



A LETTER FROM A LITTLE'S MOTHER

Dear Friends,

It almost feels as if it were yesterday when I signed up my son Desmond for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Desmond initially resisted the idea, but I knew that he would greatly benefit from having a friend. As soon as we met Desmond's Big Brother Kevin, it was clear to me that he was a perfect match for Desmond! I could immediately see the change in Desmond's behavior; it has been amazing to watch their friendship blossom.

Fast forward nearly two years, Desmond and Kevin have been having a great time together and their friendship is growing stronger. They have enjoyed so many activities together including bowling, roller skating, bike riding, and fishing. They even worked as a team to solve puzzles in an Escape Room.

But there was one recent outing that brought tears of joy to my eyes. Desmond and Kevin went to play baseball. When Desmond came home, he was beaming with happiness. He shared with me that this was the best time he's had with Kevin. He said it was such a special moment to him because playing baseball is "something you would do with your dad." Kevin's friendship has had a profound positive effect on Desmond's life. For that, I will forever be grateful!

Sincerely,

Martina Smith



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are proud to highlight Little Sister Madison. Madison is 12-years-old, and her dream is to work in the medical field and become a cardiovascular surgeon. During recent months at home, Madison developed a passion for reading and hunkered down with several good books, naming fantasy as her favorite genre. Rachelle, Madison's Big Sister of four years, is very proud of her Little Sister's interests and has been impressed by how much Madison has blossomed and matured since they first met. Though the pandemic made it difficult for them



to get together in person this year, they have regularly kept in touch and are both excited about seeing each other in person again soon!

THE BIG WAIT

Andy is an intelligent and social 14-year-old who enjoys playing video games. When Andy is not busy with schoolwork, he usually spends his time going to the park and riding his bike with friends. Andy is particularly interested in anything involving technology and enjoys taking things apart and putting them back together. Most recently, Andy fixed his mother's hard drive, and it's now working better than before! Andy is hoping to be matched with a Big Brother who enjoys technology as much as he does!

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

HALLOWEENKEND RAMBLE

Register your team of family and friends for the Halloweenkend Ramble – an opportunity to walk, run, or ride your broomstick to support BBBSCNNJ! Raise funds online together and celebrate your efforts anytime and anywhere on Halloween. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, and a scavenger hunt will be provided for all teams. Sponsorships are also available!

Learn more at mentornj.org/halloweenkend



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



THIS IS NOT A Gala

SPONSOR • AUCTION • RAFFLE

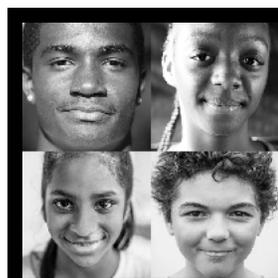
While our Annual Gala is not being held in person this year, we have three exciting ways to support BBBSNJ this month:

SPONSOR & AD OPPORTUNITIES

With our sponsor and ad opportunities, your business will be featured on our website, social media, sponsor eblast, and/or in our Agency Magazine. No matter which sponsor level or ad size you choose, your company will catch the eyes of thousands of local constituents! You can also make a match between a caring adult and a child in need of a friend and role model.

Learn more about these opportunities now at mentornj.org/gala

TITLE SPONSOR **DUNKIN'**



EMPOWER RESILIENCE MENTORNJ.ORG

We are all adjusting to a world no one could have predicted - a pandemic, social injustice, and economic uncertainty. It has been a challenge for the strongest of us. And for our nation's youth, it can be even tougher.

But one thing that our Littles have shown us during these difficult times is that they are resilient.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to providing caring, dedicated adult mentors to our Littles who need support now more than ever.

Make a donation and empower the resilience of our Littles today.



MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Big Sister Sonia and Little Sister Kimberley will soon be celebrating six years of friendship! Since being matched, they have enjoyed a variety of activities including baking, going out to eat, and walking around the park. Over the years, Sonia has helped Kimberley break out of her comfort zone and achieve success. When asked about



You **DON'T** need to get dressed up
We **WON'T** get to see your smiling face
You **WON'T** be served a late dinner
BUT We **DO NEED** Your **SUPPORT!**

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Join in on the excitement of our weekly silent auction! Bid on and win local get-aways and experiences, fine jewelry and beauty products, family fun activities, and much more! Exciting new items are added every Monday in October and close on Friday of the same week, so bid early and often to make sure you're a winner!

BIG 50/50 RAFFLE

WIN BIG with our **Big 50/50 raffle!**

Tickets are \$20 each, and last year's cash prizes totaled close to \$10,000!

To purchase raffle tickets, contact 732.444.3539 or ccucci@mentornj.org

Drawing will take place live on our Facebook page on **October 30, 2020 at 4:30 P.M.**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR OCTOBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Cindy & Little Sister Vivian **8 Years**
- Big Sister Crystal & Little Sister Isabella **5 Years**
- Big Brother Joe & Little Brother Kyjhaun **5 Years**
- Big Brother Denis & Little Brother Anthony **4 Years**
- Big Sister Diane & Little Sister Alexa **4 Years**
- Big Brother Eli & Little Brother Jacob **3 Years**
- Big Sister Deborah & Little Sister Ashley **3 Years**
- Big Brother Alex & Little Brother Shawn **3 Years**
- Big Brother Monty & Little Brother Matthew **2 Years**
- Big Sister Andrea & Little Sister Shayla **2 Years**
- Big Sister Nancy & Little Sister Naveah **2 Years**
- Big Brother Guarav & Big Sister Swagata & Little Brother Cole **1 Year**
- Big Sister Mary & Little Sister Alanna **1 Year**
- Big Brother Joshua & Little Brother Thomas **1 Year**
- Big Sister Himani & Little Sister Jazlynn **1 Year**
- Big Sister Sakina & Little Sister Lanise **1 Year**

LUNCH & LEARN



Join us for a 30-minute webinar on **Wednesday, November 18th 12:00 P.M.** 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!

her favorite memory with her Big Sister, Kimberley said, "Going to see a tap dance show since it was my first time, and it was really cool." On a scale of 1-10, Sonia rates her match with her Little Sister a 10 noting, "We get along very well. I have a great relationship with both Kimberley and her mom." These two are looking forward having more fun together in the new year!

