



A Message from Executive Director William Salcedo

Dear Friends,

As we celebrated Mother's Day earlier this month, my thoughts turned to the mothers and grandmothers of the Littles we serve. These selfless women want the best for their children and reach out to our agency to start the process of being matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister who can provide friendship and positive experiences.

Our agency provides monthly activities for Bigs, Littles, and families to participate in so the Littles have new opportunities they might not otherwise get a chance to experience. The volunteer mentors communicate with their Little's mother or grandmother to set up outings and work as a team with the BBBS case managers to provide the Littles with the best possible mentoring experience.

Thank you to all of the guardians who take the critical first step and enroll their child in the BBBS program. You are providing them with a caring mentor and guide to help them work toward a successful future.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

A Mother's Perspective

When my sons and I returned back to the states years ago from living abroad, I had no idea what it really took to raise three boys alone, without their dad. Thankfully, I reached out to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program as I had heard wonderful things about the stellar mentorship/friendship bonds that the program was responsible for throughout the community. The insight and loving kindness that William Salcedo, Sandi Mangino, and the BBBS team provided us over ten years ago, still stands firm today. For example, I will never forget the good times we had when we visited the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration labs in the Atlantic Highlands, where we had the opportunity to delve into and ask



Little Brother Ali Celebrating His Big Brother Jim's Wedding Day

questions about the world of the ocean and all of its beauty and vastness. Or fencing lessons that my sons were able to attend because of the due diligence of the program coordinators who set that up, which exposed my sons to an elite sport that they would not have been exposed to otherwise. Another was the writing program that provided my twin boys with a creative venue to present their thoughts through words. There is the annual summer pool party and back to school parties that they so look forward to, and lastly, the opportunity that was afforded to my oldest son where he had the opportunity to go to a movie with his Big Brother and Senator Cory Booker. All of these priceless occasions and opportunities could not have been possible without the team of hardworking people working behind the scenes to make it happen. It is just one of so many examples where they pour out their hearts and time to the kids in the community.

Although my oldest son has aged-out of the program, he still holds a significant bond with his former Big Brother Jim, which will last throughout their lifetime. I have also watched Doug throughout the years nurture

and guide my younger sons, his Littles (who are not so little anymore) with love and support, as if they were a part of his own family.



Little Brothers Ibrahim & Mohamet with their Big Brother Doug

It means a lot to me that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties understands the value and importance of mentorship. The love and guidance that my sons received and continue to receive from their Big Brothers has consistently spanned over the course of ten years, and throughout those years, my sons have experienced immeasurable love and quality time from their Bigs that have not only impacted their values but also their self-esteem, as well.

- Rhonda

Architecture Workshop

Children in our program recently experienced a day of learning with their Bigs beginning with a tour and presentation at Shore Point Architecture in Ocean Grove. After learning what it means to be an architect, the required education, and the work that goes into designing a building, the tour moved onto one of the firm's successful projects, the Springwood Center in Asbury Park, a multi-use building that has become a critical component in the redevelopment of the west side of Asbury Park. The group toured the center and the Kula Urban Farm next door which provides fresh produce to several restaurants in the community. The day ended with a delicious lunch at Kula Café, a community eatery located in the Springwood Center. This day came together through collaboration with Shore Point Architecture, Interfaith Neighbors, Kula Urban Farm, & Kula Café!



Group Shot from Architecture Workshop in Front of Springwood Center



Littles Robert & Karla Explore Kula Urban Farm

Andrea Fitzpatrick, Associate at Shore Point Architecture, said *"As architects, we strive for our work to positively impact the community and its residents. It was our pleasure to share with BBBS two of our projects that represent this vision, Springwood Center and Kula Urban farm, both located on the West Side of Asbury Park. We hope that this experience was encouraging and inspiring to the future generation of creative minds who might be interested in the field of Architecture."*

Raritan Bay Medical Center Mentoring Program



Perth Amboy Mentees Touring EMT Services

Scott Powers, Director of EMT Services at RBMC, engaged the students of Perth Amboy High School in a tour of the Medical Intensive Care Unit, including a tour of the Emergency Squad. Scott detailed his work implementing measures for improving the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks before they arrive at the hospital. The students were informed about the American Heart Association, the standards they have established for the treatment of heart

attacks, and how Scott has worked rigorously to meet those standards. Scott also provided insight on the human component of the EMS team, which spoke to the daily successes and struggles that EMS members face. The students heard stories about what makes the job difficult, but overwhelmingly rewarding at the same time, which is why Scott still works a shift every Friday night. The Littles really enjoyed the session as did Scott stating *"I thoroughly enjoyed introducing my business unit to the group. I think what we do here is amazing and I'm glad I was able to get that across to everyone."*

The Changing Minds Campaign



Childhood trauma **Changing minds.** DEFENDING CHILDHOOD

A new campaign highlights how caring adults can combat the effects of childhood exposure to trauma. Children who witness violence can have trauma to their minds as a result. This new campaign encourages adults to take action to help heal them through five everyday gestures.

- Celebrate them with a compliment or by applauding their efforts.
- Comfort them by staying calm and patient.
- Listen to them by staying calm and patient.
- Collaborate with them by asking their opinions.
- Inspire them with new ideas that will help them see a brighter future.

Changing Minds has released two original videos, which were inspired by true stories and reveal just how big of an impact mentors can have. To learn more about the science of childhood trauma and ways you can practice everyday gestures to help a child in your life, visit: www.ChangingMindsNow.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

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Celebrating 5 Years of Friendship



Chancellor & George 5 years ago



Chancellor & George heading to BBBMMC Gala in 2014

Chancellor was 12 years old when he was introduced to his Big Brother George for the first time. They bonded quite easily because they both have relaxed personalities and a love of sports. Chancellor was a football player when they met and he has since added two other sports to his roster. He is now a high school junior, plays lacrosse and wrestles. His athletic schedule is quite demanding but he still makes time twice a month to get together with his Big Brother George. They have now been matched for 5 years and one of their favorite ways to spend time is on the Asbury Park boardwalk playing pinball. Most of the time though they catch up over a meal talking about sports and more sports!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MAY MATCHES

- Big Brother Adam & Little Brother Seven 3 Years
- Big Brother Erick & Little Brother Zuriel 1 Year
- Big Sister Jessica & Little Sister Keyisha 1 Year
- Big Sister Maria & Little Sister Precious 1 Year
- Big Brother Andrew & Little Brother Ethan 1 Year

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Us
at the Manasquan
River Golf Club
in Brielle, NJ



FORE! the kids

Monday, July 24, 2017

Join Us
at Main Street Beach
in Manasquan, NJ



Sunday, September 17, 2017

Join Us
at Buona Sera Palazzo
in Ocean, NJ



Friday, October 20, 2017

A Little Life is Waiting for a Big Change

Jayden is an active 10-year old boy who enjoys wrestling and playing Pokémon. He's a caring and happy child who *"wakes up with a smile on his face every morning."* Now that the weather is getting nicer he looks forward to riding his bike to school every day. Some activities he would enjoy doing with a Big Brother are playing mini golf and laser tag. He hopes to have a Big Brother who is sporty and fun.

Find out how to BECOME A BIG at www.bbbsmmc.org



For more information on our events
visit <http://support.bbbsmmc.org/>
or scan the below QR code.

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