Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF COASTAL & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

LETTER FROM LITTLE BROTHER OF THE YEAR DREVEON TO HIS BIG BROTHER ERNEST

Dear Ernest,

I can't even begin to express how grateful I am that you are my Big Brother - and not just a Big Brother but the best brother ever. I would like for the world to know about you and how I appreciate and love you. Ernest, you have made such a difference in me that when I count my blessings, you are on top of my list. I just wanted to say thank you for everything. You are the only brother that I know, and you are everything I ever imagined a Big Brother would be.

For example, I absolutely love the way you make me feel when I look out into the stands at my sporting events like football, wrestling, track, and basketball, as well as other occasions like my public speaking competitions. You can't even imagine how happy I feel just seeing you at anything I am involved in. It makes me try harder and really believe in myself just because you believe in me.

I have learned so much from you, Ernest. You have been such an amazing blessing to the point that I call you my mentor, coach, fishing partner and counselor, especially when I need advice. You have been my rock that I can lean on and trust, and you are very knowledgeable about God's word. The most important life lessons that you have taught me are how to laugh and believe in myself and how to appreciate life while enjoying some really good hot wings.

I want you to know that I thank God for Big Brothers Big Sisters for connecting us and allowing us to be real brothers.

Thank you again for everything,

Dreveon

Little Brother of the Year

THE BIG WAIT

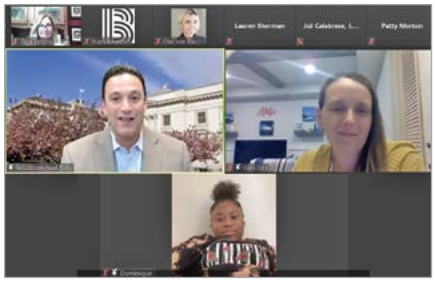
Andrew is an intelligent, social 12-year-old boy who enjoys sports, fishing, and being outdoors. When Andrew is not busy with school, he spends time with his friends bike riding. He's particularly interested in BMX (bicycle motocross) and enjoys spending time trying to master the skills and tricks himself. Andrew is hoping to be matched with a Big who enjoys sports and being outdoors as much as he does.

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

NEW JERSEY BIGS & LITTLES OF THE YEAR AWARDS

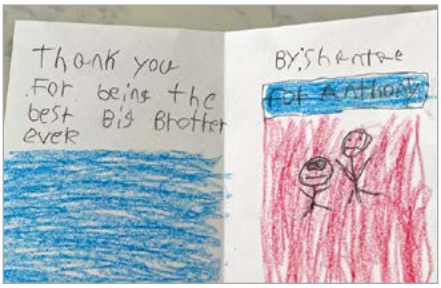
On May 14, a virtual award ceremony was held honoring the BBBS State Association's Bigs & Littles of the Year. Assemblyman Hal Wirths and Senator Michael Testa shared their personal stories of being connected to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Senator Steve Oroho and Senator Troy Singleton shared their congratulations for Big Brother Ernest and Little Brother Dreveon, as well as Big Sister Staci and Little Sister Dominique, all of whom expressed their gratitude for being honored.

Thank you to all who attended this great event!



GRANDMOTHER SEES GRANDSON THRIVE THANKS TO BIG BROTHER

Little Brother Shantae's grandmother has seen positive changes in her grandson's life thanks to his Big Brother Anthony. She recently shared with us - *"It's been an amazing experience. Spending time with Anthony has been so good for Shantae. His behavior is getting so much better having a friend who's there for him, and Anthony is a true match for him. When this started,*



Shantae was going through many changes and having a lot of issues, and since, things have totally calmed down, and it's been great for me and him. I can't do it all, but I do what I can do, and Anthony has been great in filling in the gaps. They have a good bond with one another. Shantae is opening up and being more honest about a lot of things. It's helped him because everyone needs someone to talk to and be themselves around."

