

BIG PICTURE

Latest news from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties



June 2017

A Message From One of Our Dedicated Biotechnology High School Mentors

Dear Friends,

Having completed my second year with Big Brothers Big Sisters, I can truly say that BBBS is a program like no other. As a Big Sister in the Biotechnology High School - Long Branch Middle School program, I have seen first hand the impact that BBBS can have on not only the Littles, but also the Bigs. Every two weeks, session after session, every individual grew as we bonded and learned more about one another. Big Brothers Big Sisters has always encouraged both Littles and Bigs to be their best selves, and to reach their full potential. With each session I found the support of the Case Managers to be unmatched - not only did they ask the Bigs for their perspective on the progress of the Littles, but they cared enough to check up on the mentors, too. Our BBBS meetings became a safe space for all to enjoy, where we could share our passions, thoughts, and worries without fearing judgement.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also not only made volunteering enjoyable, but truly worthwhile. I have found that while some activities we partake in are light-hearted and fun, like games of Candy Get-To-Know-You or Summer Bingo, others are challenging and more meaningful. I can still remember the excitement in the eyes of the Littles (and the Bigs!) when put to the task of building tall structures or engineering bridges using only materials such as straws. BBBS encouraged both Littles and Bigs to follow their dreams and shoot for the stars, which we did as we wrote our goals on the star-shaped paper BBBS provided. There was no greater feeling of fulfillment than seeing and discovering how my Little developed his interests, worked on a team, and consequently became a more well-rounded individual. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the program as a Little or a Big, I can safely say that is one of the best decisions a person can make. As my second year with the program comes to a close, I know that I will always remember Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the bonds that we all share as a result.

Regards,

Laura Vorbach



4 Year Match Little Sister Eleanor & Big Sister Sandy Volunteering Together at a Park Clean-Up!

BIG & LITTLE MATCH ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

- Big Brother Kirk & Big Sister Darryn & Little Brother Arron 10 Years
- Big Brother Doug & Little Brother Mohamet & Ibrahim 8 Years
- Big Brother David & Little Brother Joey 6 Years
- Big Brother Ken & Little Brother Jah'Sim 4 Years
- Big Sister Sandy & Little Sister Eleanor 4 Years
- Big Sister Adelina & Little Sister Keira 3 Years
- Big Sister Betty & Little Sister Jasmine 3 Years
- Big Sister Fiona & Little Sister Karla 1 Year
- Big Brother Terrence & Little Brother Yasir 1 Year

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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Thank You to Our School & Workplace Partners!



Wrapping Up the Successful Pilot Year of Biotechnology High School Mentoring Program with Long Branch Middle School!

Our six School Based and four Beyond School Walls programs have all wrapped up this month after a successful year of mentoring! We look forward to planning next year's activities and starting a new program with Colonia High School & Colonia Middle School this fall.

We could not run these successful mentoring programs without the support and dedication of our

partnering school districts and workplace partners, and of course all of our mentors and mentees from the following programs:

- Asbury Park 8th Grade Mentoring Program
- Milltown Mentoring Program
- Thurgood Marshall Elementary School Tutoring/Mentoring Program with Communications High School and the Academy of Allied Health
- Perth Amboy High School Bigs Program with McGinnis Middle School
- Perth Amboy High School Bigs Program with Shull Middle School
- Biotechnology High School Bigs Program with Long Branch Middle School
- Project BAM Mentoring Program with Monmouth University & Asbury Park High School
- Monmouth Medical Center Mentoring Program with Long Branch High School
- Raritan Bay Medical Center Mentoring Program with Perth Amboy High School
- Project Venture Mentoring Program with New Jersey Natural Gas & Asbury Park Middle School

10 Fun Summer Activities for Bigs & Littles

1. Fireworks or movies on the beach
2. *Plays in the Park*, Edison
3. BBBS Events (fishing trip, pool party, Rutgers color games)
4. Hunt for shells & sea glass
5. Tour *Rutgers Gardens*
6. Mini golf
7. Davidson Mill Park – *Butterfly House*
8. Visit county parks (hike, bike, kayak, explore)
9. Minor league baseball games
10. Local street fairs & festivals

The Key To Success

One key element in the success of our School Based & Beyond School Walls mentoring programs above is our dedicated liaisons from our collaborating schools, companies, and hospitals. BBBSMMC would like to thank all of our liaisons including guidance counselor Cindy Trujillo-Zak from McGinnis Middle School in Perth Amboy for all of her hard work with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program for many years. Cindy has been a solid partner in this mentoring program assisting with recruitment of students, being present at every mentoring session, and planning our Annual Perth Amboy Recognition Event.

