



## A LETTER FROM BIG SISTER SHARON CARBONE

Dear Friends,

What I found with my Little: You think you know yourself. All emotions intact. Raised my family and was secure in their love. Something was still missing; there was room for more love. Brittney and I were introduced 11½ years ago on a cold winter day. She was such a sweet 7-year-old but had a sadness about her. Could I add something to her life?

What I found was a young child who was so amazingly resilient and kind. She taught me about how tough the world can be for a young person if their life is not perfect. She taught me that even with all the adversity she faced, she could be stronger than the hand she was dealt. She showed me over and over again how to look beyond the horizon and follow the sun.

She introduced me to a world without prejudice, without jealousy, and taught me that all living things should be cherished, including her nine cats.

My journey has been amazing, and my friend Brittney has been my mentor.

Sincerely,

**Sharon Carbone**

Big Sister

## THE BIG WAIT

Jehki is an outgoing, talkative, fun-oriented 13-year-old who is entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. While he's very athletic, he also has strong interests in technology, coding, and building games. As an only child, Jehki looks forward to having a Big Brother. He hopes to spend time outdoors with a mentor who enjoys playing soccer and tennis.

**Become A Big at**  
[www.mentornj.org/be-a-big](http://www.mentornj.org/be-a-big)

## OVER A DECADE OF FRIENDSHIP

Congratulations to Big Sister Sharon & Little Sister Brittney for being one of our longest matches and reaching 11½ years of friendship! Brittney was first enrolled in BBBS and matched with Sharon when she was just 7-years-old. She is now 19, and Sharon has been by her side through childhood, her teenage years, and now as she is growing into a young adult. Brittney has had many "firsts" with Sharon including participating in gymnastics, day trips to New York City, attending plays, and Brittney's personal favorite, horse-



back riding. Sharon has introduced Brittney to her family over the years, and Brittney was even invited to Sharon's son's wedding last summer which was also a first for her!

Sharon has taught Brittney things like cooking and baking, gardening, and how to sew. Sharon has always spoken so highly of Brittney, describing her as "the sweetest girl in the world," "such a doll," and "an exceptional young lady." Brittney has said Sharon is "just different from everyone else in my life" and added that Sharon is "really funny, a good teacher, creative, and thoughtful." When asked what she would thank Sharon for, Brittney said, "Thank you for being the best Big Sister to me." Sharon has always been a true advocate for Brittney, particularly when it came to Brittney's school work and participating in outside activities. Sharon has gone above and beyond to help Brittney become involved in activities, making sure Brittney always had a



tutor to help her, and personally speaking with her teachers and guidance counselors to help her succeed in school.

The BBBS team is honored to be a part of such a successful friendship and are grateful to Sharon for going far beyond the commitment as a Big Sister and for her truly fine volunteer work. Although Brittney and Sharon have officially "graduated" from the BBBS program, we are confident that their friendship will last a lifetime!

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

<p><b>Mission Maker</b> THE MORRIS &amp; CLARA WESHNAK FAMILY FOUNDATION</p>	<p><b>Vision Maker</b> GARDEN SAVINGS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</p>	<p><b>Mentor Makers</b> DELTA DENTAL Hackensack Meridian Health SEAVIEW ORTHOPAEDICS Super Foodtown CIRCUS</p>
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## CONGRATS GRADUATES!

We are so proud of our Littles who have completed our programs, graduated high school, and are off to college! The challenges of this year do not overshadow their incredible accomplishments. Little Sister Destani, Little Sister Shay, and Little Brother William are just three of our many BBBSCNNJ graduates. Here are some of the great schools that they will be attending in the fall!

- Bergen Community College
- County College of Morris
- Fortis Institute
- Monmouth County Vocational School
- Montclair State University
- Ocean County Community College
- Raritan Valley Community College
- Sussex Community College
- University of Tennessee



## DEFEND CHILDREN'S POTENTIAL TODAY

When you give to our organization, you defend the potential that is inherent in every child. **Our mission is critical, and we need your support.** Know that your funds will be used responsibly to serve 1,500 youth and their families during this time of need. Donations of any size will make an impact and can be made on our website [mentornj.org](http://mentornj.org) or by texting **DONATE** to 732.612.0100.



Thank you for your commitment to Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission.

All donations are currently being matched by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, so your gift today will make double the impact!

You can make an even bigger impact for local children with a monthly gift. Just check the "Recurring payment" box when donating online!



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



This month, it is our pleasure to highlight high school student Kyle who donated four refurbished bikes to Littles in our organization. Kyle said, "When it comes to bikes, they really represent freedom to me. The first bike I fixed up was for my mom. Someone was throwing it out, but with just a few hours of work, it was good to go. Now she can ride, too. After that, I continued fixing up other bikes as I like building and repairing things. I am so glad that other kids can use the bikes, and I hope that they really enjoy them." Thank you, Kyle, for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR JULY MATCHES

- Big Sister Meggan & Little Sister Ashlie - **8 Years**
- Big Sister Ashley & Little Sister Skylar - **8 Years**
- Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Logan - **6 Years**
- Big Sister Wendy & Little Sister Jah'Shaya - **6 Years**
- Big Brother David & Little Brother Dominic - **5 Years**
- Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Tyler - **4 Years**
- Big Brother Nicholas & Little Brother Messiah - **3 Years**
- Big Sister Jennifer & Little Sister Zariah - **2 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Christopher - **2 Years**
- Big Brother Eric & Little Brother Jaidyn - **2 Years**
- Big Brother Park & Little Brother Jeremiah - **1 Year**
- Big Sister Harmony & Little Sister Minnie - **1 Year**
- Big Sister Napis & Little Brother Christopher - **1 Year**
- Big Sister Maureen & Little Sister Kayla - **1 Year**
- Big Sister Madelyne & Little Sister Katie - **1 Year**
- Big Sister Casey & Little Sister Khloe - **1 Year**
- Big Brother Steve & Little Brother Aaron - **1 Year**

## LUNCH & LEARN

Join us for a free webinar on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:info@mentornj.org) to register!

