



Dear Friends,

I couldn't have imagined that seven years after sitting in an information session, I would be a Board Member of such an amazing organization. It all started with self-commitment to giving back to the community and being a part of the change many of us talk about. I was unsure of exactly how to do that, but I knew I wanted to Be the Change and not just talk about making changes. My first step was attending the information session a co-worker of mine had organized. During the meeting, I met a few of the people within the organization and learned what being a Big Brother or Sister was truly about.



A few months later, I was a Big Brother and felt as if I was truly making a difference in the community by being an additional positive influence in the life of a young child. BBBSCNNJ was amazing at offering guidance and ideas on ways to spend our time which made the process easier, but ultimately, it was about finding out what my Little and I enjoyed doing. We spent time bowling, playing basketball, eating ice cream, and just enjoying each other's company. I learned a lot through being a Big Brother, but I was unable to continue after two years. I don't have regrets in life, but I do wish part of this story was about how I was still DJ's Big seven years later.

I knew I wanted to stay involved and stay true to my self-commitment to Be the Change, so I stayed in touch with the organization and helped where I could. During this time, I was able to re-introduce Big Brothers Big Sisters to the company that I work for, CDW. Amongst other things we

were able to participate in and hold our own Bowl for Kids fundraiser. This March would have been our 4th annual CDW Bowl for Kids fundraiser, so God willing, we will be able to host one later this year.

In 2018, I was asked to attend a Development Committee meeting and my initial reaction was, "Why me?" I was unsure of what I could bring to the table and what to expect, but I thought I should go and find out. During this meeting, we discussed various programs and initiatives, what it takes to ensure they are successful, and brainstormed ideas to reach more children and make the program more effective for the children being served.

Many programs caught my attention, but the one I felt would allow me to Be The Change is the Back On Track program which was starting a few weeks after the meeting. Back on Track is a one-to-one mentoring program for youth aged 11-17 who have been involved in some capacity with the juvenile justice system. We meet twice a month, provide dinner, and talk as a group regarding the day's topic before breaking out into one-to-one pairs. Topics include things related to youth empowerment like education, identifying values, current events, and social justice. Overall, we give kids additional resources and help them understand that just because they made a mistake, it doesn't mean they can't turn things around and contribute to society in wonderful ways without judgment. This has been an amazing experience, and I am proud to say BBBSCNNJ has worked with the court system to help our youth.



A LETTER FROM BOARD MEMBER GREG RICHARDSON



In October of 2019, I was asked to join the Regional Board, and I again had the reaction of, "Why me?" After many conversations and careful consideration, I officially joined the board in February of 2020, and it was one of the best decisions of my life. In the few short months since joining the Board, I've met some amazing people, learned a great deal, played a larger role in community initiatives and continued my self-commitment to **Be the Change** I want and hope to see in our communities.

I share my story in hopes of inspiring others to **Be the Change** you want to see. It does take time and dedication, but the results are well worth it and mean more than I can put into words. The hardest part is getting started, so I urge you to start small by getting information and understanding the many things you can do to help. I ask you to trust that the initial conversations are low pressure and do not mean you have to commit to anything as they are truly about understanding and learning. If you decide BBBSCNNJ is not for you that is ok, but I truly believe you will be intrigued, able to contribute in some way and most importantly, become part of an organization that does AMAZING things for our youth and our communities. The first step is always the hardest, but trust that it will be worth it, and you will be proud to **Be the Change**.

Greg Richardson

Vice-Chair

BBBSCNNJ Coastal Regional Board

BIGS WANTED

Children need mentors now more than ever. We are continuing to create matches virtually and ensure youth receive support during this critical time. There are 120 kids on our waiting list, eager to be matched with a Big. Now is the time to ignite potential in a local child's life!

Get started at mentornj.org/be-a-big



LUNCH & LEARN

Join us for a free webinar on June 25th at 12:00 PM to learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey and the different ways you can get involved

Email info@mentornj.org to register!



SUMMER PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

Seeing the need for continuity this year since Littles have not had a high level of socialization, BBBSNJ is offering virtual summer sessions for all of our group mentoring programs. Bigs and Littles are grateful for the opportunity to continue their connections!

FORMER BIG BROTHER HOSTS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION FOR LITTLES

Former Big Brother David Crow, author of *The Pale-Faced Lie*, is hosting a virtual presentation for Back on Track mentees and teenage Littles on June 29. David will be sharing the incredible adversity he faced growing up and the success he has achieved despite his difficult life circumstances. David's story is sure to inspire the next generation!



