in Asbury Park, NJ

THE GAME CHANGER

Food ♦ Drinks ♦ Casino Games

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.