



NOVEMBER 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful and to celebrate all that we have. Big Brothers Big Sisters is so thankful to have a wonderful support system in our community. Together, we are working to attain our vision that all youth achieve their full potential. In the spirit of the season, we want to thank all who are helping to make this vision a reality!

Our dedicated volunteer Bigs are at the forefront of our efforts to positively impact the lives of local children. We are thankful to our Board of Trustees, supporters, donors, community stakeholders, and volunteers. Thank you to the agencies, individuals, and organizations that recognize the need for mentoring and refer children to BBBS. Together, we show the kids in our community that we care about them and their future.

We take great pride in providing kids with a Big Brother or Big Sister. Their Big is someone they can talk to about life and a friend who exposes them to positive experiences and encourages them to reach their goals. A Big is often the person who provides the opportunity for their Little to experience new things like going to the beach or baking a cake. I hope you will consider supporting our #GivingTuesday Campaign on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to help create more Big-Little matches that can enjoy new experiences together.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

William Salcedo  
Executive Director

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Bigs & Littles enjoyed the annual BBBS Halloween party at Saint John Vianney High School where they painted pumpkins, played games, got candy, and showed off their costumes!



MATCHES CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN TOGETHER

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR NOVEMBER MATCHES

- Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Isaiah **5 Years**
- Big Brother Vib & Little Brother Zion **4 Years**
- Big Sister Isra & Little Sister Bella **2 Years**
- Big Sister Susan & Little Sister Glory **2 Years**
- Big Brother Tom & Little Brother John **1 Year**
- Big Brother Ed & Little Brother Daijee **1 Year**

## THE BIG WAIT

Malik is a very active 13-year-old who enjoys watching the sports channel, swimming and playing basketball. Malik started a cooking class this year which has sparked a new interest! Malik is eager to have a Big Brother who is outgoing and enjoys sports as much as he does.

Find out how to **BECOME A BIG** at [www.bbbsmmc.org](http://www.bbbsmmc.org)



## MATCH HIGHLIGHT



**BIG SISTER ISRA AND LITTLE SISTER BELLA ARE ALL SMILES**

Congratulations to Big Sister Isra and Little Sister Bella who are celebrating their two year match anniversary this month! When Bella was first enrolled, she described her love of animals and hoped that she could find a Big Sister who loved animals as much as her. Once matched, Bella and Isra got involved at Monmouth County's SPCA, soon becoming regulars, and bonded over their mutual love for furry friends. Their connection has grown and developed throughout the past two years, and on a recent check-in, Bella said that Isra is a good role model "because she's a good person. She's nice to other people,

and she's always positive." Bella entered high school this year, and Isra has been there for her during the transition to help adjust to the new responsibilities and encourage Bella to put herself out there and make new friends! Bella is not the only one benefitting from this match, however, as on a recent call, Isra was asked what she believes the benefits of mentoring to be. She replied, "I feel like there are a lot of benefits, and it's hard to clearly state just one, but the biggest surprise to me, which has been a benefit, is how much watching her grow and watching her go through her own challenges and overcoming them with her has helped me. It's allowed me to view my challenges from different perspectives. I think I've become more humble and open-minded. As busy as I am in my day to day with my jobs, having this time with her on a consistent basis has been very grounding for me." We wish Isra and Bella the best as they enter their third year of friendship, and hope that they continue to help each other realize and understand their wonderful potential!

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



**LITTLE SISTER KARLA AT JACKSON SKATING CENTER ON AN OUTING WITH HER BIG SISTER ELYSE**

Little Sister Karla is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Hope Academy School, and she was recently elected as the Student Council President! In order to run for President, Karla needed to obtain three teacher recommendations, stay in good standing, and give a speech. Karla explained that in her speech, she had to answer four questions, such as why would she wanted to be part of the Student Council, why she believed that she was the best candidate, and speak about an event that she would like to create in school. Given that Karla was the Vice President of the Student Council in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the Class Representative in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, she found that her past experience qualified her for the position. She also believes that she works well with others and is very friendly. The event that she would like to execute is having each class to work together and create their own mural. Karla explained some of her roles as President, which include being the main contact for events and escorting and introducing guests who come to the school. We wish Karla the best of luck in her new role and are very proud of her!

## JOIN US AT FREEHOLD SUBARU FOR THE ANNUAL "SHARE THE LOVE" EVENT!

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join in on the Freehold Subaru Share the Love Event! ♥ Test drive a great vehicle and support a great cause. With every new Subaru purchased or leased, now until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Subaru will donate \$250 to BBBS or the charity you choose. Freehold Dodge & Subaru will donate an additional \$50 to BBBS to make an even greater impact here in our community!



**FREE lunch and cool cars to test drive!**

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