



Hi, I'm Ezekiel.

I've been waiting for a Big Brother since February 2018.

I would love for a Big Brother to play video games with me.

Interested? Call 856.692.0916

Just share ...
your time ... your knowledge ... *your life.*

www.southjerseybigs.org/volunteer-now

News from
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Cumberland & Salem Counties

Big News



May/June 2018

Waiting Little Brother Ezekiel

We're Looking for a Few Good Men

Becoming a mentor to a young child may seem like a daunting task, but our Big Brothers share with us how they got past the fear of commitment to enjoy some of the most fulfilling relationships of their lives.

"At first I didn't have any idea how I would spend my time with my Little," explains Paul Perino, who has been a Big twice. "But eventually I realized all he wanted was some of my time and attention. So, I would simply include him in the activities of my day to day life."

Bobby DeMasse shared a similar perspective. "You don't necessarily have to plan stuff to do. Just do what you would be doing—washing the car, yard work, watching sports, eating pizza. It's about quality time and showing your Little what your life is about which may be very different from his."

The Bigs we talked to would on occasion plan special activities like a trip to a ball game, the boardwalk or a museum. But most of the time they recognized that their Littles just want companionship and often guidance in navigating the challenges of their own lives. So, sharing a meal, playing a board game, playing a video or simply hanging out provides every Little with the support they need.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties offers a few programs to accommodate busy people who want to volunteer:

- **Community Based Mentoring**- an individual adult or couple are matched to a child and the activities take place in a community setting. The Bigs commit to a few hours a month with their Littles. [Apply Today](#)
- **School Based Mentoring**- an adult is matched to a child and they meet regularly (usually about an hour each week) in the child's school [Apply Today for the 2018-2019 School Year](#)
- **High School Mentoring**—A high school student is matched with an elementary or middle school student and activities take place within a school setting [Apply Today for the 2018-2019 School Year](#)

All matches are professionally supported by BBBS staff.

There is an immediate need for **men** to serve as Bigs as there are a number of Waiting Little Brothers. If you'd like to consider becoming a Big, come in and talk to one of the BBBS Program directors to get more information. You can make an appointment by calling 856-692-0916.

You can do a lot for a Little.

You Change Lives



On April 30, 2018 we ended our day at Big Brothers Big Sisters with a waiting list of 79 Littles and we started our day on May 1st like every other day asking ourselves "what can we do today to get closer to matching the Littles on our waiting list?"

You will notice that this issue of our newsletter is focusing on a call to action to help us find Big Brothers for our waiting Little Brothers like Ezekiel. As we go into the summer months, it's the perfect time to be matched to a Little Brother? The list of things you could do are limitless...going to the movies, playing video games, fishing, hiking, bowling, shooting hoops, playing catch, washing your car, doing yard work, and even running errands. The point is, all you need to do is Just Share...your time...your knowledge...your life

We know it takes 5 to keep a match alive (BBBS, Parents, Littles, Volunteers, Donors)!!! Today, I'm asking you to consider expanding your involvement and support to include the role of Mentor.

As a Big you may think you are changing a Little's life, but you are actually changing your life.

On behalf of the BBBS team, I would like to wish you a safe Memorial Day weekend and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Bennett".

Donna Bennett
President/CEO



Pictured Above: Diane Ploch and two of her grandchildren present BBBS President/CEO Donna Bennett with a check for \$7,500.00 from proceeds after the Run for Aaron, a race in memory of Diane's son Aaron Ploch.

Just Share Your Time

Matt Johnson (*pictured right with Little Brother Stjepen*) is a busy guy working in his family's engineering business, Johnson Design Associates, as Director of Operations. Matt's responsibilities include business operations, project management, and client relations. He is also a full-time student online at Columbia College. In his off-hours, Matt enjoys science fiction, video games, and the outdoors.



Despite his very active lifestyle, Matt finds time to give back to the community by volunteering with three local organizations. Big Brothers Big Sisters is one of them. In May of 2015, Matt became a Big Brother to Stjepen (*pronounced Steven*). At the time, Stjepen was 11 years old and in a family full of females. His mother felt he would benefit from a male role model and he was matched with Matt.

A quiet and reserved child, Stjepen was shy at first but he and Matt found common ground through their love of video games. Over time their relationship has grown. Now a teenager, Stjepen has become more confident and outgoing.

Matt explains, "At first our meetings were kind of random. Then I decided to schedule every other Tuesday after work to be with Stjepen. The consistency works better for both of us, and I just incorporate him into my every day hobbies and tasks like home repair projects or hiking. Then if I want to take him to a sporting event or something like that, I just add it on top of our regular hangouts."

Matt explains that spending time with Stjepen is easy. "I just include him in whatever I was planning anyway. One night we assembled a new grill then grilled salmon together. It was a simple activity, but we had a great time."



This year BBBS held its Inaugural "The Big Golf Classic"

Thank you to all our Sponsors, Donors, Board of Trustees, Staff, Volunteers and of course Golfers who helped make it a successful event.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!





