



A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SALCEDO

Dear Friends,

Ensuring the educational success of our Littles is a significant part of what we seek to accomplish at BBBSMMC. The kids we serve start out life with dreams, just like most of us. At times, lack of support, exposure to delinquent behaviors on the streets or in their home, poverty, or a host of other challenges can make surviving a priority over dreaming.

Our Bigs and program staff consistently work to inspire our Littles to strive for their dreams - by encouraging them to stay in school and get an education, helping them with everyday struggles, and reassuring them that their goals can be a reality. By example and encouragement, we show them that education is the key to succeeding in life.

At BBBSMMC, we get kids excited about school by throwing a party! Featured in our newsletter this month are our Back to School parties that are always a great way to kick-off the school year for our Littles. I hope they all have a successful and rewarding year.

Sincerely,

William Salcedo
Executive Director

WELCOME OUR NEWEST INTERNS!

We are proud to welcome this year's Masters of Social Work interns that will be completing their fieldwork here at BBBSMMC. "We are so grateful for our partnerships with both Monmouth and Rutgers Universities," said Executive Director William Salcedo. "They are a great group and will enable us to serve more children each year." These MSW students support our program team and serve as case managers. They manage a caseload of matches from our School, Workplace, and College Mentoring

Programs while also assisting our staff in the overall facilitation of program sessions. They are heavily involved in the enrollment of volunteers, children, and families in all programs, including our Community Based Program. They will assist where needed for recruitment and awareness opportunities. Welcome to the team Jessy and Rachael from Monmouth University and Rutgers University students Wilfred, Julian, Alexandra, Ashleigh, Jess, and Jessie!



BBBS INTERNS FROM MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY AND RUTGERS UNIVERSITY



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR SEPTEMBER MATCHES

- Big Sister Patricia & Little Sister Jaylen 8 Years
- Big Brother Mark & Little Brother Bryan 7 Years
- Big Sister Jennifer & Little Sister Neveah 6 Years
- Big Sister Julie & Little Sister Sa'Asia 6 Years
- Big Sister Jeanne & Little Sister Jonajah 4 Years
- Big Brother Nick & Little Brother Aiden 4 Years
- Big Sister Jenica & Little Sister Megan 3 Years
- Big Sister Jane & Little Sister Khadeija 3 Years
- Big Brother Joe & Little Brother Logan 2 Years
- Big Sister Komilla & Little Sister Precious 2 Years
- Big Sister Amanda & Little Sister Anai 2 Years
- Big Sister Sarah & Little Sister Sunai 1 Year
- Big Sister Diana & Little Sister Nahla 1 Year
- Big Brother Joe & Little Brother Dylan 1 Year
- Big Sister Katie & Little Brother Melissa 1 Year
- Big Brother Douglas & Little Brother Cristian 1 Year
- Big Brother Quinn & Big Sister Lisa & Little Brother Kevin 1 Year
- Big Sister Lynn & Little Sister Liz 1 Year
- Big Sister Julia & Little Sister Anahi 1 Year

WHO SAYS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL ISN'T FUN?

BBBSMMC partnered with The Heldrich Hotel and Monmouth Mall again this year to hold Back to School Parties for Littles in our programs. Thank you to these two great partners for not only hosting the parties but also providing gift cards for our Littles!

The groups enjoyed pizza and dessert, and "Zoo Jersey" educated and entertained the groups with a variety of animals including a chinchilla, iguana, and python! Each child received a backpack filled with school supplies and a gift

card to prepare them for the upcoming school year. Every year, the community steps up to donate school supplies and support these events that mean so much to the kids we serve.

Thank you to our partners: The Monmouth Mall, The Heldrich Hotel, Dean's Natural Foods, AT&T Pioneers, Church of the Nativity, UBS Financial Services – Red Bank, Starbucks, TDK- Lambda Americas Inc., Orange Theory Studio, Manasquan Bank, CISCO, Zoo Jersey, and Illiano's Pizza.



THESE BBBSMMC KIDS ARE READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



MATCH HIGHLIGHT



BIG SISTER JANE & LITTLE SISTER KHADEIJA ARE CELEBRATING THREE YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP!

