

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023



LETTER FROM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, SHANNON OREFICÉ

Dear Friends,

What an incredible summer it's been at BBBSCNNJ! We've seen so many matches get out in the community to enjoy the best this season has to offer, from beach days and water parks to fireworks and fishing trips, our matches know all about summer fun.

As the season winds down, I want to take a moment to thank and recognize our CARES Program partners who've provided fun, free activities for our Bigs and Littles. Summer CARES Program partners include the *Hi-Mar Striper Club*, *Frog Falls (at the Picatinny Arsenal)*, *Kiwanis Club of Point Pleasant*, and *Atlantic Shore Woodturners* - to name just a few!

Our agency provides CARES Program events and partnerships all year round, if you have a business or company that would like to get involved, send us an email at info@mentornj.org.

Now, looking ahead to September with the back-to-school season and National Big Brothers Big Sisters Month, there are several ways you can support our mission and programs - read about them in this newsletter and stay tuned for more in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Shannon Oreficé
Director of Programs

CARES Corner!

Creating Access to Resources, Events, and Support



Match Highlight: Five Stars for Five Years!



Little Brother Matthew and Big Brother Monty have been matched for 5 years! Initially, Matthew's mother reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters looking for a stable and positive role model for her son. Monty has proven to be that and more, Matthew considers him a friend, confidant, and guide in all things school and life related. Rather than dreading the school year, Matthew is looking forward to completing his high school education and with Monty's support will be working on his SATs soon. He dreams of going to Florida State University to study business just like his Big Brother did. Monty, Matthew's mother, and all of us at BBBS are proud of his accomplishments, and we look forward to more BIG updates from this match.



Youth Spotlight: Little Sister Michaeyla is off to college!

Little Sister Michaeyla graduated from high school this year and in a few short weeks she'll be off to Georgian Court University to continue her studies. Big Sister Kelly attended her graduation and captured some great pictures of the milestone accomplishment. Michaeyla shared, "Having Kelly at my graduation ceremony was really special, it really made me happy to see her in the crowd and to have her there making these memories with me." Kelly has been a wonderful support system through Michaeyla's college selection process and looks forward to supporting her in this next transition to college life.



BE A BIG, BENEFIT A LIFETIME.



The BIG Wait

Philip is an energetic 11-year-old who has a strong sense of adventure. He excelled in 5th grade and is looking forward to entering 6th grade! Philip loves gaming, being outdoors, bike riding and has an interest in learning to ride a BMX bike. He's hoping to spend time with a Big who also likes being outdoors, bike riding and who may want to go to trampoline parks, on roller coasters or ziplining with him.

Become a Big today, end the wait.
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 next DEI training will take place on Saturday, October 14th from 10am-11:30am. Current Bigs and Board Members should keep an eye out for an invitation to register.

The training is one of two offered this year, all volunteers and staff with BBSCNNJ must complete one training per calendar year.

Anyone interested in more information about the DEI Steering Committee or DEI in general should email soreficé@mentornj.org.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AUGUST MATCHES!

8 Years

Big Sister Pamela
& Little Sister Jelinez

7 Years

Big Brother Michael
& Little Brother Robert

6 Years

Big Brother Michael
& Little Brother Nasir
Big Brother Seth
& Little Brother Brody

4 Years

Big Sister Lauren
& Little Sister Maria
Big Brother Bryan
& Little Brother Jaiden
Big Brother Mike
& Little Brother Blake
Big Brother Anthony
& Little Brother Joseph
Big Sister Marybeth
& Little Sister Alliana

3 Years

Big Brother Joseph
& Little Brother Damien
Big Sister Rebecca
& Little Sister Jayne
Big Sister Jennifer
& Little Sister Esmeralda
Big Brother John
& Little Brother Riofrio
Big Brother Jeff
& Little Brother Elijah
Big Sister Emly
& Little Sister Piper
Big Sister Kathleen
& Little Sister Amaiya

2 Years

Big Brother Steven
& Little Brother Malik
Big Sister Tara
& Little Sister Leylani
Big Sister Aarti
& Little Sister Emily
Big Brother Darren
& Little Brother Jabaree
Big Sister Kayla
& Little Sister Jadalyn
Big Sister MJ
& Little Sister Yasmin

1 Year

Big Brother Vincent
& Little Brother Gabriel
Big Sister Jeanne
& Little Sister Amira
Big Brother Adam
& Little Brother Jonathan
Big Sister Laurel
& Little Sister Genesis
Big Sister Amanda
& Little Sister Diamond
Big Sister Deborah
& Little Sister Helen
Big Sister Brooke
& Little Sister Zulema
Big Brother Kevin
& Little Brother Anthony
Big Sister Maureen
& Little Sister Michaela
Big Sister Jonnelle
& Little Sister Laila
Big Brother Angel
& Little Brother Beau
Big Brother Nirmal
& Little Brother Avyan



Special Events!

Special events help raise awareness and funds to support our one-to-one mentoring programs for local children and teens. Check out our upcoming events & join us for some **FUN**draising!

LEARN MORE AT www.mentornj.org/events



Beach Volleyball Tournament
Sunday, September 10



BIG Shots! Golf Classic
Monday, October 2



Surf Taco Community Day
All proceeds from Surf Taco locations in New Jersey on this day will benefit BBBS CENNJ!
Tuesday, September 26



SAVE THE DATE!
BBBS Social Hour at DefinedLogic
Thursday, September 28

Our Mission Partners support the fundraising efforts, mission, and vision of the agency throughout the year.

