



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

Each year, our agency has over 200 teen volunteers who spend their time mentoring younger students through seven School Based Mentoring Programs. We are incredibly proud of and grateful for these young leaders who are currently attending Asbury Park High School, Academy of Allied Health & Science, Biotechnology High School, Communications High School, Perth Amboy High School, Spotswood High School, and Woodbridge High School.

These community minded high schoolers meet with their Little Brother or Little Sister from a local elementary or middle school in a group mentoring setting two times a month after school or during lunch time. These mentors are trained by BBBSMMC staff and there to offer guidance and friendship to the younger students as they navigate through the pressures and excitement of growing up. Seeing the enjoyment on the children's faces when they greet their older friends is what motivates these mentors and makes them realize the importance of their role.

As an added benefit, these programs allow the high schoolers to foster their leadership skills and develop their interest in community service. Studies have shown that when kids volunteer, it increases the likelihood of a lifelong journey of volunteerism, while building self-confidence and a greater sense of community.

Thank you to all of our young mentors... you are truly making a difference in this world which creates an incredible sense of hope for the future. We look forward to cheering each and every one of you on as you continue your journey.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Big Brother Nick and Little Brother Messiah recently attended a memorable New Jersey Devils game at Prudential Center. Nick said, "Messiah had a great time at his first hockey game, and I think we've made him into a Devils fan for life!" Inspire potential in a local child and Learn more about becoming a Big today!

Visit us at bbbsmmc.org/be-a-big



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR APRIL MATCHES

- Big Brother Pete & Little Brother Daniel **9 Years**
- Big Brother Chuck & Little Brother Kweli **5 Years**
- Big Sister Cindy & Little Sister Natalie **4 Years**
- Big Brother Raymond & Little Brother Saveyon **3 Years**
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Sharayah **2 Years**
- Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Dakota **1 Year**
- Big Sister Lesley & Little Sister Skyi **1 Year**
- Big Brother Richard & Little Brother Michael **1 Year**
- Big Brother Scott & Little Brother John **1 Year**

BE A BIG.

YOUR COMMITMENT:

- 4-6 hours a month with your Little for at least one year

YOUR IMPACT:

- Defending and igniting a local child's potential

bbbsmmc.org

VICTORIA MURRAY | School Based Program Big of the Year

Victoria has participated as a High School Big in our School Based Mentoring Program in Milltown since 2016. She has been matched with her Little Sister Kiersten since sophomore year in high school. She is now a senior and Kiersten is an 8th grader. Their friendship has grown stronger over the past three years. Victoria was chosen for this honor because of her dedication to the BBBS mission and her consistency and compassion toward Kiersten. She always comes to the program with a positive and excited attitude, and it's a joy to see Victoria and Kiersten greet each other with a big smile and hug at each program session. Victoria has been a great role model for Kiersten while she navigated the middle school

years. Kiersten expressed the happiness she feels that she and Victoria are now so close, and she can talk to her about anything. Kiersten even said Victoria is the reason that she will become a Big Sister when she enters high school next year!



SCHOOL BASED PROGRAM BIG OF THE YEAR
VICTORIA AND HER LITTLE SISTER KIERSTEN

LGBTQ+ TRAINING

Genna, Brendan, and Andrea from our team recently attended a joint training and forum on working with and supporting LGBTQ+ youth hosted by our sister agency, Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region in Philadelphia. They gained valuable knowledge on LGBTQ+ terms and frameworks including a child safety approach to supporting LGBTQ+ youth.



BBBSMMC STAFF
MEMBERS ATTENDING
A LGBTQ+ TRAINING

They also took part in an open discussion centered on questions and scenarios specific to BBBS agencies which will allow our staff to understand how to provide safe and impactful mentoring relationships to all youth, inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



KELLY-ANN AS A CHESHIRE CAT

This month, we celebrate 8th grade student Kelly-Ann for being accepted into Red Bank Regional High School's (RBRHS) Visual and Performing Arts Academy with a major in Drama. This is one of the five Career and Technical Education Programs offered by RBRHS to out-of-district students. Kelly-Ann had to complete an application, submit an essay, and go through an interview process before receiving her acceptance. She was involved in many of Belmar Elementary School's plays and productions throughout her years there, which her Big Sister Kathleen enjoyed attending to support her. Kelly-Ann always had a passion for drama and acting and is very excited to continue this passion throughout high school.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at Cross & Orange
in Asbury Park, NJ

THE GAME
CHANGER
Food ♦ Drinks ♦ Casino Games

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

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Mission Maker
THE MORRIS & CLARA WESHNAK
Family Foundation



Hackensack
Meridian Health

Mentor Makers

