

BIG PICTURE

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



December 2017

A Message from Executive Director William Salcedo

Dear Friends,

I am always proud of the awards and accolades that our agency receives, but it is the everyday accomplishments that add up to a successful year. Our biggest achievement is the hundreds of thriving Big-Little matches we are able to witness. It is an accomplishment when our school programs get off to a good start and finish strong, and when we offer an activity that the kids enjoy or a host a special event that is well received.

As the holiday season approaches, I am able to see all of these successes as a whole. I am grateful for all of you who donated your time, talent, and treasure to help us provide all that is needed for the children in our programs – most importantly, a mentor to help them on the path to success.

As 2017 comes to a close I'm proud to say that through quality mentoring we are giving kids in our community a future to look forward to!

William Salcedo
Executive Director

Match Highlight

Little Brother Karon was matched with his Big Brother Isaac four years ago when Karon was 7 years old. Karon and Isaac enjoy activities of all kinds including roller skating, attending sporting events, tubing, visiting the circus and playing tennis. Isaac introduced Karon to tennis, which developed into a sport Karon now enjoys. Karon's mother praised Isaac for always being willing to introduce Karon to new activities and experiences that he may never have tried before meeting him. When his case manager asked Karon why he wants to continue in his friendship with



Big Brother Isaac & Little Brother Karon
at the Annual Rutgers Color Games

Isaac, Karon said, "Isaac is fun, knows my personality and understands me. He is always making me laugh too."

GIVE THE GIFT OF POSSIBILITY!

Studies show that providing at-risk youth with a positive mentor makes them more likely to graduate high school, avoid risky behaviors and achieve lifelong success.

At BBBSMMC our Mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Your gift will help us develop more college grads, leaders and entrepreneurs in your community. Donate at <http://support.bbbsmmc.org/>

*This
holiday season*

GIVE THE GIFT OF
possibility

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR DECEMBER MATCHES

- Big Brother Stephen, Big Sister Kim & Little Brother Stephen 4 Years
- Big Sister Joy & Little Sister Kalise 3 Years
- Big Sister Abby & Little Sister Talani 3 Years
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Christopher 2 Years
- Big Sister Lateisha & Little Sister Shianne 2 Years
- Big Sister Kim & Little Sister Katie 1 Year
- Big Sister Megan & Little Sister Mo'Riyah 1 Year
- Big Sister Cathy & Little Sister Yvonne 1 Year
- Big Brother Puya & Little Brother Isaiah 1 Year

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

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Inspire • Believe • Achieve

Agency Highlights

BBBSMMC served **720** children through 1-to-1 mentoring! This includes **400** children served through our **7** School Based Programs and **4** Beyond School Walls Programs.

40 Kids Club events were held with nearly **700** participants! They included tickets donated to **16** sporting events, concerts, and shows that were enjoyed by Bigs and Littles. Over **70** families were provided with holiday gifts, meals, and other services through Adopt-A-Family and other donations.

In addition to being the beneficiary of several community events, BBBSMMC hosted **5** special events supported by over **1,500** attendees.

775 volunteers logged an extraordinary **46,500** hours providing mentoring, organizing events, and serving on our Board of Trustees, and various committees.



Girl Power!

Holiday Cookie Workshop!

The holiday cookie workshop this month hosted by Devon's Kitchen was a huge success! Thirteen Big-Little matches attended and everyone was able to bake, decorate and taste their cookie creations. The matches were split up based on which cookie they wanted to make. Devon, the instructor, had 5 different cookie recipes that they could try. Some of the ingredients were new to the Littles, so it was a great learning experience too. Everyone said they had a great time in the kitchen and were excited to bring the rest of the cookies home with them!

Big Sister Caroline & Little Sister Julianna Making Cookies



3.6 years is the average length of a Big-Little Match in our Community Based Program!



New Colonia Program

All **11** of our School and Beyond School Walls programs kicked off successfully including a new program with Colonia High School and Colonia Middle School!

Throughout **2017**, our agency provided unique activities for our Littles to attend with their Bigs and children waiting to be matched with their parent or guardian. These activities included recreational and skill building activities such as the annual Fishing trip, a Cooking & Nutrition Class, Personal Finance Seminar, and a Girl Power Workshop. Our agency hosted two Back-to-School parties to provide kids with backpacks and school supplies to start the new school year off prepared. Other offerings were career-focused and

explored Engineering, Accounting, Retail, and Architecture. These activities provide a sense of community for all Littles and are particularly important for children on our waiting list and not yet matched with a mentor.

99% of our seniors graduated high school and most were accepted into college. Two of our Hatfield Scholarship recipients graduated from Brookdale Community College in May.



Lori & Kayla at Jets Game

Marybeth Bull, Director of Development was the sole recipient of the Margaret Slack Award presented at BBBS of America's annual conference. The award is presented annually to a Big Brothers Big Sisters professional staff member who has demonstrated an outstanding level of professionalism and quality of service.

A Little Life is Waiting for a Big Change

Christian is 13 years old and a sports enthusiast. He is on his middle school's football and basketball teams. He's hoping to be paired with a Big Brother who also has a love of basketball. Once he has a Big Brother he hopes they will go to sporting events, to a movie, to play mini golf, and go-carting.

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

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