



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

March is Women's History Month, which is an observance and celebration of the women who played a vital role in shaping our country's history. Honoring these women and gaining a better understanding of the important role they played in our lives provides fuel for inspiring the next generation.

Big Sisters are at the forefront of our efforts to empower the girls in our mentoring programs. Our Bigs and case managers consistently remind our Little Sisters that there is no end to what they can accomplish in their professional and personal lives.

Big Sister Sandra is BBBSMMC's Big Sister of the Year and an example of how Bigs use their past to prepare our Littles for the future. I hope the article written by Sandra will inspire others in the community to step up and make a difference.

Women are beginning to receive the appreciation and accolades they deserve for shaping our world with grace and compassion. I want to thank all of the women who were Bigs to thousands of girls in our programs over the last 43 years. They have made the world a better place. These impactful relationships begin with spending time and getting to know a girl who will benefit from a caring mentor.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Four years ago, siblings Tyren and Tyrah were both waiting to be matched with Bigs of their own. Tyren was looking for a Big Brother to walk on the boardwalk with him, go to football games, and take him fishing. Tyrah



TYRAH & JESSICA

was hoping for a Big Sister that could take her bowling, to the movies, and fishing. This month, both matches celebrate four years of friendship! During a recent conversation with his case manager, Tyren said, "Rick is a nice guy that I really bond with" and he would like to thank Rick "for being my friend and for being there." When asked how this friendship has made a difference in his life, Tyren said, "I think of Rick as my family. He's made a big impact on my heart." When Tyrah was asked about her Big Sister Jessica, she said, "She's fun, and I like her personality. We like the same things, and when I'm about to

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR MARCH MATCHES

- Big Sister Dawn & Little Sister Erin **1 Year**
- Big Sister Janace & Little Sister Morwenna **1 Year**
- Big Brother Kevin & Little Brother Collin **1 Year**
- Big Sister Aimee & Little Sister Julia **2 Years**
- Big Sister Jeannie & Little Sister Mayte **2 Years**
- Big Brother Thomas & Little Brother Yaden **2 Years**
- Big Brother Romain & Little Brother Malachi **3 Years**
- Big Brother Kemar & Little Brother Zion **4 Years**
- Big Brother Anthony & Little Brother Tajae **4 Years**
- Big Brother Laurie & Little Sister Aaliyah **4 Years**
- Big Brother Rick & Little Brother Tyren **4 Years**
- Big Brother Jessica & Little Sister Tyrah **4 Years**



TYREN & RICK

say something she's saying it, too." She would like to thank Jessica "for always being there, for having my back, and for keeping me company."

GREAT TIMES TOGETHER by Sandra Casci

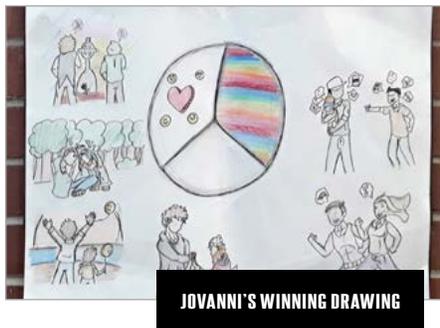
I have been privileged to be a Big Sister to my Little, Caitlin, for over six years. Please know, however, that as with any match, it took a while for our relationship to "click." In addition to being a good listener and picking up on clues both verbal and non-verbal, I think the key to getting the relationship off the ground is having interesting activities to share. Once you've built the necessary trust with your Little's family, start making plans!

I constantly have my eyes and ears open for possible outings and keep a list in my cell phone for easy referral. Check out your local parks department as they offer kid-friendly programs; we took cooking classes, learned about geocaching, and did a high ropes challenge course. See what's on Groupon as they offer lots of fun, inexpensive activities. Look out for local events like the Dearborn Farm Orchid Show, the New Jersey Sandcastle Contest on Belmar Beach, the Quick-Chek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning, and church and county fairs. Go to your library (and your Little's) and see if they offer free passes to museums - Grounds for Sculpture was one of our all-time favorite outings. Not all museums are stuffy. Asbury Park has a pinball museum! Summer is full of free and inexpensive events, especially concerts and plays in the park.

