



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

October is the busiest and most exciting time of year for all of us at BBBSMMC! We have 16 Workplace, College, and School Based Mentoring Programs that kick off this month, including three new ones.

We are thrilled to offer a second program in partnership with Monmouth University that supports students from Neptune High School. Two new School Based Programs have High School Bigs from New Brunswick High School mentoring kids from Livingston Elementary School and Colonia High School mentoring Littles from Colonia Middle School.

These programs have proven to be a much-needed lifeline for kids who are trying to navigate elementary and middle school years. And often life-changing for high school students as they work to stay in school and figure out their future. Kiersten is a new Big in one of our School Based Programs, and you can read about her in this month's Youth Spotlight. Her path is one of the countless stories we witness every day that demonstrate the impact of our programs.

Our Development Staff also worked very hard preparing for and executing our Annual Gala on Friday, October 25. The gala is our agency's most significant event of the year, and we are grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, and attendees for your support.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR OCTOBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Tara & Little Sister Patience **4 Years**
- Big Sister Crystal & Little Sister Isabella **4 Years**
- Big Brother Joe & Little Brother Kyjhaun **4 Years**
- Big Brother Denis & Little Brother Anthony **3 Years**
- Big Sister Diane & Little Sister Alexa **3 Years**
- Big Brother Monty & Little Brother Mathew **1 Year**
- Big Sister Andrea & Little Sister Shayla **1 Year**
- Big Sister Nancy & Little Sister Naveah **1 Year**
- Big Sister Kristen & Little Sister Ja'Nyah **1 Year**

THAT'S A WRAP ON THE BIG PICTURE GALA



Accepting a Corporate Honoree proclamation is Dunkin' Franchisee Bill Bori with Mackenzie Bori, Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso, BBBSMMC Board President Barry Weshnak, & Carol Weshnak.

BBBSMMC held its 21st Annual Gala on Friday, October 25 at The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel. Thank you to The Big Picture Gala's Title Sponsor and Corporate Honoree, Dunkin', Individual Honoree Christopher Mariani, Proprietor of Buona Sera, and all who attended and supported.

Bigs and Littles greeted guests and gave "Oscars" to generous donors during the exciting evening. Our Annual Gala is BBBSMMC's signature event and the most important for raising awareness about the need for mentors and funds to sustain and expand our programs.



Accepting an Individual Honoree proclamation is Buona Sera Proprietor Christopher Mariani with Danielle DeDonno, Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso, BBBSMMC Board President Barry Weshnak, & Carol Weshnak.

THE BIG WAIT

Trevor is 11-years-old and in the 6th grade. He enjoys spending time with his friends and likes to run for his school's cross country team. He also likes to watch cooking videos on YouTube for culinary ideas. He would love a Big Brother who is kind and someone he can turn to for advice.

Find out how to BECOME A BIG at www.bbbsmmc.org

SAVE THE DATE
#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019

SECOND COLLEGE MENTORING PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



MENTORS AND MENTEES FROM OUR EMPOWERING YOUNG BLACK MALES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

After the ongoing success of our Project BAM mentoring program, we are excited to launch our second mentoring program at Monmouth University focused

on empowering young black males. With the support of the leadership at Monmouth University and Neptune School District, high school students will be mentored by college students twice a month while exploring college life at Monmouth University. Meanwhile, as Project BAM enters its 11th year, Asbury Park High School students continue to enroll in this eye-opening program that gives them a glimpse of college life and provides life lessons, exposure to higher education opportunities, and most importantly, a committed mentor and lifelong friend.

FUN AT MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER

Big Brothers Big Sisters is so grateful for our partnership with Monmouth Medical Center for the past 11 years! These awesome new mentors met with students from Long Branch High School and played some icebreakers to get to know one another. It's going to be a GREAT year!



PARTNERING WITH MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



FOLLOWING IN HER FOOTSTEPS

Kiersten was a mentee in our School Based Mentoring Program at Joyce Kilmer School in Milltown for the past three years. She

was matched with her mentor Victoria for all three years, and they formed a great friendship. Victoria was even named our School Based Big Sister of the Year for 2019. Now that Kiersten is a freshman at Spotswood High School, she decided to step up as a mentor herself and come back to Joyce Kilmer School every other Monday to volunteer her time to a student there. She is following in Victoria's footsteps and looking forward to being a dedicated mentor and building a meaningful friendship with a Joyce Kilmer mentee!

MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to Little Sister Patience and Big Sister Tara who have reached their 4th year of friendship this month! Patience was enrolled in our program when she was 9-years-old and hoping for a Big Sister that was nice, fun, and had a lot in common with her. She found just that in Tara! They even discovered they have the same favorite color - green! Since being matched in 2015, Patience and Tara have gone to parks, museums, malls, Chuck E. Cheese's, baked cookies together, and enjoyed so many more fun activities. When Patience's case manager asked her what she likes about Tara, she responded: "Her personality; she is funny, caring, kind, and helpful." Patience has also used the words "active, creative, and nice" to describe Tara. Tara once explained that when she and Patience see each other, it feels like no time passed in between their outings. She also said that they are never at a loss of things to talk about. She feels that Patience is always engaged and open to talking to her about whatever is on her mind. Patience's mother once reported to their case manager that Patience is "ecstatic" when Tara comes to pick her up and when she gets home from their activities. We hope that their 4th year together brings even more fun, meaningful conversations, and memories for the two of them!



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