



# Big Brothers Big Sisters.<sup>®</sup>

OF FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER

## Summer 2019 Newsletter

### We're So Proud of Our Littles!

Dear Friends:

The end of the school year is always one of our favorite times here at Big Brothers Big Sisters because our staff gets to celebrate so many wonderful milestones in the lives of our high school seniors — college acceptances, job offers, proms and graduation, to name a few.

The joy of watching our Littles, from 7 – 21, grow up and take steps toward accomplishing their dreams is a victory for our entire community. That's because for young people who all too often must deal with family issues such as poverty, a parent's incarceration or addiction, their decisions to stay in school didn't just happen.

#### **Celebrating 25 New Matches**

They happened because of *your* support and we couldn't be more grateful as we help launch these amazing, resilient young people on their way to an effective education, good decision-making skills and the achievement of their goals.

Meanwhile, your support has also helped us match 25 brand new Littles with their forever Bigs. From children who are referred to us because of family traumas, to those who are simply lonely, their needs vary widely and our highly trained staff and devoted Bigs work mentoring magic every day.

#### **Lessons from the National Conference**

Recently, we had the opportunity to attend the National Conference of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Federation, where we participated in workshops designed to train and strengthen our staff and our programs.

Programs such as safety, grant writing, recruitment and social media were helpful but most interesting was the one-day summit on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Here in Westchester, our staff, Bigs and Littles are diverse in every way, from race to economics.

We came away feeling very fortunate that your support — and the support of our parent agency, Family Services of Westchester — truly allows us to serve the children and families who rely on us.

**Valerie A. Brown**  
Executive Director



## Meet Our Matches!

Nothing brings a smile to our faces faster than seeing the happy grins of our perfectly matched Bigs and Littles.

But “long and strong” matches don’t just happen and it’s thanks to your support that we can take the time to do things right.

First, we conduct interviews aimed at gaining a thorough understanding of everyone’s interests, expectations — and deal breakers like distance and scheduling.

Then, we combine science (in the form of computer software) and art (in the form of many years of social work experience) to come up with mentoring relationships that we believe will enrich both our Bigs’ and Littles’ lives.

So there’s a lot of careful research behind those happy smiles — all to make sure that a lot of great times lie ahead for the matches we make.

Meet five of our recent mentoring matches and [be sure to follow us on Facebook](#) to see new ones each week!



## Bowl for Kids’ Sake Puts the Fun in Fundraiser

There were smiles for miles at Bowl for Kids’ Sake on June 6 as bowlers of every age and skill level packed Bowlmor Lanes in White Plains to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of FSW waitlist programs.

And fundraise they did! Thanks to lead sponsor Pepsico and nearly 200 additional sponsors and bowlers, Bowl for Kids’ Sake exceeded its original \$25,000 goal by almost 40 percent. The proceeds will go toward finding permanent mentoring matches for the Littles currently in our Waitlist program.

Nibbling delicious pizza and chicken fingers to keep up their strength between turns, teams like the Gutter Girls, the Bowling Stones and the Heartbreakers vied for team medals and bragging rights.

Four lucky winners took home raffle prizes, and everyone left with goodie bags and memories of a wonderful night for a wonderful cause.

[See our entire gallery of Bowl for Kid’s Sake photos on Facebook!](#)



## Let's Hear It for Our Proud BBBS Graduates!

We are so proud of our BBBS Littles who recently graduated from high school! Please join us in congratulating Christian Brandell, who graduated from Mount Saint Michael Academy in The Bronx and will attend SUNY Polytechnic in Engineering; Emy Cabrera, who graduated from Yonkers High School and is still deciding which college to attend out of her several choices; and Jate'a Carter who graduated from Riverside High School in Yonkers and will attend Westchester Community College, majoring in Criminal Justice.

### Keep That Applause Coming

And let's keep that applause coming for Darian Giriat-LaBorde, who graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers and will attend The College of Westchester in Information Technology; Wardell Mitchell, who graduated from White Plains High School and will attend Westchester Community College in Art; and Naecor Smalls, who graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers and will attend Monroe College in Culinary Arts.

As you all head off into the world to do great things, everyone in our BBBS community wishes you the greatest of success!



Darian Giriat-LaBorde rocks his prom look!



But can we agree that Darian looks even more handsome in his cap and gown?

