



LETTER FROM ANDREW MAHNKEN, BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR

Dear Friends,

Legacy is a big word to me. Legacy. What will you leave behind? What will people say when you are gone? What impact have you had?

We all get to follow the lives of those who have impacted the world on a global level. Elon Musk, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Angela Merkel, Jeff Bezos. While these people have had an endless impact on society, you needn't be a world leader or technology innovator to change the world. Or someone's world, at least.

Often, the word legacy carries financial connotations. For me, that isn't necessarily the case. I feel that your legacy can be left behind in many different forms. Not everything you gift someone has to be of monetary value. You can't put a price on confidence. You can't purchase respect and morals, and values do not go on sale. Someone taught you those things. They instilled them in you because they wanted you to become a productive member of society and make the world a better place.

Not all children are lucky enough to have someone to teach them these things. During their most formative years, they are often left to figure life out on their own. That is where we fit in. What we do with BBBS is a part of each one of our legacies. It's one of the very many ways we are making a difference and impacting the world.

It is with that in mind that I thank every single Big, employee, and contributor to this great organization. Without you, Littles would be missing out on so much that you have already taught them. And to anyone on the fence about coming on board, I implore you. Making a difference in a child's life, watching your time and effort come to fruition, and knowing that you had a small part in making their worlds a better place – that can be a huge part of your legacy too.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mahnken

Big Brother of the Year

MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Andrew and his Little Brother Ethan were matched in May of 2016 when Ethan was in 6th grade. A friendship that was initially built on their common interest in superhero movies, the relationship evolved into a mentorship as Ethan graduated from 8th grade and entered the Poseidon Program at Neptune High School. Andrew fostered a sense of the future and encouragement to dream big, and now that Ethan is 17-years-old and a sophomore in high school, their discussions range from financial responsibility and the stock market to different career paths that Ethan should consider and areas to study in college. Throughout their friendship, Andrew has



been an encouraging voice that has helped Ethan understand his great potential. Ethan has repeatedly told his Case Manager all the important lessons he's been learning while also having fun with his Big Brother.

THE BIG WAIT

Amir is an easygoing, social, and creative 14-year-old boy. He is currently on the basketball team and loves drawing, playing sports, and video games. Amir is looking forward to spending time with a Big Brother who is athletic, nice, and knows how to be relaxed.

Become A Big at www.mentornj.org/be-a-big

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BIGS OF THE YEAR

BBBS Board members, staff, supporters, Bigs, Littles, and their families gathered at The Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick to honor and celebrate our 2020 Bigs of the Year.



Andrew Mahnken & Ethan

Community Based Big Brother & Little Brother of the Year



Karen Bottari & Tyquayshia

Community Based Big Sister & Little Sister of the Year



Kate Saldivar
Perth Amboy High School/
Shull Middle School Program

School Based Big of the Year



Christine Sae
Ramapo College Program/
Paterson Elementary School #5

College Big of the Year



Nichelle Ponder
Bigs in Blue Program with Bergen County Sheriff's Office

Bigs in Blue Big of the Year



Jacqueline Berlangi
BMW Program

Workplace Big of the Year

CDC RECOMMENDS BBBS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have prioritized preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - traumatic events during childhood that directly affect health when children grow into adults. ACEs are linked to at least five of the top 10 causes of death, and "preventing ACEs could potentially reduce chronic diseases, risky health behaviors, and socioeconomic challenges later in life." The CDC states that preventing ACEs could have reduced the number of adults with depression by 44% or 21 million avoided cases of depression.

The CDC recommend mentoring as one prevention strategy and highlight Big Brothers Big Sisters as a proven, evidence-based approach that is the "oldest and best-known example of a one-to-one mentoring program."

EMPOWERING YOUNG BLACK MALES

Our Empowering Young Black Males Leadership Program is thriving! Through this initiative, local high school students from Neptune High School have the opportunity to learn from Monmouth University student mentors and African-American leaders in the community. The young men in our program recently learned how to dress for success and tie their ties. We look forward to the students learning more about how to overcome challenges, stay motivated, and empower one another



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Little Brother Willy is 18-years-old and being raised by his single mother due to his father passing when he was much younger. Willy has been matched with his Big Brother Tim for over seven years. Willy just got accepted into his number one choice college, the University of Tennessee! He and Tim have been discussing the future for the past year or so and what Willy's plans could be. Willy chose Tim to be one of the people he reached out to first to let them know the good news. Through the past seven years, Willy and Tim have enjoyed playing sports, watching sporting events and going out to eat to catch up and talk. Ever since the beginning of



their match, they had sports in common and bonded over that subject. While Willy will be graduating from the BBBS program when he goes off to college in the fall, he plans on remaining "buds" with Tim for life!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR FEBRUARY MATCHES

- Big Sister Lindsey & Little Sister Majiah 8 Years
- Big Brother Dan & Little Brother Naran 5 Years
- Big Sister Lauren & Little Sister Kylie 4 Years
- Big Sister Heather & Little Sister Kelis 4 Years
- Big Sister Sofia & Little Brother Alejandro 3 Years
- Big Brother Max & Little Brother John 3 Years
- Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Rabbil 3 Years
- Big Brother Matt & Little Brother Dai'Ryus 2 Years
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Mia 2 Years
- Big Brother Brian & Little Brother Jihad 2 Years
- Big Sister Perri & Little Sister Keila 2 Years
- Big Brother John & Little Brother Zamyra 2 Years
- Big Sister Lisa & Little Sister Jaelyn 1 Year
- Big Brother John & Little Brother Jonathan 1 Year
- Big Brother & Sister Tim & Kim & Little Brother Wiatte 1 Year
- Big Sister Shirley & Little Brother Lianna 1 Year
- Big Brother Doug & Little Brother John 1 Year

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOWL

For Kids' Sake

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

March 2020

Join us at Asbury Festhalle & Biergarten
Asbury Park, NJ

Saturday
April 25, 2020
10:30 a.m.



Thank you to The Heldrich Hotel for hosting the BBBS Appreciation Event and The 4th Annual Heldrich Craft Beer & Spirit Festival benefiting BBBS!



OUR MISSION PARTNERS Want to be a Mission Partner? To learn, more contact us at 732.544.2224

Mission Maker

Vision Maker

Mentor Makers