



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Family Services  
of Westchester

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Edition

## Little Activities Create Big Memories!



Dear Friends,

Here at Big Brothers Big Sisters, we're always adding to our list of free and low-cost activities to inspire Bigs and Littles to spend special time together. Some of these activities are so simple you might wonder why we even list them: Take a walk together. Play a board game. Share a meal.

In fact, research has shown that sharing everyday activities like these are what both Littles and Bigs find most meaningful. Turns out, it's the littlest moments that have the biggest impact.

For example, a few years ago, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America conducted a survey where they observed matches sharing different activities, ranging from attending paid events like sports games or movies to just exploring local landmarks or hanging out together.

The results showed that spending money on fancy activities wasn't important at all. What mattered to the Littles in the survey was simply having a caring adult in their lives. Regardless of which activities Bigs and Littles actually did together, it was knowing there was a Big there to confide in and look up to that transformed the lives of the Littles the most.

Now that Spring is finally here, let's all remember that everyday moments and small adventures can often mean more than elaborate plans or expensive gestures. Just getting out there into the sunshine together on a walk or a visit to the park could well be remembered as the greatest day ever!

**Valerie A. Brown**  
Executive Director

## MAKING PERFECT MATCHES

The long-term success of BBBS depends on the strength of our mentor matches so we work hard to ensure that each of our Littles is matched with just the right Big.

We like to think the enduring success of our matches is a direct result of the incredible upfront effort we put into understanding everyone's preferences and expectations before a match is made.

We do everything in our power to reduce the possibility of incompatibility and create matches that will be "long and strong."

On that note, congratulations to our most recent matches as you begin your exciting journeys together:



**Little Brother Michael & Big Brother Mark**



**Little Sister Gabriela & Big Sister Katerina**



**Little Brother Troy & Big Brother Michael**



**Little Brother Jeremy & Big Brother Rick**



**Big Brother Seth & Little Brother Kmari**

## 2 Matches Enjoy Spring Activities!



### BICYCLES, BOOKSTORES & BUILDING THINGS

One Big and Little Brother pair we talked with has been constantly on the go. They went to the Auto Show in New York City to check out the latest models and have recently attended a music festival and even an astronomer's stargazing event.

But these two don't need to buy tickets to have a great time together. They've also hiked, fished, fixed bicycles, spent hours browsing at a bookstore and built a toy box for the Big Brother's niece. Oh, and let's not forget time spent playing with the Big Brother's dog and treating the pooch to a homemade "spa day."

### FOR THE LOVE OF ANIMALS — AND A POSSIBLE CAREER AS A VET

Meanwhile, we were delighted to hear about a Big and Little Sister team that devotes a lot of the time they spend together to volunteering at a local animal shelter. Not only do both of them love animals, but the Little Sister thinks she might be interested in becoming a veterinarian. What a fun and helpful way to do future career research!



### VOLUNTEERS & DONORS CREATE A HOLIDAY PARTY TO REMEMBER

The Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Holiday Party was a huge success this year, thanks to the many Advisory Council members and community volunteers who helped out and the record number of donors who contributed holiday gifts.

This year's event included lunch, a raffle, a basketball tournament and Zumba dancing sponsored by the Ruth Elizabeth Dance Studio. We are so grateful to Rye Country Day School for once again generously donating the Scott Nelson Athletic Center for our use, as well as for the school staff who helped run the event.



All 300 participants, including Bigs, Littles, and their family members, received holiday gifts donated by Forme Medical Centers, Lifetime Fitness, MBIA, Morgan Stanley, New York Community Bank, People's United Bank, the Port Chester Police Department, the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, The JFM Group and the Town of Port Chester. The Littles also received a special gift of stuffed animals from PetSmart.



### PING PONG + HOT DOGS = SMASHING WAITLIST EVENT SUCCESS

Ping pong and hot dogs proved to be an unbeatable combination at our recent Waitlist Event, which was attended by volunteer Bigs and our Littles who are still waiting for their perfect match.

Held at Westchester Table Tennis' sparkling new facility in Pleasantville, the evening also featured a visit from the iconic Walter's Hot Dogs truck, free table tennis lessons, and gifts for all.

Sound like fun? Remember, we are always looking for volunteers to help out at our special events. It's a great way for you to get to know us better, so be sure to check out our Events section below to mark the dates for our upcoming Summer Games and Dave & Buster's fundraiser.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



### Don't Miss the BBBS Summer Games

Here's a heads-up about a BBBS summer favorite: This year our annual Summer Games will take place on Saturday, July 14th (rain date July 28th) at Saxon Woods Mini-Golf, 1800 Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. You won't want to miss the food, festivities and feeling of community of this fantastic event, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the date.



### Fun and games at dave & buster's

We've added a great new fundraiser that should be just the ticket for all of you gamers: a chance to check out the new Westchester County branch of Dave & Buster's! Join us and bring your friends on Sunday, July 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to 881 Pelham Parkway in Pelham Manor (right behind Fairway).



### The Really Big Show Returns

Can you believe it? Planning is already underway for our third annual Really Big Show! We can't tell you many details yet, but we can tell you to reserve the date — Saturday, November 3rd from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

Following last year's triumph featuring actor and comedian Jay Leno; Broadway star and two-time Tony Award nominee, Norm Lewis; and former New York Giants Running Back Tiki Barber as emcee, aren't you on the edge of your seats wondering what we'll do for an encore?

FRONT COVER

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BACK COVER

## thank you for your caring donations

Here at BBBS of FSW, we're always looking for volunteers and quite simply — we'd love your help! It goes without saying that we're constantly recruiting for the wonderful mentors who make such a difference in our Littles' lives.

But we know that level of commitment doesn't fit with the demands of everyone's schedule. That's why we want to mention some other great ways to help our cause: Maybe you'd like to be a smiling presence and an extra pair of hands at our special events? Or maybe you're an administrative whiz who could help us with data input or other projects around the office?

And last but certainly not least, please know how much we appreciate your financial and clothing donations. Your clothing donations help us raise money for programs, and your financial donations help us cover the cost of matching our Littles with their perfect Bigs.

## Please Consider Becoming a Big Brother/Sister or Making a Donation Today!

**CONTACT US:**

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