Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF COASTAL & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

NEWSLETTER

MAY & JUNE 2022

LETTER FROM KIMBERLY, MOTHER OF A LITTLE SISTER

Dear Friends,

Our daughter, Isabella was first matched with Big Couple Pam and Jill last Spring, after a few months of being on the wait list. I remember she was so nervous to meet these "strangers" and to go out with them on her own. But as her mother, I also knew the one-on-one time would be good for her.

> "We are grateful to be a part of an inclusive organization like Big Brothers Big Sisters in order to show the children enrolled in the program it is ok to be who you are. The mentoring program has been very rewarding for us as well and we enjoy making memories and seeing our friendship with Isabella grow."
>
> *- Pam & Jill, Big Couple to Isabella*

I opened the door with a big smile, and I instantly felt a sense of closeness and safety as Pam & Jill walked in together. They are a beautiful young couple who coincidentally live in our neighborhood! As the meeting went on, my heart filled with excitement thinking how lucky that not only one, but two amazing people, wanted to spend time with my daughter. I knew this was going to make a difference for Isabella and our family.

And I was right! **The experience has been wonderful for Isabella and our whole family.** She bonded with Pam and Jill and looks forward to their visits so much. She always asks me to send them a picture of her from her sports games or school functions, she is always excited to share with them what she is doing in her life.

As a parent, I know that kids need consistent one-on-one attention and most importantly they need to feel safe to open up and share with others their accomplishments, feelings, ideas, questions, really anything on their mind. **We are so very grateful and forever blessed to have Pam & Jill in our lives, we send out a HUGE THANK YOU for everything they have done this last year with Isabella!**

If you are a parent considering enrolling your child, I can say with confidence that you will not regret it. I hope our experience inspires others!

Thank you,
Kimberly
Mother of Little Sister, Isabella

MATCH HIGHLIGHT: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AIDAN

We are proud to highlight one of our recent high school graduates, Little Brother Aidan and his Big Brother Nick! Aidan and Nick have been matched for over 6 years so Nick has seen Aidan grow and mature from middle school through high school. He has supported him through academic challenges, learning how to drive, getting his first job, and now as he prepares for college. Aidan plans to attend Brookdale Community College to study Automotive Technology. He's excited to turn his passion for cars into a career. Aidan has said that he appreciates being able to discuss his future and goals with Nick and having him as extra support during such an important time in his life.

Aidan's mom feels that enrolling him in the BBBS program changed his life for the better and was "one of her best decisions." We are proud to be part of such a long-lasting and impactful friendship! We are confident that this is a friendship that will last a lifetime.

C.A.R.E.S. HIGHLIGHT

Our friends at Taste & Technique in Fair Haven recently welcomed seven of our matches to a private cooking class! The Bigs and Littles worked together to make two dinner entrees and cookies for dessert. We are so appreciative of Taste & Technique for providing our Bigs and Littles with new skills and experiences!

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING 5 YEARS MATCHED

Little Sister Ariella and Big Sister Gina just celebrated their 5th match anniversary, and that's not all Ariella is celebrating. She also celebrated her 16th birthday earlier this year and has achieved success in several activities including making the JV softball team pitching and playing first base; completing her 2nd year as manager for the high school wrestling team; securing a part-time job; and making the honor roll! Playing on the softball team was a goal Ariella put on hold during the pandemic and is one that Gina has been helping her with for a few years - we're so happy to see her hard work pay off! We believe that Ariella is destined for BIG things and can't wait to see this match continue to work together towards future goals!

THE BIG WAIT

Kaiden is a friendly 2nd grader working to become an avid reader. He loves Minecraft and running. Kaiden would benefit from having someone to talk with and hopes to be matched with a Big who is athletic and funny. He can't wait to have a Big to go to the park with, play football, get ice cream, and go to an aquarium.

Become A Big
at mentornj.org/beabig

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MAY & JUNE MATCHES

9 Years

Big Brother Kenneth & Little Brother Jah'Sim
Big Sister Sandra & Little Sister Eleanor

8 Years

Big Sister Elisabeth & Little Sister Alexandra
Big Brother James & Little Brother Jason

7 Years

Big Sister Tonia & Little Sister Kassandra

6 Years

Big Brother Matthew & Little Brother Joshua
Big Brother Matt & Little Brother Micah
Big Sister Rachelle & Little Sister Maddie

5 Years

Big Sister Wendy & Little Sister Layla
Big Brother Brian & Little Brother Michael
Big Sister Gina & Little Sister Ariella
Big Brother Jonathan & Little Brother Gavin
Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Myaisa

4 Years

Big Couple Margaret & Thomas & Little Brother Savon
Big Brother Matthew & Little Brother Samuel
Big Brother Andy & Little Brother Shane

3 Years

Big Brother Hanbom & Little Brother Toby
Big Brother Rodrigo & Little Brother Zuriel
Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Isaiah

2 Years

Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Alexandra
Big Sister Kelly & Little Sister Samantha
Big Sister Sabeha & Little Sister Sha'Niyah
Big Sister Alicia & Little Sister Ireland
Big Couple Joseph & Renee & Little Brother Anthony
Big Sister Ilana & Little Sister Shianne
Big Couple Kathy & Brian & Little Brother Elias
Big Brother Ryan & Little Brother Jacob
Big Sister Tracey & Little Sister Helena
Big Sister Joyce & Little Sister Luna
Big Sister Nicole & Little Sister Rebecca

1 Year

Big Sister Vicki & Little Sister Anabel
Big Brother Gregory & Little Brother Ji'Lan
Big Brother Simon & Little Brother Emi
Big Sister Cindy & Little Sister Emani
Big Sister Rosheka & Little Sister Jewel
Big Brother David & Little Brother Julian
Big Sister Kimberly & Little Sister Meghan
Big Sister Brittany & Little Sister Janazyah
Big Brother Andrew & Little Brother Ethan
Big Sister Reena & Little Sister Libia
Big Sister Delilah & Little Sister Layla
Big Sister Aleicia & Little Sister Zoe
Big Sister Melissa & Little Sister Amira
Big Sister Deborah & Little Sister Gia
Big Sister Michell & Little Brother Oliver
Big Brother Bhagyesh & Little Brother Andy
Big Sister Brianna & Little Sister Monica
Big Couple Kim & David & Little Brother Joey
Big Sister Lindsay & Little Sister Sofia

Friday, July 8, 2022 • 2-7 PM
Oak Tree Lodge, Wall, NJ

It's a summer party you won't want to miss!

Teams of two will raise funds and compete in this great summer event. Enjoy an awesome afternoon with live music, food & refreshments, swimming, a playground, a chance auction, and more, all while raising funds for a good cause.

Learn more at
mentornj.org/cornhole

Monday, Aug. 29, 2022 • 9 AM-5 PM
Manasquan River Golf Club, Brielle, NJ

Spend a day on the course to support our youth!

Join us at the Manasquan River Golf Club in Brielle for a day of golf, to benefit our one-to-one mentoring programs that help children realize their potential and build their futures.

Learn more at
mentornj.org/forethekids

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Want to become a Mission Partner? Call us at 732.544.2224 ext 321.

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

VISION MAKERS: Garden Savings Federal Credit Union; GRUNIN

MENTOR MAKERS: Ansell Law; Delta Dental; Super Foodtown Circus; Freehold Subaru; Green Label Title; New Jersey Natural Gas; Peerless Beverage Co; Provident Bank; Seaview Orthopaedics; Love, Tito's; UBS