



DECEMBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

I was excited to recently share the BIG NEWS with you that our agency has expanded to serve seven additional NJ counties and is now known as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey.

Our expanded agency has many benefits, including the ability to enhance the talent of our staff members and provide more opportunities for growth. The expansion also comes with reduced administrative costs, which allows us to spend less on redundant overhead needs and more on programs that directly serve the kids in our communities. And most importantly, BBBS-CNNJ is stronger and more efficient, which will allow us to help more children through high quality mentoring programs.

Serving as many kids as possible is what our agency is all about, including Little Sister Layla, whose story is highlighted this month. I am so proud that we can provide Layla with a Big Sister and steward the relationship that is making such a difference in her life.

We can now make an even BIGGER IMPACT by helping more children realize their BIGGEST POTENTIAL through one-to-one mentoring. Please consider donating before the end of the year to impact more children like Layla. Your gift will make tomorrow bigger and brighter for the children of Coastal and Northern New Jersey.

I wish you the happiest of holidays and all the best in the New Year!

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

BIGS AND LITTLES ENJOY JETS GAME TOGETHER

There's not much that can top a good football game and some quality time with your Big. Thank you New York Jets for inviting 14 of our Bigs in Blue matches out to a recent game!



FOOTBALL FUN!

BBBS-CNNJ HOLIDAY PARTIES



BIGS AND LITTLES CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Bigs and Littles had a blast at our Holiday Parties this month hosted by Buona Sera and the American Legion Riders Post 155! Matches enjoyed delicious food, dancing, and a visit from Santa who brought each child a gift. Thank you to all of our sponsors who made these events possible - Mike Fusciello and his staff at Buona Sera, DJ Mike and Kelly from Elite Entertainment, Brian DeTuro, AT&T, Allure Plastic Surgery, Synergy, Jennifer and Gary Mawson from Jersey Property Group of EXP Realty, the Monmouth University Women's Soccer Team, and the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey!



LITTLES POSING WITH THE ITALIAN AMERICAN POLICE SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

MATCH HIGHLIGHT



BIG BROTHER JOSH AND LITTLE BROTHER JOSH ENJOYING A SUNNY DAY TOGETHER

Congratulations to Big Brother Josh and Little Brother Josh who are celebrating their seven year match anniversary this month! Little Josh enrolled in our program when he was 10 years old and now he is 17 and will graduate high school in June! Big Brother Josh has been a great support for him as someone with whom he can discuss the future and college.

Little Josh and Big Josh's connection has grown tremendously over the past seven years. With Little Josh now a

teenager, their outings mainly consist of going out to eat. However, on a recent outing, Big Josh took Little Josh to the DMV for his driver's test where he passed and received his license! Afterwards, they went to Dunkin' to celebrate the joyous occasion.

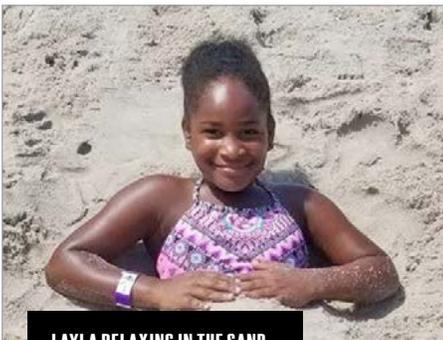
Big Josh is going away for three months to train to be a pilot for a major airline. Little Josh is happy for his Big Brother because he knows that it is something he has been wanting to do. He shared that he will miss Big Josh while he is away but will talk with him during that time and looks forward to seeing him again when he is back.

Little Josh will be graduating from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in August when he turns 18 years old. Both he and Big Josh feel they have developed a wonderful friendship and look forward to continuing to be in each other's lives once their match closes.

MEET LAYLA

Layla is 9-years-old and being raised by her single mother. Layla has been matched with her Big Sister Wendy for two years.

