Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF COASTAL & NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

LETTER FROM BIG BROTHER AND REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER JEFF HEILBRUN

Dear Friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters,

I first began volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters after the sudden loss of my only child. My wife and I considered foster children, but already in our fifties, we had waning energy for full-time parenting. I had some knowledge of Big Brothers Big Sisters, applied to be a mentor, and shortly after I was matched with Phillip.

It took the experience of someone with patience and emotional fortitude to understand him. I introduced Phillip to hiking and kayaking. He had a strong mechanical ability and helped me fix my lawn mower and car. **The reward of helping him through a difficult period by showing and instilling in him honesty, self-esteem, and the value of hard work in school and on the job was for me a renewed sense of accomplishment and significance.**

A few years ago, I had the desire to renew my involvement with BBBS. I was welcomed as a Regional Board member and two years ago I was matched with my current Little Brother, Elijah. We have bonded by spending time outdoors hiking, kayaking and fishing. He wants to be an auto mechanic so one of our favorite activities is going to car shows and cruise nights. **Our activities are simple but often result in meaningful and important conversations that further build up Elijah's confidence, worldly preparedness, and his interests.**

In my time with BBBS, one of the challenges they seem to face consistently is a lack of male volunteers. I hope that in sharing my story other men in this community will step up to volunteer with this great organization. **Take it from me, you have nothing to lose but so much to gain.**

Sincerly,

Jeff Heilbrun

Big Brother to Elijah & BBBSCNNJ Regional Board Member

MATCH HIGHLIGHT: ADVENTURES IN FOOD & READING

Big Couple Kim and Tim met their Little Brother Wiatte nearly 4 years ago, a few days after his 7th birthday. He is now in 5th grade and continues to share fun times with his Bigs. On one of their recent outings, Wiatte tried lobster mac and cheese for the first time, and he loved it! In addition to the gastronomic adventures for this match, they also practice reading and love to spend time outdoors often at the beach or trying a new experience like virtual golf or paddle boating. Recently, Wiatte was asked why his Big Sister Kim and Big Brother Tim's friendship is important to him and he quickly responded, *"So I can have fun and help with reading."* Wiatte's mom Sabrina also shared her thoughts about the importance of their relationship, *"I love their friendship, Kim and Tim have played a huge part in his happiness and progress in reading over the last 4 years."*

Big Sister Kim, Big Brother Tim and all of us at BBBSCNNJ are very proud of Wiatte's perseverance and progress with reading and delighted to see all the fun he's having too!

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

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: NEW HOBBY INSTILLS NEW CONFIDENCE FOR LITTLE BROTHER AARON

Little Brother Aaron is a sophomore in high school, and he's been inspired by his Big Brother Sam to do well in school and be open to new opportunities. They have been matched for two and half years and together have enjoyed many different activities such as basketball, attending a NY Jets game, and many shared meals. One activity in particular, golf, has made a great impact.

So much so that Aaron decided to join his high school golf team, and the sport not only helped boost his confidence but also showed him the benefit of trying new things. When Aaron and Sam play golf together, they have meaningful conversations about his future and college. Sam's friendship and mentoring has set Aaron up for success during high school and beyond.

BIG SHOTS, BIG SUCCESS

Our final fundraising event of the year was a huge success thanks to all those who supported and played. The Big Shots Golf Classic was held on Monday, October 3rd at the Fairmount Country Club in Chatham, NJ. The outing was attended by 85 golfers who braved the stormy forecast to play and support BBBSCNNJ's mission to bring the power of mentoring to more youth.

All proceeds support our one-to-one mentoring programs. Sponsors for this event included Beverage Cart Sponsors Bausch + Lomb, Chatham Financial, LegalEASE;

and Cocktail Reception Sponsors CBRE, Fox Rothschild LLP, Jackson Lewis, Madison Elks, Mass Mutual, and PPAG.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR OCTOBER MATCHES

7 Years

Big Sister Crystal & Little Sister Isabella

5 Years

Big Brother Alexander & Little Brother Shawn
Big Sister Deborah & Little Sister Ashley

4 Years

Big Brother Monty & Little Brother Matthew
Big Sister Andrea & Little Sister Shayla

3 Years

Big Sister Mary & Little Sister Alanna

2 Years

Big Brother Kevin & Little Brother Sage
Big Brother Ricardo & Little Brother Joshua
Big Sister Shauna-Mae & Little Sister Carly
Big Sister Ilana & Little Sister Nora
Big Brother Matt & Little Brother Caesar

1 Year

Big Brother Jack & Little Brother Theodore
Big Sister Christina & Little Sister Dakota
Big Sister Katelyn & Little Sister Leilaah
Big Sister Carmen & Little Sister Madison
Big Sister Nijme & Little Sister Joellys
Big Sister Karlea & Little Brother Joseph

THE GIVING SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER: SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES WITH GIFT CARDS!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is always looking for more ways to support our families. With the holidays approaching, we are now accepting grocery store gift card donations to help during a financially challenging season. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to our Asbury Park office – remember to include your name and contact information so we can thank you!

THE BIG WAIT

Amary is a fun-loving 6th grader with an amazing heart. Two of his favorite things to do are play basketball and draw. He is engineer-minded and artistic with a unique ability to make structures out of household recycling. Amary would like a Big Brother because he already has two older sisters. He hopes his Big Brother will be nice and understanding and is someone who likes to play basketball and soccer.

Become A Big
at mentornj.org/beabig