



AUGUST 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

We need your help! We have 69 kids ready to be matched with a Big, and not enough volunteer mentors. If just 5% of those of you who receive our newsletter decide to take action, these kids could have the mentor they need.

There are several ways you can help. Of course, volunteering to be a Big Brother or Big Sister would be ideal! Think of your family, friends, and colleagues who would be good mentors, and forward this newsletter asking them to get involved. Follow us on social media, and share posts to spread the word. Have a conversation with others about our mission, and encourage them to contact us for more information. It's that simple.

Our staff members attend corporate and community events to reach possible mentors, provide information, and spread the word about the need for Bigs. We also host special events to engage the community to learn about our mission and encourage participation, while also raising funds to keep our programs going.

Without our supporters, we would not be able to ignite the power and promise of the kids in our programs. We are truly thankful to you for believing in the value of mentorship and impacting children's lives in our community. This includes our gala individual honoree, Christopher Mariani, who is spotlighted this month, along with countless others who support our efforts to empower potential in young lives.

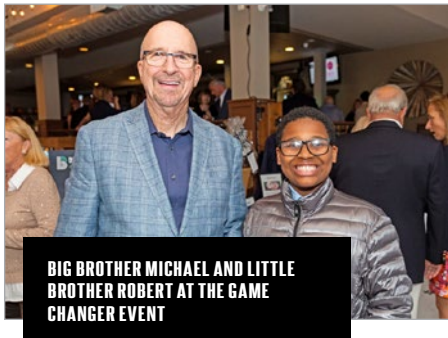
Sincerely,

William Salcedo  
Executive Director

## MATCH HIGHLIGHT

Little Brother Robert was introduced to his Big Brother Michael on a hot August day in 2016. Little did they know, that day was the beginning of a remarkable and enduring friendship. They quickly discovered a shared love of theater and have attended a few performances at Two River Theater, including a Shakespeare production. Over three years, Michael and Robert formed a

bond over attending local festivals, walking on the boardwalk, and having fun at many of our Kids Club Events. You may recognize their faces from a few of our fundraising events, such as when they kicked off a Bowl for Kids' Sake event and as guest greeters at The Game Changer. In a recent conversation with Robert's mother, she expressed, "I'm happy my son was paired with Michael. He's a blessing." She then noted her son is opening up more and is talking about his ideas and opinions. When Robert's case manager asked him to describe Michael in a few words, he responded, "Funny, intelligent, and wise" and when asked what makes his friendship with Michael good, he said, "It's the jokes." Michael talks a lot about how outgoing, "so likeable," and polite Robert is. We are proud to be supporting this friendship for another year and hopefully many more to come.



**BIG BROTHER MICHAEL AND LITTLE BROTHER ROBERT AT THE GAME CHANGER EVENT**

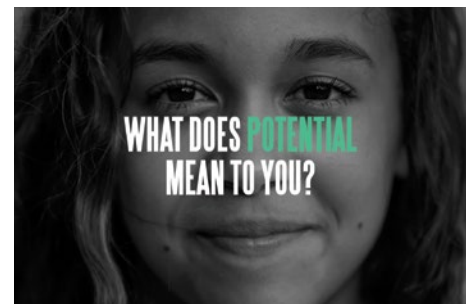
## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR AUGUST MATCHES

- Big Brother Chris & Little Brother Liam **1 Year**
- Big Brother Fred & Little Brother Devin **1 Year**
- Big Sister Alexis & Little Sister Adrianna **1 Year**
- Big Brother Keith & Little Brother Tariq **2 Years**
- Big Brother Michael & Little Brother Robert **3 Years**
- Big Brother Bob & Little Brother Brandon **4 Years**
- Big Sister Caroline & Little Sister Julianna **4 Years**
- Big Brother Al & Little Brother John **10 Years**

## THE BIG WAIT

Daniel is a good student and entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade in September. He participates on the soccer team and enjoys going to trampoline parks and playing video games like FIFA 19. He's looking forward to having a Big Brother who he can tell jokes with and will join him at the trampoline park.

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



**DONATE NOW AT [WWW.BBBSMMC.ORG](http://WWW.BBBSMMC.ORG)**

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

When Little Brother Arturo and Big Brother Sebastian were matched in January of 2017, Arturo was an energetic 9-year-old boy. They started their friendship with a walk in



**BIG BROTHER SEBASTIAN AND LITTLE BROTHER ARTURO**

a nearby park and enjoyed some ice cream. Over the years, they have enjoyed going to the beach and arcade, having lunch, and taking bike rides together around town. Sebastian always encouraged Arturo to do his best academically, explaining to him the importance of education to succeed in life. In February, Arturo participated in the Spelling Bee competition at his school, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - a great accomplishment! His mother, his Big Brother, and his case manager are really proud of him. It has been a pleasure to watch Arturo grow and mature into a great young man. We wish Arturo the very best now that he is starting middle school and in everything he wishes to do in the future!

## THE BIG PICTURE GALA INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

BBBSMMC is pleased to honor Christopher Mariani, Proprietor of Buona Sera Ristorante in Red Bank, at The Big Picture Gala this year. Christopher started his career 35 years ago in a small trattoria in Seaside Park and



**CHRISTOPHER MARIANI AT BUONA SERA RISTORANTE**

has been passionate about exceptional hospitality ever since. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a charity Christopher believes in, as he values giving people opportunities to succeed and excel. For five years, Christopher donated the venue, food, and wine for BBBSMMC's annual Food & Wine Event. Last year, Buona Sera hosted a Christmas party for our Littles to provide them with an experience they don't often get to enjoy. Christopher's generosity has allowed BBBSMMC to raise \$250,000 to support our programs. Christopher's dedication to our agency's mission will be celebrated at The Big Picture Gala on Friday, October 25 at The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel in Asbury Park. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at [bbbsmmc.org](http://bbbsmmc.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**13TH ANNUAL BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**  
 Sunday, September 15, 2019, 10AM  
 Main Street Beach, Manasquan, NJ

**THE BIG PICTURE GALA**  
 Friday, October 25 • 6:30-11pm  
 The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel • Asbury Park, NJ

## MAKING A SPLASH AT THE ANNUAL BBBS POOL PARTY



**BIGS, LITTLES, AND BBBS STAFF ENJOYED A DAY OF FUN BY THE POOL**

Our Bigs and Littles had a wonderful time at our annual pool party at The Atlantic Club. They enjoyed swimming and mingling with one another while making fun memories!

Our thanks to The Atlantic Club for hosting our party every year!

## GO RED BULLS!



**BIG BROTHER ERIC & LITTLE BROTHER JAIDYN GOT A KICK OUT OF THE NEW YORK RED BULLS SOCCER GAME**

Big Brother Eric and his Little Brother Jaidyn had a great time at a New York Red Bulls soccer game – their first time seeing a professional soccer team! Jaidyn said, "I have to start going to more Red Bulls games!" Our thanks to the Red Bulls for donating the tickets so Eric and Jaidyn could have this great experience together!

### OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Mission Maker  
**THE MORRIS & CLARA WESHNAK FAMILY FOUNDATION**



Hackensack Meridian Health

### Mentor Makers

