



LETTER FROM BIG BROTHER MICHAEL STANDLEY

Dear Friends,

One Sunday morning in 2016, I read an article in the Asbury Park Press about how Big Brothers Big Sisters had over 40 boys, "Littles", waiting to be matched with "Bigs", male counterparts. I felt compelled to reach out to the Asbury Park office to learn more about what's expected in helping mentor boys in need of a responsible, older male presence in their life, and feeling I could be of good support to this amazing organization, I got involved. For me personally, it was a call to action, so I jumped in with both feet.

I have been a Big Brother to Robert, for 5 years. Next month, we begin our 6th exciting year together. When we met, Robert was 9 and he's now 14 and as tall as I am, HA!

Robert is mature for his years and his interests work very well with my own. I have exposed Robert to the arts and theatre. We have attended many plays and he loves going to them. Also, we've been numerous times to, "Comedy Sports of the Jersey Shore" improvisation events, which he really enjoys. Spending time together, going to many sponsored BBBS events and activities like visiting an architectural firm, learning about building design, going to the Monmouth County Fair, attending cooking classes, learning how business operates as I took him to my office one day, and more. I like talking with Robert about school and the importance of embracing education, questioning him about his current projects, essays, or book reports, etc., in general, discussing life's responsibilities. I also emphasize the importance of being a good friend and having accountability. We like laughing and having a good sense of humor whenever possible and appropriate. Robert has a healthy sense of right and wrong and for his age is quite patient with his younger sisters. Robert has an incredibly strong and loving relationship with his mother, which I feel strengthens our relationship as she wants him to enjoy more male balance and influence in his life. Sometimes we go on errands where I show him a male's perspective to shopping, finding, and selecting items of quality and value, be it at Home Depot, Costco, or the tire store, and then we usually have conversations about the experience.



While all our lives are different since the pandemic, we've maintained our friendship and kept it as consistent as possible. Now that we are able to reconvene in more normal ways, of course, we're both much happier than just talking over the telephone or texting. Face-to-face contact makes a big difference in the depth of our interaction. Activities such as miniature golf, bowling, topped off with a meal or a snack allows us time to, discuss most anything of interest or concern and we usually have some good laughs to boot.

As Robert gets older, I look forward to seeing how our friendship further develops as he is an interesting and smart young individual with so much potential. Robert keeps me on my toes and engaged in ways I wouldn't have known. That makes me feel good and he shows me how much fun it is being around him and learning from a young perspective in our rapidly changing world of ideas.

My advice to anyone considering BBBS and becoming a "Big", is to extend a helping hand to our future generation while immeasurably enriching their own life. Be like NIKE...just do it!!

Thank you,

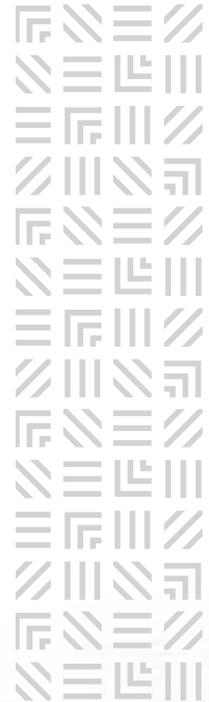
Michael Standley

Big Brother to Robert



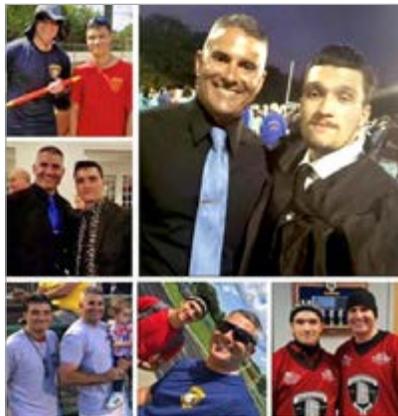
LOCAL BIGS & LITTLES FEATURED IN NATIONAL PHOTOSHOOT

Big Brother Michael Standley & his Little Brother Robert, as well as Big Sister Heather Meade & her Little Sister Kelis, participated in a photoshoot around Asbury Park last month. The beautiful photos will be used in our marketing efforts, as well as by BBBS of America and 235 BBBS affiliates across the country! Our thanks to photographer Barbara Wentzel for her artistic eye and skills behind the lens.



PROUD POLICE OFFICER CELEBRATES HIS LITTLE'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Officer PJ Gambardella of the Toms River Police Department shared heartfelt words about his Bigs in Blue match with Devon. "I had the pleasure of meeting this young man 4.5 years ago! Tonight, I watched Devon accept his high school diploma from Toms River High School East. Devon is my Little Brother with the Toms River Police Department Bigs in Blue program through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Through all the ups and downs over the years, his achievement solidifies everything I've already known about his potential! I couldn't be prouder of him than I am today! The sky is the limit for this young man!"



