

BIG PICTURE

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



June 2018

A Message from a Mother of a Little Brother

Dear Friends,

I had the pleasure of reading and viewing the full extent of Big Brother George Koscs' mentorship of my son Chancellor in last month's BBBS newsletter. They have enjoyed spending time together for the last six years and what a tribute to both of them for their dedication to what the program represents. They are the gold standard of what this program's mission statement sets out to achieve. Now that Chancellor has graduated, he and George are no longer matched in the program but are certain to remain good friends.

George's attendance at Chancellor and his sister Cierra's Senior Awards Night in May is an extension of his passion and faithfulness to being a BIG. George was my support that evening and Chancellor was pleasantly surprised to see him at the end. It radiated in his smile. George, thank you.

Respectfully,

Beverly Cooper



George and Chancellor Getting Ready for Graduation

Cisco's Bike Build

Last month, the employees at Cisco of Iselin decided to combine their team building exercise with doing some good. The team built a total of 10 bikes to donate to Littles enrolled in our mentoring program along with a new helmet. The Littles are so excited to spend the summer riding their new bikes. Thank you Cisco for giving back to the local community!



Cisco Employees with Bikes They Built for BBBS Littles

BIG & LITTLE MATCH ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

- Big Brother Ken & Little Brother Jah'Sim 5 Years
- Big Sister Sandy & Little Sister Eleanor 5 Years
- Big Sister Adelina & Little Sister Keira 4 Years
- Big Sister Betty & Little Sister Jasmine 4 Years
- Big Sister Fiona & Little Sister Karla 2 Years
- Big Brother Terrence & Little Brother Yasir 2 Years
- Big Brother Jordan & Little Brother Malik 1 Year
- Big Sister Allyson & Little Sister Juanita-Marie 1 Year
- Big Sister Laura & Little Sister Myaisa 1 Year
- Big Brother Justin & Little Brother Brian 1 Year
- Big Sister Janet & Little Sister Courtney 1 Year
- Big Sister Dee & Little Sister Amina 1 Year
- Big Brother Jonathan & Little Brother Ethan 1 Year
- Big Sister Kathryn & Little Sister Amber 1 Year

Erik Mason Concerts to Benefit BBBSMMC

Local musician Erik Mason is using his talent to give back on his Summer 2018 Benefit Tour. The singer/songwriter from Brielle, NJ is debuting his new self-titled EP with shows in New York and New Jersey. The net sales of tickets and merchandise will be donated directly to BBBSMMC and 2 other local non-profit organizations. We are so grateful to be chosen as one of the benefitting charities and hope to see all of our supporters at a show!

To hear some music or to purchase tickets for an upcoming show, please visit www.erikmasonmusic.com.

A Little Life is Waiting for a BIG Change

Nathaniel is an 11 year old boy who is creative and inquisitive. He likes playing basketball, football, soccer, and riding his bike. Nathaniel also enjoys cooking, building Legos, playing the clarinet and singing. He is very friendly, helpful and loves being outdoors. Nathaniel believes that a Big would be able to help him with homework and art, such as drawing. Nathaniel would like a Big who is friendly, creative and likes to play basketball.

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

OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Inspire • Believe • Achieve

Thank You to Our School & Workplace Partners!

Our seven 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 four new programs 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 & Science
- 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
- Colonia High School Bigs Program with Colonia 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



Bigs and Littles in the Milltown Mentoring Program Were Happy to Spend Their Final Session Outside

Match Highlights

Karla was 10 years old when her Big Sister Fiona entered her life. Their friendship began with an excursion on the swan boats in Asbury Park and soon after, Fiona introduced Karla to her favorite hobby...bike riding around the Manasquan Reservoir. During their two year match they covered many miles on bikes but also shared times at Jenkinson's Aquarium, going to see movies, attending BBBSMMC events and ice skating.

Recently, Fiona moved away and is unable to get together with Karla on a regular basis. Although their match had to close, we know their friendship has had an impact on each other's lives. Fiona expressed her gratitude for the program and her time with her Little Sister in a note to her Case Manager, Belsa, "I had a great experience being a mentor to my Little Karla. She was a shy ten year old kid when we embarked on our mission. I call it a mission as we both had no clue what



Fiona and Karla Enjoying One of Many Bike Rides

we were up against... I mean that in a good and funny way, of course! Over the past two years I've watched Karla slowly develop into a more confident version of herself. She is a smart, funny, and very determined girl. She is not a quitter! Proving it to me by riding 5 miles around the Manasquan reservoir in the summer. She conquered a lot!! Karla has touched my heart and life!! Many thanks to BBBS for this. I am forever grateful for the opportunity you gave me, thanks again for trusting in me."

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:

- Johnson & Wales University
- Centenary University
- Brookdale Community College
- Kean University
- Montclair University
- Saint Peter's University
- West Virginia University
- Stockton University
- Monmouth University

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



FORE! the kids

Monday, July 23, 2018 - 10:30AM

BEACH
Volleyball
Tournament

Join Us at
Main Street Beach in Manasquan, NJ
Sunday, Sept. 16th, 2018 - 10AM

20TH ANNUAL GALA
ROARING
TWENTIES

Join Us at The Berkeley
Oceanfront Hotel in Asbury Park, NJ
Friday, Oct. 26th, 2018 - 6:30PM

For more information on our events
visit support.bbbsmmc.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth & Middlesex Counties

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