

BIG PICTURE

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



November 2017

A Message from a Former Little Brother

Dear Friends,

Almost ten years ago, I had the great pleasure of meeting two people who slowly started to form and sculpt my young brain. My relationship with my Bigs, husband and wife Kirk and Darryn, ended up being a huge milestone in my life. While I might not have known it at the time I certainly know it now. How much I've been able to grow thanks to these two wonderful, kindred spirits is honestly phenomenal.

During our first outing, I remember going to Deal Lake and for the first time ever, I got to fish - something I had always wanted to do, even though I didn't know how. Kirk stepped up and taught me how to cast, string up a pole and even tie a couple knots. Kirk has enriched my life with various activities that have kept me way more busy than bored. Whether we go fishing, hiking, or just hanging out I always learn something new from him.

Darryn enriches my life spiritually and shows me that the world is more than what can be seen and touched. We have very intellectual conversations about the world, the brain, different energies, current events. These conversations and the time I spend with Darryn is always eye-opening and sometimes I just sit and marvel at her knowledge. If I were to be honest, they are definitely my role models. It's obvious they share a deep bond and I'm proud to be a part of their life just as I know they are proud to be part of mine.

With Kirk and Darryn's guidance, I'm now attending Kean University, joined a fraternity, and am looking to give back to Big Brothers Big Sisters and the children whose lives are being changed through mentoring. I'm grateful for the experience I had and the friendship I will always have with my Bigs.

Sincerely,

Arron Brown

A Former Little Brother

#GIVINGTUESDAY

#WhereAreTheyNow? This year, we are focusing our #GivingTuesday efforts on raising funds and awareness to show the long-term impact of 1-to-1 mentoring!

On **November 28th**, please consider making a contribution to help us create more Big-Little friendships that change the lives of

our Littles for the better, forever. On #GivingTuesday, check bbbsmmc.org or www.facebook.com/bbbsmmc/ for the link where you can see more about the success our Littles have achieved, the friendship they still have with their Bigs, and make a donation or apply to become a Big Brother or Big Sister!

Want to make a matching gift? An individual or business can pledge to match funds up to a certain \$ amount to encourage more donations. For info and benefits of matching call 732-544-2224 or info@bbbsmmc.org



New School Based Mentoring Program in Colonia Kicks Off

BBBSMMC recently began our inaugural year of this peer-to-peer mentoring program in which Colonia High School students mentor Colonia Middle School students. The Bigs and Littles had a great time getting to know each other through an ice breaker activity which involved M&Ms and Skittles! We ended the session talking about what we are looking forward to in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program this year. We are so excited to witness the new Big-Little friendships as they develop!

BBBSMMC has now successfully launched all 11 of our School and Beyond School Walls programs. Enrolling the volunteers and children, conducting interviews, holding trainings, and preparing for and facilitating the first sessions are no easy tasks, but are embraced and enjoyed by the BBBS staff. Everyone is looking forward to another fantastic year of changing lives through 1-to-1 mentoring!



First Day of Our Brand-new Program in Colonia

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

305 Bond Street, 2nd Floor | Asbury Park, NJ 07712 | 732.544.2224 | info@bbbsmmc.org | www.bbbsmmc.org

Inspire • Believe • Achieve

Match Highlight



Chris & Isiah at the BBBS Back to School Party

Little Brother Isiah was matched with his Big Brother Chris three years ago when Isiah was 9 years old. They enjoy activities that revolve around sports and have played basketball, football, and hockey

together. Not only do they play sports, they have also been to a variety of sporting events together including, Lakewood Blue Claws games, a Rutgers University Basketball game, and a NJ Devils hockey game. Chris is an engineer and has shown Isiah how to build model cars and rockets. In a recent conversation with his case manager, Isiah was asked what he liked about Chris and said, *"He's a good person and is fun to hang out with."* When asked to explain what makes Chris a good person he stated, *"Even though he has a new job and is further away, he still makes the time to come see me and spend time with me."*

TRICK OR TREAT



Big Sister Heather & Little Sister Kelis Painting Pumpkins

Bigs & Littles had a "spooktacular" time at our Annual Halloween Party last month! A total of 33 Big-Little matches attended in costume to enjoy trick or treating through the high school, getting wrapped up like mummies, painting pumpkins, and lots more! Thank you to the St. John Vianney High School Key Club and staff for organizing and hosting this fun event for our Bigs and Littles every year!



Join us at Freehold Subaru and support BBBSMMC at the annual "Share the Love" event!
All are welcome!

FREE lunch and cool cars to test drive!
Saturday, December 9th, 11am-1pm

For every new car that is purchased or leased from now until early January, Freehold Subaru will donate \$250.

Welcome Interns

BBBSMMC welcomes interns each year to assist us with our important work providing mentoring to local children. We currently have three long-term Master of Social Work interns from Rutgers and Monmouth University, and a Business & Marketing intern from New Jersey City University.

Thank you for helping us make a BIG difference!



From left, Interns Connor Hiller, Jennifer Inglis, Julie Gross, and Catherine Gepner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR NOVEMBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Brittany & Little Sister Ah'Naizah 4 Years
- Big Sisters Vicki & Little Sister Michelle 3 Years
- Big Sister Lori & Little Sister Kayla 2 Years
- Big Brother Vib & Little Brother Zion 2 Years
- Big Sister Chelsea & Little Sister Dyamond 1 Year
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Colby 1 Year

A Little Life is Waiting for a Big Change

Justin is a freshman in high school who referred to himself as a "super nerd" because his favorite subject is technology. Justin is hoping for a Big Brother who can enhance his social side and be a positive role model. Justin would love to be paired with a funny Big Brother who enjoys boxing and basketball as much as him.

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

OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Mentor Makers