Ms. Trujillo-Zak is retiring after 40 years of dedicated service and we wish her the best.



Our Dedicated Partners Susan Pasternack (Raritan Bay Medical Center), Cindy Trujillo-Zak (McGinnis Middle School), Jennifer Osbourne (Shull Middle School), & DeNere Postell (Perth Amboy School District)

"It has been an honor and a privilege to work with some outstanding young men and women. I have seen the Littles grow with the help and reassurance from their Bigs. The process in which BBBS matches the students is remarkable. It seems to be perfect every year. BBBS's Jackie and Brendan are wonderful leaders and are so happy to see my kids. The students can feel their love and acceptance and they have shared that with me. After 40 years I am retiring at the end of this school year. I must say in all of the things I have been involved with this has to be one of the most rewarding of all."

- Cindy Trujillo-Zak

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

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Congrats Graduates!

We are proud to report that 100% of our high school seniors – both Bigs and Littles – across all of our mentoring programs have graduated! These wide-eyed young adults have big goals and we wish all of them the best in their future endeavors! Here are some of the colleges and universities that our students are set to attend in just a couple months:

- Kean University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Monmouth University
- Brookdale Community College
- University of Pittsburgh
- Johns Hopkins University
- Seton Hall University
- The College of New Jersey
- Rutgers University
- Middlesex Community College
- Drexel University
- Drew University

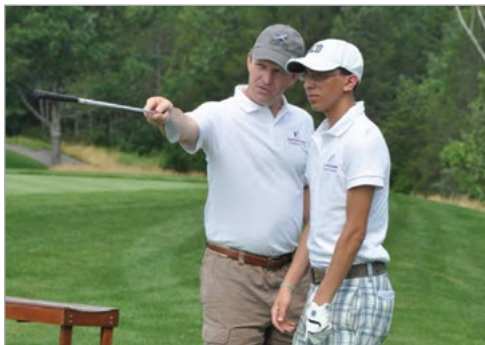


Big Brother Robert Celebrating Little Brother Andrew's High School Graduation

Celebrating 6 Years!

At 12 years old, Joey was matched with his Big Brother Dave. This month, they have reached their 6 year anniversary of friendship! Joey and Dave typically spend their time going to see the newest movie at the theater or eating at various restaurants. However, this month they will celebrate their friendship by attending Joey's graduation from high school. Joey plans to attend automobile trade school next fall. Despite Joey graduating from Big Brothers Big Sisters, he and Dave plan to be lifelong friends. Joey stated, "Dave gives me great advice and guidance on life and helps me in many ways."

Attention Golfers! Join us at the Annual FORE! The Kids Outing



FORE! The Kids Golf Outing on July 24th will benefit BBBSMMC's mentoring programs

The proceeds raised through our special events are what make our mentoring programs happen! Our next event, Fore! The Kids Golf Outing on July 24th will raise needed funds to provide more children in our community with a Big Brother or Big Sister of their own.

For more info on sponsoring or golfing visit bbbsmmc.org or call 732.544.2224

A Little Life is Waiting for a Big Change

Myyckhi is a 13-year old, 7th grade boy who is aspiring to improve his grades and conduct in school. His aunt described him as active, kind, and charming. He's a real sports enthusiast and plays on the local football team. He hopes to be paired with a funny, nice Big Brother who would enjoy going to a museum, bowling, and playing sports together.

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

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

Thursday, September 17, 2017



Join Us

at Buona Sera Palazzo in Ocean, NJ

Friday, October 20, 2017

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