In the
Spotlight

**DONNA
BENNETT,
PRESIDENT/CEO**

Hometown Heroes Honoree



It was an honor to be nominated by my fellow Rotarians for a Hometown Heroes' award this year. For the past 10 years Mike Epifanio and his team have hosted an annual event to recognize the efforts of so many caring and compassionate individuals that give of themselves to help and advocate for others in times of need and support. I humbly accepted the award but continue to believe that the true heroes at Big Brothers Big Sisters are the parents of our Littles and our volunteer Bigs.



**Congratulations to all the 2018
Hometown Heroes Honorees**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties, Board of Trustees

Shayne Bevilacqua, Board Chair

Michele Plumbo, Vice Chair

Emmanuel Gauffeny, Treasurer

Cosmo Giovinazzi, IV, Secretary

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Dawn Hunter

Denise Jackson

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Gloria Thompson
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Danielle Clementson
Director of Adult
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Dominique O'Brien
Director of High School Mentoring

Cherell Eutz
Development Assistant

Paul Gramm
Volunteer Office Staff

Beverly Wetzel
Volunteer Office Staff

Margie Varesio
Volunteer Office Staff

In a Little Moment You Can Learn a Lot

Have you ever considered becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister or learning about other ways to get involved but felt you didn't know enough about what being a "Big" means? Come to a [Little Moments Information Session](#) and get all your questions answered. It's free and there is no obligation. We're always delighted to show you around our office, tell our story, answer your questions and address your concerns.

Upcoming Little Moments Information Sessions:

BBBS Office @1944 E. Landis Ave., Vineland, NJ

Wednesday June 6 at 12:15 PM

Thursday August 2 at 6:00 PM

Wednesday September 5 at 12:15 PM

Friends Village in Woodstown, NJ

Friday June 22 at 12:15 PM

Light fare and refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Cherell Eutzy at 856-692-0916 or ceutzy@southjerseybig.org

Would you like more information on becoming a Big?

Director of Programs

[Site Based Mentoring](#)

[Annual Agency Activities](#)

Tygh Powell

Director of

[Community Based Mentoring](#)

Gloria Thompson

Director of

[Adult School Based Mentoring](#)

Danielle Clementson

Director of

[High School Mentoring](#)

Dominique O'Brien

Need more information?

<http://www.southjerseybig.org/our-programs/>

Help us spread the word...

Please invite friends, family members, and colleagues to join us for a [Little Moments Information Session](#) or invite Big Brothers Big Sisters to do a presentation at a location that works for you, such as a service club meeting, company staff meeting, social gathering with friends, etc.

Bigger and Better than Ever!

The BIG Night—an evening of delectable hors d'oeuvres, delicious dinner entrees, decadent desserts and a vast assortment of **award-winning wines** from some of the state's top producers in the Outer Coastal Plain AVA (American Viticultural Area).

This event supports critical programs providing professionally supported one-to-one relationships for children facing adversity. These matches are life-changing, not just for our *Little*s but for our *Big*s as well!

This year's Big Night Committee was co-chaired by BBBS Board members Denise Jackson and Cosmo Giovinazzi, IV. The event featured both live and silent auctions and had almost 200 guests in attendance.



May/June Events

Date	Event
May 24 - 27	Greek Festival, 430 W. Wheat Rd, Vineland, www.stanthonyvinelandnj.com
May 25	<u>The Incredibles</u> , Fun & Film Outdoor Movie, 6 PM, Cumberland Co Community Church, 1800 E. Broad Street, Millville http://cccvmillville.org/summer-sizzlers.html
May 29	<u>Paddington 2</u> Family Movie & Craft, 4:30-6:30 PM, Vineland Library
May 30	Teen Book Discussion, Vineland Library
May 31	Mad Scientist Academy <u>Dinosaur Disaster</u> Book Discussion, Ages 6-8; 6:00 PM, Vineland Library
June 2 – 3	South Jersey Art Festival 2018, 1-6 PM, Appel Farm Arts & Music, www.appelfarm.org/south-jersey-arts-fest/
June 3	Outdoor Art Show, Barn Studio of Art, 12-5 PM, 814 Whittaker Ave, Millville
June 8	<u>Grease</u> (movie) 8 PM- Levoy Theater, Millville
June 9	Hammonton Food Truck Festival 4:30-9:30 PM, Downtown Hammonton NASCAR K&N Pro Series Race, NJ Motorsports Park (children under 12 free)
June 9	Cornhole Tournament & Family Day, 10 AM Cumberland Co Community Church, 1800 E. Broad Street, Millville http://cccvmillville.org/summer-sizzlers.html
June 16	
June 23	Pet Fun Day, 12-4 PM, Animal Clinic of Millville 2430 W. Main St, Millville
June 23	Herbs in Colonial Days, 1-4 PM, Cumberland County Historical Society, 960 Ye Greate St, Greenwich
June 24	Yoga at the Barn, www.frogoceanhoney.com

New Matches

March 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Match Date</u>
Michelle	Desiree	3/15

Match Anniversaries

May 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Years Matched</u>
Laura	Carmelia	6
Matthew	Stjepan	3
Kristen	Rylei	2

June 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Years Matched</u>
Kelly	Kaylee	2
Marie	Yanelis	2