Once you discover your Little's interests and abilities, expand on that. Caitlin is a very skillful baker but doesn't have the opportunity to do it at home. In the fall, we pick apples then head to my house and bake pies, and every December, we have our Christmas cookie baking session. Establishing an annual tradition that is special to the two of you becomes more meaningful every year. I could go on for pages about all the fun outings we have done, but the real key here is to let you know that any Big can find different, interesting activities with some effort and imagination. Being a mature Big was definitely an advantage for me as I had already raised two children and had an idea what might appeal to a given age group. If you are reading this and like me are an empty nester without any grandkids, why not volunteer as a Big for the next few years and share all your wonderful experience with a child in need of a mentor? Seeing my Little mature and overcome her personal challenges, knowing that I have helped her in some small way, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

This month, we celebrate 13-year-old Giovanni for his incredible talent in the art of drawing. Giovanni was recently recognized for his work "Kindness Matters" by the local chapter of the Lions Club, and he was fortunate to win a cash prize! After waiting for four months, Giovanni was matched this past December with his Big Brother Jim. Congratulations, Giovanni!



SANDRA CASCI | Big Sister of the Year



BIG SISTER SANDRA & LITTLE SISTER CAITLIN

When Sandra and Little Sister Caitlin were matched in February of 2013, Caitlin was a very shy sixth grader. This did not deter Sandra from making a strong connection with Caitlin, and together they have done a variety of fun and exciting activities that have strengthened their bond. They visited NYC to tour museums and see theater performances, attended a historical tea party and an ice exhibit, toured a Tree Top Adventure obstacle course, played mini-golf, greeted guests at our annual Gala, baked cookies, and attended a pasta dinner at Sandra's church. Caitlin is now a senior in high school, and Sandra is proud of how much more social and confident Caitlin has become over the years. This is a once in a lifetime friendship that will continue for many years to come, even after Caitlin graduates from high school and goes off to college.

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

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Mentor Makers



Commitment you can count on.



COOKING MATTERS WORKSHOP



BIGS & LITTLES AT THE WORKSHOP

Bigs and Littles shared time learning, cooking, and eating together during an activity hosted by Hackensack Meridian Health! The matches disclosed the foods they had eaten the prior day and then discussed how a healthy plate should look. They engaged in an eye-opening "sugar game" where they guessed which bags of sugar matched which food or drink. Finally, the Bigs and Littles prepared their own yogurt and fruit parfaits along with healthy turkey and veggie wraps. Thank you, Hackensack Meridian Health for

teaching us how to prepare healthy meals and think about the food and drinks we consume each day!



BIG BROTHER BRIAN & LITTLE BROTHER JIHAD ENJOYING THEIR HEALTHY PARFAITS

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE ROLLS ON!

Thank you to our sponsors and participants who have helped us raise close to \$100,000 over the course of our Bowl for Kids' Sake events in March. We have successfully completed six events and have more on the horizon. As always, a great time was had by all, and more kids in our community will have the benefit of a Big Brother or Big Sister.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Run or walk with us
in Asbury Park, NJ



Saturday
April 27, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Join us at Cross & Orange
in Asbury Park, NJ

THE GAME CHANGER

Food ♦ Drinks ♦ Casino Games

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

ORIGAMITIVITY



SOME OF THE MENTORS & MENTEEES FROM PERTH AMBOY SCHOOLS WITH THEIR ORIGAMI CREATIONS

Mentors from Perth Amboy High School and mentees from Samuel E. Shull School participated in "Orgamitivity" during which they learned about the origin and meaning of Origami. Legend states that if someone folds 1,000 origami cranes, their wishes would come true, as there is enough time to define these wishes and how to attain them. The students worked together to come up with one goal they wanted to accomplish for the week, one goal for this year, and one goal for when they are an adult. They were instructed to write their wishes on the paper prior to folding so that the origami figures could serve as a constant positive reminder that they can reach their goals!

A LITTLE LIFE IS WAITING FOR A BIG CHANGE

Kenneth is an energetic 10-year-old who has a wide array of interests. He enjoys reading, talking about video games, making videos, and telling jokes. He's looking forward to having a Big Brother to try new things with, go outside, and build a bond with.

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