Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF COASTAL & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

LETTER FROM A LITTLE'S MOTHER

Dear Friends,

Parents often find themselves grasping at straws when trying to balance their lives. When it comes to our children, there are even more unknown variables. **I was in that "what can I try next" phase with my son James when Big Brothers Big Sisters brought Rich into his life.**

Two peas in a pod! That is what comes to mind when I think of their friendship. Not so much because they are similar, but because I feel like they were *"cool"* with each other immediately. As long as food and expended energy was involved, the day was amazing. And even now, two years on, their outings always involve food and active adventures!

I feel like Big Brother Rich is family. Family takes so many beautiful forms and I guess my definition is "those who care and look out for each other". It did not happen quickly. At first there was some resistance to texting each other but this worked out well because as I helped to nudge along the communication, I learned so much about them as individuals and as new friends! James is becoming a poised and passionate young man. Rich is always happy to engage in conversation and brainstorm ideas on how to handle a teenager – some of these conversations trigger ideas that make me a better mother!

Now they are on to the next phase of friendship, the deeper stuff. The things that can only start when the bond gets solid and comfortable. **I know they will continue to have important conversations about how to live life and about... football and chicken wings and the best sushi.**

I am grateful that the universe has given James a mentor, and for Rich's perspective to help guide him. **Thank you, friends & supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters, for making this mentorship possible.**

Sincerely,

Denise Fredericks

CANCELLED PLANS BECOME TREASURED MEMORIES

Big Sister Donna and Little Sister Stephanie have been matched for more than 8 years and have shared many fun experiences, including a recent outing in honor of Stephanie's Quinceañera celebration, which unfortunately had been cancelled. Donna made an appointment with a local dress shop for Stephanie to try on all the beautiful Quinceañera dresses. Afterwards, Donna treated Stephanie and her mother to a special lunch and topped it all off with birthday cake! It was a special day for all, and just one example of the memorable times Donna and Stephanie have spent together. Stephanie describes Donna as *"so loving and caring"* and Donna is always happy to talk about her *"lovely Little Sister"* and the bond they share. **It is clear that their friendship will continue to thrive in the years to come and they will make more memories that last a lifetime.**

LITTLE SISTER IS ON A ROLL... THE HONOR ROLL!

Since being matched in 2019, Little Sister Jaelyn and Big Sister Lisa have spent a lot of time talking about goals for the future and Jaelyn's dream to be a nurse when she grows up. With Lisa's support Jaelyn has worked through various challenges, especially those relating to last year's virtual learning, to improve her grades and involvement at school with each passing marking period. **Jaelyn was excited to see the hard work pay off in the first marking period of this year, as she made the honor roll!** Lisa, Jaelyn's mom, and their BBBS Case Manager are all so proud of her accomplishments and are happy that she has a victory to keep motivating and reminding her that she can achieve whatever she sets her mind to!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The team at BBBSCNNJ wishes you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving!

C.A.R.E.S. UPDATE

The Tutoring Program kicked off its second year on November 10th! Tutors from **Ranney School, Biotechnology High School, Trinity Hall, Christian Brothers Academy**, and **HiTech High School** volunteer every Wednesday afternoon to meet with Littles enrolled in the BBBS program. Together, they work on problem solving, homework and preparing for upcoming exams or papers. At our first session, we had 14 Littles attend to receive tutoring. This program allows for open enrollment throughout the school year in order to help as many Littles with their academics as possible.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR NOVEMBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Jaqueline & Little Sister Samantha **12 Years**
- Big Brother Vibhanshu & Little Brother Zion **6 Years**
- Big Sister Jennifer & Little Brother Justin **3 Years**
- Big Brother Edward & Little Brother Daijee **3 Years**
- Big Brother Tom & Little Brother John **3 Years**
- Big Sister Amy & Little Sister Janae **2 Years**
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Derek **2 Years**
- Big Sister Amanda & Little Sister Shantell **1 Year**
- Big Sister Mackenzie & Little Sister Rylee **1 Year**
- Big Sister Gabriella & Little Sister Maite **1 Year**
- Big Sister Kylie & Little Sister Kristina **1 Year**
- Big Brother Andrew & Little Brother Luca **1 Year**
- Big Brother Hunter & Little Brother Jekhi **1 Year**
- Big Sister Gwen & Little Sister Kendra **1 Year**
- Big Brother Taylor & Little Brother Anthony **1 Year**
- Big Brother Nick & Little Brother Cai **1 Year**
- Big Sister Dakota & Little Sister Clover **1 Year**
- Big Sister Jackie & Little Sister Yanna **1 Year**
- Big Brother Ronald & Little Brother Douglas **1 Year**
- Big Sister Stephanie & Little Sister Xa'Niyah **1 Year**

GIVING TUESDAY, SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 30TH

Our *Mentoring Matters* campaign for Giving Tuesday has launched with a goal of raising $40,000 by the end of the year to create 20 more matches. For many of the children in BBBSCNNJ's programs, the one constant thing in life they can rely on is the friendship with their Big. Help make a difference in your own community by donating now or on Giving Tuesday, November 30th.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter for updates from long lasting matches and some exciting updates on #GivingTuesday.

Learn more and donate here:
mentornj.org/mentoringmatters

ASBURY PARK TUTU RUN

On Saturday, October 23rd runners and walkers took to the Asbury Park Boardwalk for the annual Asbury Park Tutu 2.2. The overall winner of the race was Little Sister Megan, and her Big Sister Jenica was there cheering her on!

Thank you to all participants, especially our fundraisers and sponsors including Langosta Lounge, Fasano Realty, University Orthopaedic Associates, Falco's Catering, Shore Cake Supply, and Social Stamina. See you again in 2022!

THE BIG WAIT

Cliff is a likable, respectful 12-year-old middle schooler who has a passion for animals and loves spending time with them at the local farm. In fact, when he grows up, Cliff wants to rescue animals. He is looking forward to being matched with a Big who shares a love of animals.

Become A Big
at mentornj.org/beabig

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: Grunin Foundation; CDW People Who Get It; Super Foodtown Circus; Green Label Title; Colonial Airstream; New Jersey Natural Gas; Lowenstein Sandler; Seaview Orthopaedics; Delta Dental; Ansell Law, Ansell Grimm & Aaron, PC