Congrats to Big Sister Jane & Little Sister Khadeija who have reached three years of friendship this month! Khadeija was enrolled right before her 7th grade year and hoped to be matched with "someone compassionate" who she could enjoy the outdoors with. When Jane and Khadeija first met, they bonded over activities like going kayaking and bike riding. Khadeija's first impressions were that she liked Jane "because she's active; she doesn't just sit there like a blob." They became fast friends and had an easy

time conversing and learning about each other, and over time, the friendship blossomed into a fulfilling mentorship for both Khadeija and Jane. Khadeija is now entering her sophomore year of high school, and Jane has helped her navigate through interviewing for a spot in her high school's band, starting her freshman year and making new friends, and most recently, helping her as she started her first summer job. Khadeija and Jane were greeters at last fall's gala, and all attendees could sense what a fun and easygoing friendship they had! Khadeija has frequently told her case manager that Jane is a great role model for her: "She's responsible, teaches me new things, gives me tips about life, helps me to think about the future, and is really positive all the time." We wish Jane and Khadeija the best as they enter their fourth year of friendship. Here's to many more!

THE BIG PICTURE GALA CORPORATE HONOREE

DUNKIN'

HONORING DUNKIN'

BBBSMMC is pleased to honor Dunkin' at The Big Picture Gala this year. Over the past seven years, Dunkin' has been a tremendous supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Their support started back in 2012 through the BBBSMMC annual Adopt a Family for the holidays program. Since then, Dunkin' has adopted over 30 families for the holidays, bringing them joy during this special time of year. Dunkin's support doesn't stop there. They support through volunteer hours, in kind donations, and very generous monetary donations which to date, between sponsorships and grants, has exceeded \$200,000. Dunkin'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

UPCOMING EVENT



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT



This month we felt compelled to put the spotlight on Little Brother Alex. He and his Big Brother Joe were matched just over a year ago in July 2018. Alex and Joe quickly bonded over a love of Top Golf and have attended sporting

events as well as the auto show in NYC this spring. They attend nearly all of the BBBSMMC events as well! When Alex's case manager became aware of a campaign Mentoring.org launched to celebrate the power of young people's voices and their mentoring relationships through storytelling, she immediately thought of Alex. Alex has a penchant with words and aspires to break into the music industry as a rap artist. He has begun to explore other avenues of the music industry like production, and his high school is in the process of acquiring an internship for Alex at Brookdale Community College's radio station.

Here is the rap Alex submitted for the Mentoring.org campaign:

Big Brother Joe, I gotta say (HEY) today is the day I wanna give it all back, you crack me up with your wick wack jokes,
I've been provoking myself to write this song to let you know that we all get along. Your words of wisdom makes me strong, makes me wanna work hard, knock each of these songs out of the ball park, you have such great remarks, in a way I'm making you into a piece of art, so you can always have a part of me in your heart;
This is how I show my love, thru hip hop, peace, love, and positivity is all we got,
This is how I show my love, thru hip hop, peace, love, and positivity is all we got.
He has a jeep with a yellow licenses plate, never late to my house don't have to wait on the couch, without him I don't know how I would grow, it feels like ages ago since we first met, but I remember it was August, the month before September, He's always down to adventure, no matter how hot the temperature, I know you're sure to be there. You're caring, helpful and everything good. You stood by my side and are always here to watch me thrive, we always have something to do whether its fishing, or the movies, I always respect you and treat you like rubies, we always see through the bad and the good, and insures that I'm always good, his name is Big Brother Joe;
This is how I show my love, thru hip hop, peace, love, and positivity is all we got,
This is how I show my love, thru hip hop, peace, love, and positivity is all we got.

THE BIG WAIT

Jehki just started 7th grade and has been doing very well academically in middle school. He is clever, silly, and loves making people laugh. He is personable, charismatic, and very much a people-person. Jehki enjoys watching YouTube videos, problem-solving through STEM activities, and going swimming. He would love a Big Brother who is active, loves to play games, and spend time outside.

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

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

4 Ways to Feel Healthier and Happier

1. Volunteering connects you to others
2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body
3. Volunteering can advance your career
4. Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life

We asked some of our Bigs about the benefits of being a mentor to a young person:

- “It keeps me young”
- “Seeing how great the world is through a child's eyes”
- “Having the opportunity to do fun activities I would never have done otherwise”
- “Being able to make a difference in a child's life”

Apply to volunteer as a Big today at bbbsmmc.org!

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Mission Maker
THE Morris & Clara Weshnak
Family Foundation



Hackensack
Meridian Health

Mentor Makers

