

## Community

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern New Jersey to celebrate National Mentoring Month in January

The non-profit asks volunteers to ring in the new year by becoming a mentor to local youth



Each January Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey celebrates National Mentoring Month. The organizations goal for 2023 is to recruit more volunteers to be mentors.

Courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal & Northern New Jersey

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ASBURY PARK, NJ – [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern New Jersey](#) [BBSCNNJ] is asking volunteers to celebrate national mentoring month this January by becoming a volunteer mentor or “Big” to a local child. For the past 47 year the non-profit organization located at 305 Bond St. has been providing mentoring for youth ages six to 18 throughout 10 counties in New Jersey, placing children in mentoring matches with an adult volunteer Big Brother or Sister who can inspire their full potential. “Being a Big Sister for three and a half years has been so rewarding and an opportunity to both relive experiences such as playing board games or making gingerbread house, and to try new ones like an escape room or trampoline park,” said Marybeth Bull, Director of Development at BBSCNNJ.

“The time my Little sister and I spend together is all about connecting over simple activities to talk about whatever comes to mind and I look forward to many more years of friendship,” noted Bull.

BBBSCNNJ believes that every child is born with potential.

Their mission is to clear the path to every child's biggest possible future through mentoring.

With just four to six hours a month and a free or low-cost activity, Bigs introduce their Littles to new interests, help them to develop new skills and create new experiences outside the child’s own family and neighborhood.

By bringing these matches together, BBBSCNNJ encourages youth to become confident, competent and caring members of their communities.

“We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without the investment of our Bigs and their commitment to the greatest possible futures for our youth,” said William Salcedo, Executive Director of BBBSCNNJ.

“Becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister is showing that you believe even the smallest moments can create a positive and lasting change in a young person’s life,” added Salcedo.

In 2022, BBBSCNNJ created 150 matches, but today there are 100 children on the waiting list.

BBBSCNNJ currently serves over 1,400 children and teens in 10 counties in New Jersey, including Bergen, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren.

The agency is funded by the community through individual gifts, grants and special events.

To learn more, apply to become a Big, or make a donation, visit [mentornj.org](http://mentornj.org) and follow the agency at @bbbscnnj on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.