

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate our successes in 2023 and look ahead to 2024 I wanted to take a moment and extend my gratitude to **YOU**, our community of volunteers, parents/guardians, children, donors, and community stakeholders, for your commitment to our mentoring programs.

Our agency supported more than 1,600 youth through one-to-one mentoring this year. By December 31st we will have created 93 new Community Based matches and launched 34 group mentoring programs in schools, hospitals, and corporate settings. All of this is made possible by the hard work of the BBBS staff, the support of our community, and the trust families place in our programs to support their children and teens.

Together, we are empowering youth to reach their greatest possible future. We look forward to expanding our reach in 2024 and hope you will join us again in that mission.

Warmest wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyful new year.

Peace & Blessings,

William Salcedo
Executive Director



Our first Big & Little match of 2023 was Big Sister Lisa & Little Sister Kaiden

Could YOU be one of our celebrated 2024 matches? Only one way to make it happen - apply today on our website and make a BIG impact in 2024.



Make your last act of 2023
A GENEROUS ONE

Help us reach our goal of raising \$40,000 by Dec. 31!

Every donation supports one-to-one mentoring in our communities.

**Make a gift now by visiting:
www.mentornj.org/rememberwhen**

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

MISSION MAKERS			VISION MAKER		MENTOR MAKERS					



Youth Spotlight: A Trusting Friendship

Little Brother Amary and Big Brother Steve celebrated their 1-year match anniversary this month! At the start of the match Amary was a little hesitant to go out in the community one-on-one with Steve, so his mom stayed close by for the first few outings. Eventually Amary was comfortable having mom drop him off at the outings or he would sometimes give her a call to check in. Recently the two went out for their first one-on-one outing showing that Amary had gained more trust, connection, and friendship with Steve over their time spent together. Amary's big step is a great reminder that trust is earned with time and consistency!



IT TAKES LITTLE TO BE BIG



Match Highlight: Ten Years of Friendship!

Karon and his Big Brother Isaac have been matched for 10 years this month!! We are so happy to celebrate this milestone, a decade of friendship and mentorship is worthy of a BIG celebration! Karon and Isaac have spent a lot of recent outings discussing Karon's college plans. Right now he's in the researching phase and deciding where to go, so he is leaning on Isaac for input, guidance, and wisdom in his decision process. We wish Karon the best of luck as he finishes up his senior year of high school and we can't wait to see which college he chooses for his post-secondary education!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR DECEMBER MATCHES!

10 Years

Big Brother Isaac
& Little Brother Karon

5 Years

Big Brother Kevin
& Little Brother Desmond

4 Years

Big Brother Richard
& Little Brother James

3 Years

Big Brother Stephen
& Little Brother Aiden
Big Brother Michael
& Little Brother Shaun
Big Brother Clifford
& Little Brother Ryan

2 Years

Big Brother Frank
& Little Brother Emanuel
Big Brother Joel
& Little Brother Frankie
Big Sister Alexa
& Little Sister Krystina
Big Sister Shy
& Little Sister Sophia

1 Year

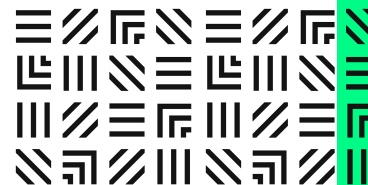
Big Sister Vanesa
& Little Sister Kelly
Big Brother Samson
& Little Brother Everett
Big Brother Samuel
& Little Brother Vincent
Big Brother Steve
& Little Brother Amary
Big Brother Timothy
& Little Brother Shauntez
Big Sister Joanne
& Little Sister Aniya
Big Sister Elisa
& Little Sister Coraline
Big Sister Genesis
& Little Sister Hazel
Big Sister Jasmine
& Little Sister Yohanah
Big Brother Billy
& Little Brother Andres

The BIG Wait

Romio is a polite 4th grader who recently took an interest in baking. He is multi-talented, playing basketball for the local rec team, excels at arts and crafts, and enjoys board games. He wants to be a "sports person" like a coach or athlete when he grows up. He would like a Big Brother who he can play Tic Tac Toe, Uno, Chess, Connect Four, football, and soccer with.

Become a Big today, end the wait.

mentornj.org/beabig



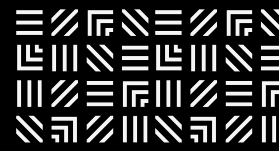


holiday



C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM UPDATES

CREATING ACCESS TO RESOURCES, EVENTS, AND SUPPORT



Holiday Spectacular at Sky Zone hosted by Solomon Thomas, a NY Jets Defensive Lineman and Big Brothers Big Sisters of American Game Changer.



Holiday Breakfast for Bigs & Littles held at Macy's Garden State Plaza with a few local Macy's teams contributing to the shopping, breakfast, and wrapping fun!



The Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday Party hosted by the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey!