## Waiting for Bingo!



Nobody likes being on a waitlist, least of all our Littles waiting to be matched with their forever Bigs, but you wouldn't know it from the fun everyone had at our spring Waitlist Bingo event at the Center for All Ages in White Plains.

The evening started with dinner but quickly progressed to happy shouts of Bingo! as the kids demanded to play tougher and tougher patterns on their game cards. In fact, during one especially heated match, program directors Charles Curtis and Anneliese Saltarelli nearly ran out of numbers.

One silver lining of our waitlist events is that they provide a great way for our staff to get to know the children waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister even better, and a great way for volunteers to spend an evening getting a feel for mentoring.

Waiting's never easy but that's a win-win in our book!

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**Make a Difference When You Donate Your Used Clothing!**



Little Sister and future SUNY Binghamton freshman Shaniyah Morris finds the perfect t-shirt while shopping at the FSW Teen Boutique with her Big Sister.



There wasn't a t-shirt in sight when Shaniyah Morris and Christian Brandell, who met in last year's BBBS Summer Intern Program, attended Shaniyah's Riverside High School prom together.

## DONATE TODAY!

DONATE CLOTHING TO BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AND SUPPORT OUR MENTORING PROGRAMS!

**DONATE TODAY!**

**ITEMS WE NEED:**

- Clothing
- Media: Books, DVDs, CDs, Software
- Housewares
- Shoes and Accessories
- Linens
- Small Appliances & Electronics
- Toys, Games and Tools

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters.**  
OF FAMILY SERVICES  
OF WESTCHESTER

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE PICKUP TODAY!

CALL 914-326-3418

Or Schedule Online at  
[BBBSPICKUPSERVICE.ORG](http://bbbspickupservice.org)

No need to be home. We pick up your items outside and leave you a tax receipt.

FOR CONVENIENT DROP OFF LOCATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, VISIT [BBBSPICKUPSERVICE.ORG](http://bbbspickupservice.org)

We are delighted to report that our massively popular clothing donation program has resumed, and our trucks are once again picking up throughout Westchester County.

The process couldn't be easier. Schedule your free pickup by calling (914) 326-3418 or go to [bbbspickupservice.org](http://bbbspickupservice.org) to book a pickup date online.

Then, simply leave your items outside in the location you've specified. Everything will be picked up and a tax receipt will be left for you.

We accept clothing, shoes, accessories, books, DVDs, CDs, software, housewares, linens, small appliances and electronics, toys, games and tools.

Remember, your decluttering makes a BIG difference to the kids in our program and your donations are tax deductible, so get busy on that summer cleaning today!



## Say Hello to Our Summer Interns

Greetings to our summer interns, pictured here with their fearless leader, BBBS program

manager Charles Curtis (back row, blue shirt) and their team leaders, Jada (front row, far left), Marisa (front row, second from left) and Jordan (back row, far left).

Our Summer 2019 program participants are (front row, L-R) Jada, Marisa, Dario and Joshua and (back row, L-R) Jordan, Nathaniel, Jate'a, Jerico, Jay, Kiara and Shamari.

All of the interns are current Littles entering their junior or senior year of high school. Team leaders are college students or recent grads.

“The goal of the program is to prepare the interns for life after high school,” summarizes Charles Curtis. “We want them to have a plan, whether that includes college, vocational school or joining the work force.”

In addition to working on projects for BBBS, the interns do ACT and SAT prep, go on college visits, develop their resumes and participate in workshops on topics like financial literacy.

## J-E-T-S for BBBS!

**SUNDAY JULY 14TH**  
APPEARING LIVE  
**JAMAL ADAMS**  
TO BENEFIT  
**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters.**  
OF FAMILY SERVICES  
OF WESTCHESTER

ALSO  
**ELIJAH  
MCGUIRE**  
PLUS MORE GUESTS TBA

**NYSF**  
MAGAZINE

**Redd's**  
Restaurant & Bar

MEDIA • MANAGEMENT • MARKETING  
**MAXX**

Please join us Sunday, July 14th from 12-2 PM at Redd's Restaurant & Bar, 317 Washington Avenue, Carlstadt, NJ, to meet Jets Safety and 2019 Pro Bowler Jamal Adams and Running Back Elijah McGuire!

All proceeds benefit BBBS of FSW!

[Click Here to Get Tickets](#)

Get Involved. Make a  
Difference.

