



LETTER FROM BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR: PETE MCGUIGAN

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters Community,

It is an honor to be named Big Brother of the Year for this incredible organization. Not only am I a volunteer mentor, but I also serve on the agency's governance board. **I can wholeheartedly say that this organization has changed my life and the lives of so many children and teens through one-to-one mentoring.**

It was my wife who initially encouraged me to apply to Big Brothers Big Sisters after the birth of our fourth daughter. She knew I was partial to athletics and outdoor activities and that those interests might serve a young boy well who needed a male role model. She was right!



I knew I wanted to become a Big Brother who would provide a lifetime of support to a child. But there is never a guarantee that two people will develop the type of bond necessary to last one year, much less over a decade. Twelve years later, I am honored to say that there has never been a time when the relationship with my Little Brother Daniel seemed forced or insincere.



Over the course of our friendship, I have been surprised at the tremendous influence Daniel has had on my life and proud of the growth I've seen in his. Daniel was a shy, respectful 6-year-old boy in April 2010 when I first met him and over the years he has transformed into a confident and thriving young man who seeks out opportunities to help others. **Daniel's presence in my life has taught me to slow down and has deepened my sense of appreciation for the simpler things in life.**

Our friendship and years of fun together exemplify all the good that comes from providing a caring adult in the life of a young person. I look forward with great

anticipation to attending Daniel's High School graduation in a few months. I'm so excited to see what Daniel does with the rest of his life and I look forward to being a part of it.

April is National Volunteer Month, for that reason and so many others, I encourage anyone interested in getting involved to [attend an infoSession](#) or [apply now to become a Big](#). Our communities need more Bigs to support more youth in need of a mentor – all it takes is your time and attention to make a BIG impact.

Sincerely,
Pete McGuigan

THE BIG WAIT

Everett is a smart, athletic, and funny 3rd grader who likes to fix things and solve problems. He enjoys playing basketball, practicing Taekwondo and taking horseback riding lessons. He hopes to be matched with a nice, funny Big Brother who is interested in science. Some activities he's looking forward to doing with a Big Brother are playing basketball, spending time outside and going fishing.

Become A Big at mentornj.org/beabig

MATCH HIGHLIGHT: TWINNING



Little Sister Cataleya and Big Sister Kathryn have been matched since the summer of 2021. They bonded right away over the fact that both are twin sisters. Cataleya was having a tough time finding her own identity because of that and Kathryn easily empathized and supported her. *"I love that we bonded so quickly,"* Kathryn said. Cataleya described Kathryn as, *"fun, caring, loving, and always teaching me new things."* They have done many fun activities together, such as ice skating, roller skating, painting classes, going to parks, among others. Recently, Kathryn won a community service award called the RISEaward when she shared her experience with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Kathryn and Cataleya have built a strong bond in such a short amount of time, both look forward to more outings and memories together.



OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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



BBBSCNNJ'S WALK FOR PEACE & POSITIVITY

On Monday, April 25, BBBSCNNJ will celebrate National Youth Violence Prevention Day with a **Big Brothers Big Sisters Walk for Peace & Positivity**. Bigs, Littles, and families are invited to join us to create signs with positive and encouraging messages to promote peace and positivity in our community. We will raise our signs and our voices on a 2 mile walk to honor this movement.

The walk is also part of our programming designed with support from NJ Governor Phil Murphy and Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck's community-based violence intervention

(CBVI) programming. BBBSCNNJ is one of 24 nonprofit organizations to receive funding from the \$8.2 million allocated for CBVI programming announced in January.

"Our mission has always been to create a positive difference in the lives of children through mentoring and to help prevent their involvement in risky and dangerous behaviors. This funding will increase our ability to reach youth with targeted messaging and resources for addressing and preventing violence in the communities we serve," said William Salcedo, Executive Director of BBBSCNNJ.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: NY JETS MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



Little Brother Dominic will be celebrating his one-year match anniversary with his Big Brother Ryan later this month. Dominic loves keeping active with sports, particularly football – a passion that Ryan has encouraged and supported him in. They will often get together to play football at a local park. Dominic had always talked about wanting to go to a football game and thanks to BBBS and the NY Jets, they were able to make this dream come true! They were one of the matches lucky enough

to attend a gameday experience with the NY Jets including seats in a private box, food and drinks, and new NY Jets gear.

During a recent match support call, Dominic's mother spoke about the noticeable improvement in his confidence, *"This organization has made a huge impact in Dominic's life. Being a Little Brother has brought so much joy, encouragement, and support to his life, and his Big Brother Ryan is amazing."*



Apply to be a Big and you could be entered to win a gameday experience with the NY Jets.

Learn more mentornj.org/NYJets-InspireChange

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR APRIL MATCHES

- Big Brother Peter & Little Brother Daniel – 12 Years
- Big Brother Bill & Little Brother Jayden – 7 Years
- Big Brother Jeff & Little Brother Jake – 5 Years
- Big Brother Christopher & Little Brother Joseph – 4 Years
- Big Sister Lesley & Little Sister Skyi – 4 Years
- Big Brother Tim & Little Brother Christian – 3 Years
- Big Sister Carly & Little Sister Vanessa – 3 Years
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Shantae – 3 Years
- Big Brother Brandon & Little Brother Victor – 1 Year
- Big Couple Pamela & Jillian & Little Sister Isabella – 1 Year
- Big Brother John & Little Brother Santoneo – 1 Year
- Big Brother Aaron & Little Brother Alex – 1 Year
- Big Sister Faith & Little Sister Yohanah – 1 Year
- Big Sister Dottie & Little Sister Jahliyah – 1 Year
- Big Sister Sheyla & Little Sister Ingrid – 1 Year
- Big Brother Ryan & Little Brother Dominic – 1 Year
- Big Sister Paige & Little Sister Natalie – 1 Year

BBBSCNNJ SUPPORTERS. PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Earlier this month we wrapped up two annual fundraising campaigns – Bowl for Kids' Sake (BFKS) and the Asbury Park Tutu 2.2 Race. Our annual BFKS events returned after a two-year break and proved that absence does in fact make the heart grow fonder. Teams were out in full force with matching t-shirts, creative team names, and best of all they raised more than \$45,000 for our mentoring programs!



The Asbury Park Tutu 2.2 returned to the boardwalk on April 9th and with a huge boost from the Hackensack Meridian Health Network team. Together our sponsors, participants, and fundraisers brought in more than \$15,000 in support of BBBSCNNJ's mentoring programs. Despite a quick rain shower the tutus looked magnificent and everyone warmed up at the Langosta Lounge afterparty.



We look forward to both events returning **bigger and better** next year!

Check out our Facebook Albums @ facebook.com/bbbscnnj/photos for more photos from each event.