PROGRAM TO EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN LAUNCHES SUCCESSFULLY



BBBSCNNJ is collaborating with **Drop-ping Jewels**, whose mission is to inspire and motivate women and young girls to push through on purpose, for the Girls on F.I.R.E. (Fierce, Influential, Resilient, Engaged) Empowerment Program. This

program launched on August 12th with a self-worth workshop that included self-affirmations, etiquette training, styling and make-up techniques, self-worth creative exercises and presentations. Close to 40 girls, ages 10-18 attended this event and many have committed to the program through July 2022. This monthly program will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person sessions with the first virtual session kicking off at the end of September. Girls on F.I.R.E. will focus on empowering young women in many different areas such as leadership skills, self-esteem, financial literacy and more!

LITTLE GRADUATES HIGH SCHOOL WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Ethan has been matched with his Big Brother, Andrew, for over 5 years now. We congratulate and celebrate Ethan's high school graduation and are impressed that he also earned an associate degree through his hard and diligent work in the Poseidon Program! We are proud to see all that Ethan has accomplished by taking on an increasingly demanding high school schedule (with college courses) and working an afterschool job, all while navigating the challenges of the past year. Ethan's case manager notes, "It has been amazing watching Ethan evolve over the course of his involvement in the program. The opportunity to see him grow into a man who seeks to understand and better himself,



and to see such a great friendship serve as a backdrop for this growth, is why we do what we do. Ethan's journey is what we hope for all of the kids in our program." We are confident that Ethan will continue to do remarkable things for himself, his family, and his community.

10TH ANNUAL FORE! THE KIDS GOLF OUTING



BBBSCNNJ's 10th Annual Fore! The Kids Golf Outing at Manasquan River Golf Club, was a BIG success! Many thanks to board member John Harris and his company, Aspire Technology Partners, for their support as the Presenting Sponsor. Board member Pete McGuigan, supported as a Corporate Sponsor through his company Withum. Both John and Pete were instrumental in the success of the outing, and we are grateful for all they do for our agency and the kids we serve.

**BIGGER
TOGETHER**
CELEBRATION

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Sip. Savor. Support.

Join us at Cross & Orange in Asbury Park for a celebration of togetherness to sustain and expand our one-to-one mentoring programs for local youth. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, fine wine and cocktails, live entertainment, and exciting auctions!

Learn more at
mentornj.org/biggertgether

THE BIG WAIT

Andrew is an energetic and talkative eight-year-old boy who has been patiently waiting to be matched with a Big. He enjoys bike riding, swimming, and dancing to hip hop in his free time. He takes advantage of any chance to get outside and be active! Andrew even loves helping and learning about landscaping. You can often find him socializing and playing with his friends outside. A new interest of Andrew's is skateboarding and he's looking forward to improving on those skills! He is hopeful to be matched with



a Big who shares some of his same interests. Andrew would like to go to the skate park, ride bikes, and get ice cream with a Big.

Become A Big at mentornj.org/beabig



Sunday, September 12, 2021

Spend a day in the sand at Manasquan Beach to support our mission!

Join this great community fundraising event to raise funds and play volleyball to benefit our one-to-one mentoring programs!

Learn more at mentornj.org/volleyball

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AUGUST MATCHES

- Big Brother Joseph & Little Brother Emarri **9 Years**
- Big Brother Adam & Little Brother Jose **9 Years**
- Big Sister Pamela & Little Sister Jelinez **6 Years**
- Big Brother James & Little Brother Dorsey **6 Years**
- Big Sister Christine & Little Sister Anne **6 Years**
- Big Brother Thomas & Little Brother Jayden **6 Years**
- Big Brother Dwight & Little Brother Jeremiah **5 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Robert **5 Years**
- Big Sister Elisangela & Little Sister Gailey **4 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Nasir **4 Years**
- Big Brother Seth & Little Brother Brody **4 Years**
- Big Sister Jessica & Little Sister Natalia **3 Years**
- Big Brother Rick & Little Brother Divine **3 Years**
- Big Sister Kathleen & Little Sister Ava **3 Years**
- Big Brother Ron & Little Brother Colin **2 Years**
- Big Sister Brenda & Little Sister Tiana **2 Years**
- Big Sister Gia & Little Sister Geraldine **2 Years**
- Big Sister Lauren & Little Sister Maria **2 Years**
- Big Brother Bryan & Little Brother Jaiden **2 Years**
- Big Sister Marybeth & Little Sister Alliana **2 Years**
- Big Brother Mike & Little Brother Blake **2 Years**
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Joseph **2 Years**
- Big Brother Joseph & Little Brother Damien **1 Year**
- Big Sister Rebecca & Little Sister Jayne **1 Year**
- Big Brother Jeffrey & Little Brother Elijah **1 Year**
- Big Brother John & Little Brother Aaron **1 Year**
- Big Sister Jennifer & Little Sister Esmeralda **1 Year**
- Big Sister Kathleen & Little Sister Amaiya **1 Year**
- Big Sister Emily & Little Sister Piper **1 Year**
- Big Brother Jonathan & Little Brother Kyle **1 Year**
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother CJ **1 Year**

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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

