



LETTER FROM BIG SISTER AND REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER KELLY CRAIG

Dear Friends,

I've been honored to have a lot of incredible mentors throughout my life who have supported my journey in becoming the person I am today. Whether they were my teachers and professors in school, family, friends, or neighbors who cheered me on as I started Social Stamina, my digital marketing business, these were people who helped me through thick and thin. They genuinely cared for the well-being, happiness, and success of others.

After a first-hand experience of the magnitude of mentorship, I knew I wanted to pay it forward. Six years ago, I joined Big Brothers Big Sisters. I realized time was the most precious resource we have, and if I was going to donate and make a difference, time was the best gift I could give. Now, it was my turn to be like the mentors I had growing up.

My journey with Big Brothers Big Sisters started with my first Little Sister Jayda. As Jayda went through middle school and high school, she and I would often go to parks, hang out at the boardwalk, talk about her friends at school, and have a safe space where she could talk about her feelings. The experience was altogether uplifting and inspiring, and it only fueled my fire to continue giving back.



As a volunteer and Regional Board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters, I still feel the same joy I had when I mentored Jayda now that I have been rematched with my Little Sister Destiny. It's what encouraged me to participate in charitable events like the 4x4x48 Challenge, and it's what motivates me to be a better human being.

The 4x4x48 event was a challenge set out by Navy Seal David Goggins, inspiring others to run

4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours. Donors to my campaign went above and beyond. I documented the experience on Instagram @socialstamina to inspire others to not only donate, but to become a Big for this incredible organization.

Sincerely,

Kelly Craig

Big Sister and Regional Board Member

SHARING ACTS OF KINDNESS

Big Sister Lauren and Little Sister Maria recently shared an "acts of kindness" outing. They delivered cards and Girl Scout cookies to Ocean Medical Center staff and then filled out tags to put on a wishing tree. Great job ladies in spreading positivity!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR APRIL MATCHES

- Big Brother Pete & Little Brother Daniel **11 Years**
- Big Sister Ann & Little Sister Samantha **10 Years**
- Big Brother Chuck & Little Brother Kweli **7 Years**
- Big Brother Vincent & Little Brother Daniel **7 Years**
- Big Brother Bill & Little Brother Jayden **6 Years**
- Big Brother Keith & Little Brother Tyler **5 Years**
- Big Brother Richard & Little Brother Nicholas **4 Years**
- Big Brother Bill & Little Brother Max **4 Years**
- Big Brother Jeff & Little Brother Jake **4 Years**
- Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Joseph **3 Years**
- Big Brother Richard & Little Brother Michael **3 Years**
- Big Couple John & Shannon & Little Brother Jaheem **3 Years**
- Big Sister Amanda & Little Sister Samantha **3 Years**
- Big Sister Lesley & Little Sister Skyi **3 Years**
- Big Brother Tim & Little Brother Christian **2 Years**
- Big Brother Tom & Little Brother Vinny **2 Years**
- Big Sister Carly & Little Sister Vanessa **2 Years**
- Big Brother Jordan & Little Brother Tyler **2 Years**
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Shantae **2 Years**
- Big Sister Vincia & Little Sister Trinity **2 Years**
- Big Sister Briana & Little Sister Kaila **2 Years**

MID-YEAR MATCH-A-THON

Our BIG goal is to create 20 matches by raising \$40,000 by the end of July! **We need you to be a matching donor.** You or your business' matching gift will inspire others to give. All matching donors will receive special perks, too! **To find out more, email info@mentornj.org**

CONSISTENCY AND KINDNESS IGNITE POTENTIAL

Big Brother Angel and Little Brother Ostin were matched this past September. Angel has been an exceptional friend and support for Ostin, especially during the pandemic. Ostin was struggling academically and with self-confidence, which prompted his mother to seek out a mentor. Angel and Ostin started their friendship by doing simple activities in the community such as going to the park, taking nature walks,



and having pizza and ice cream together. With consistency and kindness, Angel has helped Ostin recognize the power he has to overcome obstacles and understand the importance of making little changes in life that can lead to big results. Recently, Big Brother Angel and Little Brother Ostin have been sharing their love for reading. At the end of every outing, they read one chapter of a book together, and Angel continues to encourage Ostin to always do his best.



VIRTUAL MENTORING KEEPS CONNECTION STRONG

This month, we are proud to spotlight Little Sister Daniella. Daniella is 12-years-old and recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah



in Israel, where she and her family have been staying the past several months. Daniella enjoys music, singing, playing the piano, doing yoga, acting, and dancing. Despite the distance between them, Daniella and her Big Sister Alexa have regularly kept in touch through video chats and share a very positive relationship. Alexa recently shared that she has been impressed by how much Daniella has grown and matured over the time she has known her, particularly with her conversational skills. Both she and Daniella are excited about seeing each other in person again in the future.

LUNCH & LEARN

Spend your lunch break learning all the ways you can make an impact and defend the potential of kids in Coastal & Northern New Jersey! There are many ways to get involved with BBBS, and a Lunch & Learn webinar is a great opportunity to learn more with no pressure to sign up. Best of all, it'll only take 30 minutes of your day! Join us on Thursday, May 20th at 12:00 PM. Email info@mentornj.org to register!



APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

This month, we are celebrating our Bigs, Board members, and volunteers who generously give their time to support our mission.

Join us by [Becoming A Big](#) today!

THE BIG WAIT

Gavin is a sociable and adventurous 7-year-old boy who enjoys being active and trying new things. When Gavin is not busy with school, he likes to spend his time playing with Legos, going bike riding, and playing sports. Most recently, Gavin has been interested in learning how to play hockey and plans to attend hockey camp this summer. Gavin is hoping to be matched with a Big Brother who enjoys playing sports, being outside, and trying new things as much as he does!

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

BIG SHOTS GOLF CLASSIC

Show your support with a sponsorship or tee-sign and swing into action for local kids.

Learn more at mentornj.org/bigshots

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

