

# BIG PICTURE

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



March 2018

## A Message From Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso

Dear Friends,

March is Women's History Month, a time of celebration and an opportunity to reflect on the immense sacrifice of those who worked to ensure equality.

Having been a Girl Scout for much of my childhood, I recall from a young age the celebration of women's accomplishments and the emphasis on the hard work that the women before us had done in order for us to be where we are.

I see this everyday as a public official serving with 34 other women in New Jersey's State Legislature. The first three women were elected to state legislatures in 1894 and today there are more than 1,800. We are working together to improve our communities for both men and women in future generations.

As public officials, it is important for us to lead the way for young women to be the next leaders. We teach them how to be strong, independent, honest, and hardworking. We show them to make their voice heard. These are also the skills that Big Brothers Big Sisters instills. I am proud to join them in celebrating Women's History Month.

Sincerely,

*Serena DiMaso*  
Assemblywoman

## BIG & LITTLE MATCH ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

- Big Brother Scott & Little Brother Alex 9 Years
- Big Brother Rick & Little Brother Tyren 3 Years
- Big Sister Jessica & Little Sister Tyra 3 Years
- Big Sister Laurie & Little Sister Aaliyah 3 Years
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Tajae 3 Years
- Big Brother Romain & Little Brother Malachi 2 Years
- Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Richard 1 Year
- Big Brother Thomas & Little Brother Yaden 1 Year
- Big Brother Ram & Little Brother Jadiel 1 Year
- Big Sister Aimee & Little Sister Julia 1 Year
- Big Sister Jeannie & Little Sister Mayte 1 Year

## School Programs Address Cyberbullying

This month at several of our school mentoring programs, we focused on a very important topic: Cyberbullying. The students were required to use their creative minds to design an "anti-bullying app" for a smart phone and present their app idea to the group. Their goal was to create an app that was child friendly and focused on the education or prevention of Cyberbullying. One group designed an app called "Time Out" which would be downloaded to every smart phone, and, if a user wrote something negative on someone else's social media

page, the app would automatically deactivate their account. The students enjoyed this activity and it made them more aware of this type of bullying that can be so harmful.



Students in BBBSMMC's School Mentoring Programs with their Anti-Bullying Project

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## Bowl for Kids' Sake Is Rolling!

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who participated and helped us raise \$62,000 so far! We have successfully completed 4 events and have 4 more on the horizon. Up next is the BIG Bank Challenge, the Real Estate & Land Development Networking and Bowling event, RWJBarnabas Health, and Nerium Bowl for Kids' Sake events!

If you are interested in participating in any of these events or our final public date on April 13<sup>th</sup>, email [cartese@bbbsmmc.org](mailto:cartese@bbbsmmc.org) or call 732.444.3539. Let the good times roll!



Teams Having a Blast at the 36th Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake

## Match Highlights

Little Brother Zion was matched with his Big Brother Kemar three years ago when he was 12 years old. Zion's mother came to the program looking for a positive male role model for her son. Her wish was for Zion to have someone he could talk to about "guy stuff" and to be a positive influence. Kemar and Zion have created balance in their outings by focusing on school, while also leaving room for fun.

Every other outing, Kemar and Zion enjoy activities that include playing basketball, going to arcades, going out to eat, and getting ice cream.



Kemar & Zion Enjoying a Meal Together



Zion & Kemar at the 2017 BBBSMMC Gala

Their alternate outings primarily focus on Zion's future. They spend time at the library, where they work on school projects together and Kemar assists Zion with homework. Kemar recently brought Zion on a tour of Rutgers University, where Zion now has a strong desire to attend after he graduates high school. When Zion's case manager asked what he enjoys most about being matched with Kemar, he said, "I always enjoy my time with Kemar. He believes in me and has taught me to never give up in life."

## A Little Life is Waiting for a Big Change

Cole is an 8 year-old boy who is shy but energetic. He loves to do science experiments because it is his favorite subject in school. If he had a million dollars, he would buy 1,200 PS4 video games, mayonnaise ("because it tastes sooo good"), and a robot house that can do everything! Cole would like a Big Brother "who is nice and has ninja skills" and would like to go to the park, play basketball and soccer, go swimming, and go to the library.

Find out how to BECOME A BIG at [www.bbbsmmc.org](http://www.bbbsmmc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Asbury Park Tutu 2.2



Run or Walk  
with us in Asbury Park, NJ  
Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 9:00AM

### 19th Annual Food & Wine Event



Join Us  
at Buona Sera in Red Bank, NJ  
Thursday, May 10, 2018 - 6:30PM

For more information on our events visit <http://support.bbbsmmc.org/>

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

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