A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

I sincerely hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Thank you for generously supporting BBBSCNNJ as we continue to serve 1,500 children in Coastal & Northern New Jersey.

At all times and especially in the midst of a crisis, it is important to celebrate those who are making a difference. April is National Volunteer Month, and we are applauding all of our volunteers, including Bigs, Board Members, event committees, and office assistants. Each selflessly gives their time to ensure our Littles are supported and reminded of their endless potential.

Big Brother and Board Member Pete McGuigan shares how crucial our mission is:

“The stresses that we personally experience at the moment are now even more amplified in many of the households of the Littles that BBBSCNNJ serves. I happen to be a Big Brother myself and was in communication with my 16-year-old Little this morning, checking on his family and helping them stay healthy and fed. Our service to the community and those children in need is more important now than ever before.”

While circumstances seem to change daily all around us, one thing is constant - BBBSCNNJ volunteers are making a big impact! We are proud to honor them and invite you to join us. Whether you become a Big to one of the 114 children on our waiting list or step up as a future event volunteer, there is an opportunity for you to be part of something bigger than yourself.

What better time than now?

Sincerely,

William Salcedo  
Executive Director

THE GAME CHANGER

The 2nd Annual Game Changer event has been canceled due to the current crisis. However, mentoring relationships are more important than ever, and there are currently 114 children on our waiting list. Our goal is to raise $20,000 to ensure that our life-changing programs continue to thrive in 2020 and beyond. You can help by donating now at support.mentornj.org.

All supporters of this campaign will be invited to join us at Cross & Orange later in the year for the #BiggerTogether celebration at no cost!

STAYING IN TOUCH

Video calls and writing letters are just two ways BBBSCNNJ matches like Big Sister Natalie and Little Sister Zoe are staying in touch. Our mission continues with your support!

THE BIG WAIT

Joshua is a thoughtful, digitally creative 14-year-old whose main interests are Minecraft, baseball, and riding his bike. He has some mobility limitations due to a hip surgery, but he still likes to be active. Joshua would like a Big Brother who is kind, funny, outgoing, and joyful and someone who would go bowling or visit a Microsoft store with him.

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

Congrats to our new matches! Big Sister Janae and Little Sister Jayla, Big Sister Tiffany and Little Sister Mariah, and Big Sister Lauren and Little Sister Leylani all had their first meetings on Zoom recently. BBBSCNNJ is still creating matches and serving our communities thanks to your generous donations!

BIG NEWS

We are excited to share some big news with you: BBBSCNNJ is now serving children in Ocean County! Our expanded agency has many benefits, including reduced administrative costs which allow us to spend less on redundant overhead needs and more on programs that directly impact our communities. BBBSCNNJ is now stronger and more efficient to defend potential of children in 10 counties in Coastal and Northern New Jersey!

THE CARES ACT

You may have read about the CARES Act that was signed into law a few weeks ago. The CARES Act offers a generous new tax benefit to people like you to help support the mission of BBBSCNNJ.

DONATE NOW AT MENTORNJ.ORG!

Here’s what you need to know:

- The CARES Act includes a new $300 ‘nonitemizer’ tax deduction for 2020.
- All eligible donations made in 2020 will go toward this deduction, up to $300 in total.
- You are eligible for this deduction even if you do not itemize your taxes.
- This means that when you donate to BBBSCNNJ, you will be eligible to receive a tax break of up to $300 in addition to the standard deduction.

TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL
MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to Big Brother Tom and Little Brother Vinny who are celebrating their one-year match anniversary this month! With Vinny’s outgoing personality and Tom’s sense of humor, they hit it off right from the start. Tom and Vinny have enjoyed a variety of activities including bowling, hiking, going to the arcade, and playing basketball. In a recent conversation with his Case Manager, Vinny was asked how he can tell Tom cares about him, and Vinny explained, “He always checks in on me and wants to make sure I’m okay.” Vinny also shared that he feels comfortable talking to Tom about anything. Tom describes Vinny as a “very sweet kid with a great personality.” Tom believes that Vinny is able to open up to him because he shows no judgment, which he felt was important to building their friendship. This is just one of the qualities that make Tom a great mentor. Both Tom and Vinny are excited to continue their friendship!

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Little Sister Madison is 17-years-old and being raised by her single mother. Madison has been matched with her Big Sister Daphne for four years. When they first met, they decided to start a scrapbook to be able to look back on all the adventures and memories they would create together. Some highlights throughout the years have been going to an aquarium, baking, and attending an NFL Jets game. Madison is a junior in high school and with the encouragement and support of her Big Sister, she has improved her grades this year and is on track for high school graduation next June. Madison has been thriving in her after school job and has begun discussing her future after high school with Daphne. Daphne has truly become Madison’s confidant and friend to help her through these crucial teen years!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR APRIL MATCHES

- Big Brother Pete & Little Brother Daniel 10 Years
- Big Sister Anne & Little Sister Samantha 9 Years
- Big Brother Daniel & Little Brother Matthew 7 Years
- Big Sister Mary & Little Sister Katie 6 Years
- Big Brother Chuck & Little Brother Kweli 6 Years
- Big Brother Vincent & Little Brother Daniel 6 Years
- Big Brother Bill & Little Brother Jayden 5 Years
- Big Sister Cindy & Little Sister Natalie 5 Years
- Big Sister Susan & Little Sister Ava 4 Years
- Big Sister Joan & Little Sister Jenna 4 Years
- Big Brother Derek & Little Brother Colby 4 Years
- Big Sister Rachel & Little Sister Victoria 4 Years
- Big Brother Keith & Little Brother Tyler 4 Years
- Big Brother Richard & Little Brother Nicholas 3 Years
- Big Brother Bill & Little Brother Max 3 Years
- Big Brother Jeff & Little Brother Jake 3 Years
- Big Sister Christina & Little Sister Lindsey 3 Years
- Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Joseph 2 Years
- Big Brother Richard & Little Brother Michael 2 Years
- Big Brother John & Little Brother Jaheem 2 Years
- Big Sister Lesley & Little Sister Skyi 2 Years
- Big Sister Amanda & Little Sister Samantha 2 Years
- Big Brother Fredy & Little Brother John 2 Years
- Big Sister Scott & Little Brother John 2 Years
- Big Brother Tim & Little Brother Christian 1 Year
- Big Brother Tom & Little Brother Vinny 1 Year
- Big Sister Carly & Little Sister Vanessa 1 Year
- Big Brother Jordan & Little Brother Tyler 1 Year
- Big Sister Vincia & Little Sister Trinity 1 Year
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Shantae 1 Year
- Big Sister Briana & Little Sister Kaila 1 Year
- Big Sister Bonnie & Little Sister Kathleen 1 Year

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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

Mission Maker

Vision Maker

Mentor Makers

TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL