



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

This has been a historic year, and we couldn't have provided direct services to help our Littles and families without your support. It truly took a village for our agency to rise to every challenge we faced.

We began 2020 with the monumental task of growing from serving two counties to 10 counties across New Jersey. When COVID-19 took hold, we had to adapt quickly to help families outside the scope of our mission and ensure they were taken care of. From providing hot meals, groceries, and grocery store gift cards, to tutoring, emotional support, and more, you stepped up to help. Despite tumultuous times, our mentoring programs continued to thrive as we transitioned to virtual environments. BBBSCNNJ is on track to take 100 kids off the Community Based waiting list this year, and we kicked off 24 group programs this month – with six more commencing in the first quarter of 2021.

We know that brighter days are just over the horizon and will be marked by increased compassion, connection, and collective action, to advance our mission to ignite the power and promise of youth.

On behalf of the entire BBBSCNNJ family, I'd like to extend my wishes to you and yours for a safe and healthy holiday season. Thank you for supporting our organization and empowering the resilience of our Littles.

Peace & Blessings,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are proud to spotlight Little Sister Nadia. Nadia is 15-years-old and doing very well academically despite the challenges of virtual learning. Nadia is using her extra time at home to explore her creative interests such as photography, drawing, makeup, hairstyling, and creating videos. She recently participated in an international virtual art show sponsored by Youth Advocate Programs with her Big Sister Caroline. The show centered around the idea of peace, and Nadia shared her perspective on what peace looks like through her sunset photography while connecting with others to discuss the topic. Caroline is very



proud of her Little Sister's creative endeavors! Nadia and Caroline have been matched for nine years and developed a deep friendship that feels more like family. They look forward to staying connected in the new year!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR DECEMBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Jacquelyn & Little Sister Samantha **11 Years**
- Big Sister Caroline & Little Sister Nadia **9 Years**
- Big Brother Isaac & Little Brother Karon **7 Years**
- Big Brother Jim & Little Brother Justin **6 Years**
- Big Brother Jim & Little Brother Branden **5 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Mikey **5 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Christopher **5 Years**
- Big Sister Beth & Little Brother Jesse **4 Years**
- Big Sister Megan & Little Sister Mo'Riyah **4 Years**
- Big Brother Puya & Little Brother Isaiah **4 Years**
- Big Brother Patrick & Little Brother Enazer **3 Years**
- Big Brother Jim & Little Brother Jovanni **2 Years**
- Big Sister Megan & Little Sister Ivy **2 Years**
- Big Sister Catherine & Little Sister Juliet **2 Years**
- Big Brother Kevin & Little Brother Desmond **2 Years**
- Big Sister Linda & Little Sister Gia **2 Years**
- Big Brother Wayne & Little Brother Mark **2 Years**
- Big Couple Stephen & Linda & Little Brother Michye **1 Year**
- Big Sister Adriana & Little Sister Hailey **1 Year**
- Big Brother Rich & Little Brother James **1 Year**





THE WAIT IS OVER

These Little Brothers and Little Sisters were matched with a Big this year because of your generosity:

Aaron D.	Carly	Esmeralda	Janaya	Laraah	Rebecca
Aaron R.	Carmela	Evan	Ja'Nyah	Lea	Riley
Adonis	Cijier	Farrah	Jayla	Leilaah	Ryan
Adrianna	Clover	Fatima	Jayne	Leylani	Rylee
Alexandra	Coraline	Gabriella	Jehki	Luca	Sage
Alizabeth	Damien	Helena	Jordan	Luna	Samantha
Amaiya	Daniela	Ireland	Jose	Madison D.	Sean
Anabella	Dazay	Isaiah C.	Joshua M.	Madison P.	Sha'Niyah
Anai	Destiny	Isaiah L.	Joshua S.	Maite	Shantell
Anika	DeVita	Izear	Jowan	Mariah	Shianne
Anthony R.	Douglas	Jabbar	Justin	Meghan	Skyla
Anthony M.	Dylan	Jacob	Jye-Asia	Melanie	Talya
Ava	Elias	Jacobe	Kelly	Nora	Trevor
Bryana	Elijah	Jada	Kendra	Nylah	Xa'Niyah
Caesar	Emelie	Jaden	Kristina	Ostin	Yanna
Cai	Emma	James	Kyle	Piper	Zoe

THE BIG WAIT

Ryan is a caring, funny 12-year-old who enjoys playing video games and watching sports. He spent most of his summer outdoors at the Jersey Shore which he misses ever since school began. During his free time, Ryan also enjoys working out in the home gym his mom built in their garage for his birthday! Ryan is looking for a Big who would take him bowling or do outdoor activities with him.

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



MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to Big Brother Puya and Little Brother Isaiah on reaching their 4-year match anniversary this month! Having been matched just a few days before Christmas, Puya and Isaiah have spent each year celebrating their match anniversary by driving around to see the best Christmas decorations in their areas, a tradition that shows no signs of stopping. They have also built their friendship by bonding over their mutual love of comic books and attending comic



book conventions, exploring and hiking new areas and parks, and going paint-balling with zombie targets around Halloween! A powerful message that Puya has imparted on Isaiah is the importance of framing things in positive ways and looking at situations from other perspectives. On a recent call, their Case Manager asked Isaiah if he considers Puya to be more of a friend or a mentor. His answer was, "I consider Puya to be more like a brother."



SUBARU SHARE THE LOVE

This year, sharing the love is more important than ever. Freehold Subaru has chosen BBBSCNNJ for a seventh year as their hometown charity for the Annual "Share the Love" Event. When you purchase or lease a new vehicle at Freehold Subaru between now and January 4th, you will make a big impact on a child's life. For each car that is purchased or leased, Subaru of America will donate \$250 to BBBSCNNJ or one of four other national organizations selected by the purchaser, and Freehold Subaru will donate an additional \$50 to BBBSCNNJ. Last year, Subaru raised over \$35,000 to support and expand BBBSCNNJ's one-to-one youth mentoring programs.



C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM UPDATE

This year, the C.A.R.E.S. Adopt a Family program shifted from gift donations to gift card donations for our families in need. Thanks to incredible donor support, 46 families received gift cards for the holidays. We have also received numerous grocery store gift cards from local companies and other supporters to help even more families enrolled in our program.



Employees from Robert Half's Parsippany, Saddle Brook, Rutherford and Jersey City offices hosted a food drive and provided eight BBBSCNNJ families with a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven donated turkeys and grocery store gift cards to an additional eight families in need.

The Italian American Police Society has hosted an annual holiday party and donated gifts to our Northern NJ families in the past. This year, they shifted to a holiday gift drive-through event so that the children in our program will still receive gifts in a safe and socially distanced way.

We are so grateful for the generosity and support of local donors and companies this holiday season!

THANK YOU!



We raised \$20,034 for Giving Tuesday!

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and those who applied to become a Big - all in ONE DAY!



EMPOWER RESILIENCE



MENTORNJ.ORG

The year has been a challenge for the strongest of us. And for our nation's youth, it is even tougher.

*But during these difficult times, our Littles have shown us that **THEY ARE RESILIENT.***

Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to providing caring adult mentors for children who need support **now more than ever.**

Make a gift today to empower the resilience of our Littles.

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

<p>Mission Maker THE Morris & Clara Weshnak Family Foundation</p>	<p>Vision Maker Garden Savings FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</p>	<p>Mentor Makers DELTA DENTAL Hackensack Meridian Health SEAVIEW ORTHOPAEDICS Super Foodtown CIRCUS</p>
---	---	---

TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL
732.544.2224 • info@mentornj.org • mentornj.org

Main Office
305 Bond Street, 2nd Floor
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

Regional Offices
21 Western Avenue, 1st Floor
Morristown, NJ 07960

2-4 Kirkpatrick Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901