THE GAME CHANGER



BBBSNJ hosted The Game Changer fundraiser online in lieu of a live event this year. The online campaign was a virtual opportunity to honor Joseph Michael Fahey, father of Cross & Orange owner and BBBSNJ Board Member Bob Fahey, and to support our one-to-one mentoring programs for local youth. Donors generously raised \$10,000 through The Game Changer online. "I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all those who gave in honor of my father," said Fahey. "You are ensuring that BBBSNJ's life-changing programs continue to thrive in 2020 and beyond."

MATCH HIGHLIGHT



Big Brother Daniel and Little Brother Matthew have been matched since April 2013. They met when Matthew was 12-years-old; this year, he turned 18 and is graduating high school! Over the course of their match, Matthew and Daniel have especially enjoyed bowling and playing laser tag. They also share the same taste in movies and enjoy seeing superhero movies together. While they haven't been able to meet in person recently, their friendship is still as strong as ever. When asked about his relationship with Daniel, Matthew stated, "Being able to reach out to him - and get a response back and have that reassurance that the friendship is still there, and he is going through the same thing I am - is helpful." Matthew will be attending college in the fall and would like to major in Automotive Engineering. He knew he could count on Daniel to be there for him and support his future plans. We could not be happier to have witnessed this wonderful match grow, and although Matthew is now aging out of our program, both he and Daniel have expressed they plan on continuing to be in each other's lives!

Monday, July 20, 2020
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



9TH ANNUAL
FORE! THE KIDS
GOLF OUTING

Join Us at
Manasquan River
Golf Club in Brielle, NJ

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Little Sister Maria is 12-years-old and currently in 7th grade. She dreams of being accepted to Harvard University and appreciates that her Big Sister Lauren is always encouraging and helping her reach her goals. Maria has received several scholarships in the past for art, technology, and science. Recently, she was given the great news that she will be part of the New Jersey SEEDS (Scholars, Educators, Excellence, Dedication, Success) organization that prepares students for college. Lauren is very proud of Maria's accomplishment



and commented, "Maria has been working so incredibly hard for this acceptance. It's an honor being her Big Sister."

THE BIG WAIT

Kevin is a charismatic, thoughtful 15-year-old who is passionate about both playing and watching sports. He is on his high school's football team and excels academically. He would love to be matched with a Big Brother who enjoys outdoor activities and going to the beach.

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

THE BIG IMPACT EVENT

Join us for The Big Impact Event, a virtual support campaign that benefits BBBSCNNJ's one-to-one mentoring programs. Due to the current crisis, our live event will not take place this year. However, our Agency Magazine offers ad opportunities to spotlight your business and will be distributed physically and digitally to thousands of local constituents. All supporters of this campaign will be invited to join us later in the year for the #BiggerTogether celebration at no cost. Date, time, and location are TBD.



Donate now or purchase an ad in our Agency Magazine at support.mentornj.org

BBBSCNNJ EARNS GUIDESTAR GOLD SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY

GuideStar Seals of Transparency indicate that a nonprofit has shown commitment to financial transparency. We are proud to give our donors and funders better insight into our life-changing work through BBBSCNNJ's GuideStar profile.



www.guidestar.org/Profile/7054995

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR JUNE MATCHES

- Big Brother Keith & Little Brother Anthony - 8 Years
- Big Brother James & Little Brother Jason - 6 Years
- Big Sister Dee & Little Sister Amina - 3 Years
- Big Brother Matthew & Little Brother Samuel - 2 Years
- Big Brother Jon & Little Brother Jayvon - 8 Years
- Big Sister Lisa & Little Sister Annabella - 4 Years
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Myasia - 3 Years
- Big Brother Andy & Little Brother Shane - 2 Years
- Big Brother Ken & Little Brother Jah'Sim - 7 Years
- Big Brother Matthew & Little Brother Joshua - 4 Years
- Big Brother Jeremy & Little Brother Michael - 2 Years
- Big Sister Chelsea & Little Sister Irma - 2 Years
- Big Sister Sandra & Little Sister Eleanor - 7 Years
- Big Brother Terrence & Little Brother Yasir - 4 Years
- Big Brother Andrew & Little Brother Tyshaun - 2 Years
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Issaiah - 1 Year
- Big Sister Adelina & Little Sister Keira - 6 Years
- Big Brother Matt & Little Brother Micah - 4 Years
- Big Brother PJ & Little Brother Devon - 2 Years
- Big Sister Kamille & Little Sister Jayne - 1 Year
- Big Sister Elisabeth & Little Sister Alexandra - 6 Years
- Big Sister Rachelle & Little Sister Madison - 4 Years
- Big Sister Anne & Little Brother Alyssa - 2 Years
- Big Sister Kathleen & Little Sister Neveah - 1 Year

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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

<p>Mission Maker </p>	<p>Vision Maker </p>	<p>Mentor Makers </p>	<p>Super Foodtown </p>
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