

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the power and impact of women. We're dedicating our newsletter to those who play a vital role in shaping our community now and for the future. Honoring these women and gaining a better understanding of the roles they play in our lives provides fuel for inspiring the next generation.

Big Sisters are at the forefront of our efforts to empower the young women in our mentoring programs. Our Big Sister of the Year, Jennifer, is a shining example of what we look for in a Big and she's also been recognized by the Big Brothers Big Sisters State Association of New Jersey for her dedication to her Little Sister Nevaeh. We look forward to sharing more of her story in the coming months.

Women make up 84% of the BBBSCNNJ team, from our Directors of Programs and Development, to our most recently hired case managers. Our success as an agency is due in part to these strong women and their dedication to our mission and at-promise youth.

We are also fortunate to have female leaders in the community that step up for our girls by hosting events that promote mentorship and learning from women in a variety of industries. The goal is to show them what can be possible for their future.

I want to personally thank all the women who help our agency thrive including our volunteer Bigs, staff, board members, and stakeholders in the community. Thank you for investing in Big Brothers Big Sisters and our youth.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director



MATCH HIGHLIGHT: EXPRESS YOURSELF



Little Sister Jaelyn was recently awarded the Express Igniting Confidence Shopping Spree, which granted her a \$400 VIP shopping experience. Jaelyn's Big Sister Lisa, who has spent a lot of time helping her plan for life after graduation and the college application process, joined in the shopping spree fun to help her choose new items for her wardrobe. Jaelyn will be dressed for success as she makes the transition from high school to college. She hopes to become a nurse and credits her Big Sister with supporting and inspiring her vision for life after graduation. Lisa's guidance has empowered Jaelyn to show the world and herself that she can accomplish whatever she sets her mind to!



Bigs & Littles recently attended a Women's History Month event at Single Throw Marketing this month.





YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: FEELING GREAT AT 8 YEARS MATCHED!

Little Sister Kimberly and Big Sister Sonia recently celebrated eight years together! Kimberly was only eight years old when they were first matched, and now she's about to turn 17. Sonia has been a great influence in Kimberly's life and recently supported her in applying to a criminal justice vocational school. When asked if Sonia has been a positive influence in her life she said, "Yes, she is very kind, smart, supportive, and I feel lucky to be matched with her because she always encourages me to do my best." Both Kimberly and Sonia are thankful for this friendship and look forward to making more memories in 2023.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MARCH MATCHES!

8 Years

Big Sister Jessica
& Little Sister Tyrah

7 Years

Big Brother Bill
& Little Brother Brett

5 Years

Big Brother Jim
& Little Brother Anthony

Big Sister Dawn
& Little Sister Erin

4 Years

Big Brother Stephen
& Little Brother Joseph

Big Sister Heather
& Little Sister Nariyah

3 Years

Big Brother Andrew
& Little Brother Jacobe

Big Brother John
& Little Brother Trevor

Big Sister Janae
& Little Sister Jayla

Big Sister Caroline
& Little Sister Nadia

2 Years

Big Sister Ashley
& Little Sister Kayla

Big Brother Christopher
& Little Brother Owen

Big Brother Evan
& Little Brother Anthony

Big Sister Jacki
& Little Sister Maleah

Big Brother Luke
& Little Brother Caleb

Big Brother Matthew
& Little Brother Mehki

1 Year

Big Sister Gabriela
& Little Sister Mya

Big Sister Jessica
& Little Sister Sophia

Big Sister Brianna
& Little Sister Gilliana

Big Sister Sobha
& Little Sister Willow

Big Sister Samira
& Little Brother Jason

Big Sister Alissa
& Little Sister Katie

Big Sister Rachel
& Little Sister Tanya

Big Brother Kyle
& Little Brother Tyler

Big Sister Madyson
& Little Sister Madison

The BIG Wait

Alexa is a creative 11th grader who dreams of traveling the world in an RV. She loves Oreos and making jewelry. She is an avid reader and enjoys being outdoors. Alexa is looking for a Big Sister who is easy to talk to and who will take her to the beach and local parks.

Alexa is one of 26 girls on our wait list for a Big Sister. Apply to be a Big today and help us end the wait for these children and teens.

mentornj.org/beabig

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) is an integral part of our values and mission. In this section we will share news, updates, and other materials related to DEI.

Our first DEI Training Session of 2023 will be held on Thursday, April 27. The session will cover a range of terms and topics to provide a comprehensive understanding of different perspectives and backgrounds. Topics of discussion will include race, gender, sexuality, age, ableism, and socioeconomic status. During the session we'll take a closer look at how these factors intersect with one another. Attendees will also be given the opportunity to discuss how these topics relate to our work at Big Brothers Big Sisters and how these factors may influence our relationships and conversations with the Littles and families we serve.

All volunteers with BBBSCNNJ are required to attend one DEI Training Session per year. If you are a current Big or Board member you should have received an email regarding the session. If you missed it or have any questions email Shannon at soreficé@mentornj.org.



Special Events!

Our special events help fund the one-to-one mentoring programs we provide to children and teens. Add these great events to your calendar and join in on the fun! Sponsorship opportunities are also available!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER @ www.mentornj.org/events



Asbury Park Tutu 2.2 Run
Saturday, April 22



The BIG Idea Gala
Friday, June 9



FORE! The Kids
Golf Outing
Monday, August 28



Annual Beach
Volleyball Tournament
Sunday, September 10

Our **MISSION PARTNERS** support the fundraising efforts, mission, and vision of BBBSCNNJ throughout the year.