It is hard to believe that Layla went to the beach for the first time ever this summer, but it's true! Wendy and Layla enjoyed what may seem



LAYLA RELAXING IN THE SAND



LAYLA WITH HER BIG SISTER WENDY

like a typical childhood day visiting the boardwalk, going on rides, and getting buried in the sand, but for Layla, this was an unforgettable day of firsts. Having a mentor has opened Layla's world up to new experiences and is helping her realize her full potential.

SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE EVENT



SUBARU SHARING THE LOVE

Bigs and Littles spent a special afternoon at Freehold Subaru celebrating the Share the Love Event. Buy or lease a Subaru now until January 2, and Subaru will donate \$250 to BBBSCNNJ! We're honored to be the hometown charity for five years now!



MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT FOR KIDS LIKE LAYLA!

Our BIG goal is to raise \$20,000 by the end of 2019. We are excited to share that BBBSCNNJ has been awarded a "challenge grant" from the William E. Simon Foundation matching contributions up to \$20,000!

Your donation of any amount will have double the impact and help children like Layla reach their BIGGEST POTENTIAL through one-to-one mentoring. BBBSCNNJ will serve over 1,500 children by year's end and your gift will help us serve even more in 2020.

DONATE NOW
at www.mentornj.org



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



SHANTAE AND HIS BIG BROTHER ANTHONY

Seven-year-old Shantae has been in our program since April and his match is a perfect example of our Bigs igniting the potential that exists in all children. Shantae was full of enthusiasm and positivity when he first came in to our

office - he invited both of the case managers he met with to dinner with his family afterwards! Shantae's grandmother, who is raising him, told us, "He loves to help, he's loving, he seeks out praise, plays, dances, sings, is silly, and very active." Shantae's grandmother enrolled him in the BBBSCNNJ program to pair him with a Big Brother who could help cultivate these traits and provide an outlet for all of this energy, while also conveying the importance of having a positive attitude towards education.

Since being matched, Shantae and his Big Brother Anthony have developed a love of tennis, collecting shells on the beach, and exploring new places like

Jenkinson's Boardwalk and different parks throughout Monmouth County. Shantae's grandma told their case manager how amazing it has been to see his positivity and enthusiasm grow even more, especially as it relates to school: "It used to be a challenge to get him to school, but Anthony has told him how important it is, and he likes going to school now!"

Anthony is having just as much fun as Shantae is, commenting, "When I go to pick him up, the excitement on his face is all I need to see to know I'm making a difference, and the feeling is mutual. We have a lot of fun together and this experience is great for both of us!"

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR DECEMBER MATCHES

- Big Brother Subba & Little Brother Marcus 1 Year
- Big Brother Wayne & Little Brother Mark 1 Year
- Big Sister Lorette & Little Sister Lexi 1 Year
- Big Sister Linda & Little Sister Gia 1 Year
- Big Brother Kevin & Little Brother Desmond 1 Year
- Big Sister Catherine & Little Sister Juliet 1 Year
- Big Sister Lydia & Little Sister Kaelyn 1 Year
- Big Sister Megan & Little Sister Ivy 1 Year
- Big Brother Jim & Little Brother Jovanni 1 Year
- Big Brother Patrick & Little Brother Enazer 2 Years
- Big Brother Thomas & Little Brother Daniel 2 Years
- Big Sister Joelle & Little Sister Laraah 2 Years
- Big Brother Puya & Little Brother Isaiah 3 Years
- Big Sister Megan & Little Sister Mo'Riyah 3 Years
- Big Sister Beth & Little Brother Jesse 3 Years
- Big Brother Charlie & Little Brother Ian 4 Years
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Christopher 4 Years
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Mikey 4 Years
- Big Sister Kristy & Little Sister Essence 4 Years
- Big Brother Jim & Little Brother Branden 4 Years
- Big Sister Joy & Little Sister Kalise 5 Years
- Big Brother Isaac & Little Brother Karon 6 Years
- Big Sister Martha & Little Sister Natalie 6 Years
- Big Brother Josh & Little Brother Joshua 7 Years

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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