A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

January is National Mentoring Month, a time when youth empowerment is recognized as a catalyst for positive change in our communities. Our volunteer mentors, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, are at the core of our mission with their dedication to build positive relationships and skills with children and teens that lead to life-changing outcomes.

If you are a current or past Big, thank you! You should feel proud of the impact you make on your community. In honor of National Mentoring Month, I ask you to share your experiences and inspire more people in our communities to get involved.

If you are reading this and haven’t taken the next step with Big Brothers Big Sisters, I urge you to get started today. The best way is to become a Big. There are 100 children currently on the waiting list, like Cameron who you’ll read about in the The BIG Wait feature.

As we look forward to another year of building positive impact, we are grateful to the community for supporting our mission. Please apply to be a Big or share your experience to motivate others today.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Little Sister Aly and Big Sister Charlayne have been matched for almost 3 years and in that time, they have formed an amazing friendship. They’ve bonded over shared experiences like trying new foods, shopping, and going for nature walks. Early in the friendship Aly and Charlayne visited Deep Cut Gardens, where they spent time walking, talking, and taking in the beauty of animals and plants. This quickly became a favorite activity for them. Charlayne has gone above and beyond to stay by Aly’s side through high school and has encouraged her hobbies and helped her apply for her first job. Aly has shared her gratitude towards Charlayne, noting that she always provides sound advice and is a great listener. We are confident that Aly and Charlayne will be friends for life, and it has been an honor to be a part of such an incredible friendship!

SHARE YOUR STORY, INSPIRE OTHERS!

If you are a current or former Big, share your story – you never know who you’ll inspire. Tag us on social media @bbbscnj or email info@mentornj.org and we’ll spotlight your story in our communications.

JOIN OUR NEXT BBBS INFOSESSION!

Thursday, January 27th at 5pm
The session is only 30 minutes, covers an overview of our programs and ways to get involved plus a chance to ask questions. Register at mentornj.org/events.

2022 SPECIAL EVENTS | SAVE THE DATES!

Bowl for Kids’ Sake | March 2022
Various Dates & Locations

Tutu 2.2 Walk/Run | April 9
Asbury Park Boardwalk

The Gala | June 3
Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Asbury Park

FORE! The Kids Golf Outing | Aug. 29
Manasquan River Golf Club, Brielle

Beach Volleyball Tournament | Sept. 11
Main Street Beach, Manasquan

Big Shots Golf Classic | Oct. 3
Fairmount Country Club, Chatham
ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM LIFTS SPIRITS

During the 2021 holiday season, 47 families in our Community Based program received support through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Adopt a Family initiative. Each year, donors from the community come forward to adopt one or more Littles in our program and their families. Donors provide gift cards, based on wish lists that each family shares with BBBS staff. The gift cards allow parents to enjoy holiday shopping for their children, and the children receive gifts they’ve been wishing for all year.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Are you looking for a resolution to kick off the new year? How about one that inspires you and the community around you? We’ve got the perfect suggestion!
Apply to be a volunteer mentor at mentornj.org/beabig.

We are so thankful to the donors who make the holidays brighter for so many families.

“This year has been very challenging, but the thoughtfulness and generosity of these donors is what brought joy to our family this holiday. We are so appreciative.”

– Adopt a Family Parent

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR JANUARY MATCHES

- Big Sister Diane & Little Sister Alexis 9 Years
- Big Sister Sonia & Little Sister Kimberly 7 Years
- Big Sister Inga & Little Sister Anastasia 7 Years
- Big Brother Thomas & Little Brother Jake 6 Years
- Big Brother Taimoor & Little Brother Julien 5 Years
- Big Sister Lauren & Little Sister Jocelyn 5 Years
- Big Brother Robert & Little Brother Jose 4 Years
- Big Couple Rudy & Natalie & Little Brother Adien 3 Years
- Big Sister Tiffany & Little Sister Adrianna 2 Years
- Big Brother Doug & Little Brother Izeear 2 Years
- Big Sister Samantha & Little Sister Gianna 1 Year
- Big Sister Christine & Little Sister Jasmin 1 Year
- Big Sister Maria & Little Sister Erika 1 Year
- Big Brother Benjamin & Little Brother Raymeer 1 Year

DURING THE 2021 HOLIDAY SEASON, 47 FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM RECEIVED SUPPORT THROUGH THE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS ADOPT A FAMILY INITIATIVE. EACH YEAR, DONORS FROM THE COMMUNITY COME FORWARD TO ADOPT ONE OR MORE LITTLES IN OUR PROGRAM AND THEIR FAMILIES. DONORS PROVIDE GIFT CARDS, BASED ON WISH LISTS THAT EACH FAMILY SHARES WITH BBBS STAFF. THE GIFT CARDS ALLOW PARENTS TO ENJOY HOLIDAY SHOPPING FOR THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE CHILDREN RECEIVE GIFTS THEY’VE BEEN WISHING FOR ALL YEAR.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR?

APPLY AT: MENTORNJ.ORG/BEABIG

THE BIG WAIT

Cameron is a creative 3rd grader who is a gifted writer and illustrator. In his spare time, he loves to build with Legos, play video games, and make music. Cameron is looking forward to having a Big Brother as a positive role model in his life and as someone who will introduce him to new experiences.

Become A Big at mentornj.org/beabig

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OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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

TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

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