FORMER LITTLE STAYS CONNECTED TO BBBSCNNJ

Former Little Sister Rebecca was matched with her Big Sister Amy Jo in our Monmouth Medical Center Workplace Mentoring Program during the 2013-2014 school year. Since then, she has enhanced BBBSCNNJ's mission by serving as an intern and member of our DEI Steering Committee. Rebecca was the first in her family to graduate from college and just received her Master of Social Work

degree from Monmouth University. Rebecca shared, *"During my time with BBBS, I learned how to find love within my community and realized that being involved in the community can make a huge difference for youth. I will continue to be a part of this amazing organization by becoming a Big Sister within the next year."* Thank you, Rebecca for your generous contributions to our agency!

SUBARU "SHARES THE LOVE" WITH BBBSCNNJ

Thank you to Freehold Subaru for choosing BBBSCNNJ as their hometown charity year after year for the Subaru Share the Love Event! It was a joy to celebrate with the Freehold Subaru team and some of our Bigs and Littles. The Subaru Share the Love Event raised over $34,000 this year to support and expand our one-to-one mentoring programs for local youth.

BE A BIG.

YOUR COMMITMENT:
4-6 hours a month with your Little for at least one year

YOUR IMPACT:
Defending and igniting a local child's potential

mentornj.org

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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

MISSION MAKERS: Hackensack Meridian Health; The Morris & Clara Weshnak Family Foundation

VISION MAKER: Garden Savings Federal Credit Union

MENTOR MAKERS: Ansell Law; Colonial Airstream; Green Label Title; CDW People Who Get It; Seaview Orthopaedics; Lowenstein Sandler; Delta Dental; Grunin Foundation; New Jersey Natural Gas

MID-YEAR MATCH-A-THON

Thank you to Brian Kirk & The Jirks for kicking off our Mid-Year Match-a-Thon with a Facebook Live musical performance! Our goal is to create 20 matches by raising $40,000 by the end of July – and we've already raised over $8,500!

We need you to be a matching donor. Your matching gift will inspire others to give while also highlighting you or your business to thousands of constituents!

Learn more at mentornj.org/matchkids

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MAY MATCHES

- Big Brother Carlo & Little Brother Antonio 9 Years
- Big Sister Tonia & Little Sister Kassandra 6 Years
- Big Brother Andrew & Little Brother Ethan 5 Years
- Big Sister Wendy & Little Sister Layla 4 Years
- Big Brother Brian & Little Brother Tyreon 4 Years
- Big Sister Kathleen & Little Sister Kellyann 4 Years
- Big Brother Brian & Little Brother Michael 4 Years
- Big Sister Gina & Little Sister Ariella 4 Years
- Big Brother Jonathan & Little Brother Gavin 4 Years
- Big Brother Dylan & Little Brother Vincent 3 Years
- Big Couple Margaret & Thomas & Little Brother Savon 3 Years
- Big Sister Tatiana & Little Sister Lindsay 2 Years
- Big Brother Hanbom & Little Brother Toby 2 Years
- Big Brother Rodrigo & Little Brother Zuriel 2 Years
- Big Brother Joshua & Little Brother Navarre 2 Years
- Big Sister Deborah & Little Sister Emma 2 Years
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Alexandra 1 Year
- Big Sister Kelly & Little Sister Samantha 1 Year
- Big Sister Sabeha & Little Sister Sha'Niyah 1 Year
- Big Sister Alicia & Little Sister Ireland 1 Year
- Big Couple Joseph & Renee & Little Brother Anthony 1 Year
- Big Sister Ilana & Little Sister Shianne 1 Year
- Big Couple Kathy & Brian & Little Brother Elias 1 Year
- Big Sister Kelly & Little Sister Destiny 1 Year

JOIN US at the Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle for a day of golf for a great cause.

Proceeds benefit our one-to-one mentoring programs that help children realize their potential and build their futures.

Sponsorships and tee signs are available!

Learn more at mentornj.org/forethekids

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 Big Brothers Big Sisters, and a Lunch & Learn webinar is a great opportunity to learn more with zero pressure to sign up. Best of all, it'll only take 30 minutes of your day!

JOIN US on Wednesday, June 16th at 12 PM. Email info@mentornj.org to register!