Mentoring Matters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties mentoring programs are now operating virtually! We have Littles waiting to be matched to their Bigs and we need you now more than ever. This is a tough time for everyone, but it can be extremely lonely and hard for so many of the youth in our community. If you are interested in learning more about our mentoring programs, please visit https://southjerseybigs.org/our-programs/.

You Can Be a Mentor 2.0 Today

We are looking for college-educated volunteers to participate in our Mentor2.0 program. The Mentor2.0 program is a proven, technology-enriched mentoring program for high school students. It provides support and guidance, helping high school students graduate and succeed in both college and the workforce. By volunteering just a small amount of time as a virtual mentor, during this pivotal time in a student’s life you have the ability to create generational change in our community.

Video:  https://vimeo.com/269951210

Apply Today: southjerseybigs.imentor.org
Bigger Together

Our one-to-one mentoring programs have not skipped a beat! During these times, our Big-Little relationships are more important than ever and thanks to Zoom technology and the overwhelming support from our volunteers and families, we have been able to continue to defend potential through Virtual Mentoring.

Tyson Foods and Big Brothers Big Sisters are committed to building stronger communities. Thank you, Tyson Foods, for supporting the Big Brothers Big Sisters Rural Initiative, and helping connect young people in rural communities to positive, caring mentors.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FnGzjUI34

Please take a look at some of our Big-Little relationships meeting through Zoom! We currently have 76 Littles ready and waiting for a mentor. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please visit our website at https://southjerseybigs.org/be-a-mentor/.

Information about 211

NJ 2-1-1 is a statewide resource that helps people find health and human service resources in local communities. Such resources include connecting people to daycare facilities, shelters, affordable housing units, social services, employment training programs, senior services, medical insurance, and more.

To learn more or find the right resource for you, please visit https://www.nj211.org/.
A message from our President/CEO

Over the past few months, we all made adjustments on how to manage extreme changes to our everyday routines. I believe we can all agree that each of us take different things for granted, but socializing is by far the greatest. We have come to the realization that not only do we crave to socialize, interact, and connect with other human beings to be healthy in body, mind, and soul, we require it.

Overnight the space we called home that we retreated to after a long day at work or school became our home office, classroom, home gym, and so much more. It has been fun watching social media posts, attending Zoom meetings, and seeing pictures of someone’s dinner plate. Everyone has become not only a gourmet chef but also a food photographer. I personally have always taken pictures of local food specialties such as Big John’s Pizza, Terrigno’s doughnuts, and Jersey Tomatoes to share with my siblings in Georgia and Texas.

We are also learning that everyday there is a new challenge with rules, regulations, and suggestions to keep everyone safe.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters our efforts to keep everyone safe pushed us out of the box of how our mentoring services are typically delivered through in-person meetings. Our immediate challenge and problem to solve was how do we keep everyone safe and at the same time connected. For our community-based matches it was easy since they already share each other’s contact information, but for our site-based programs that only meet at Big Brothers Big Sisters approved meeting locations or supervised group sessions a shift of the paradigm was required. Without missing a beat our program staff started researching virtual options and contacted colleagues in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America network for ideas. The best fit for our matches to meet became supervised meetings on the Zoom platform. Our matches are having so much fun and it’s amazing what they can do together on Zoom.

Now more than ever in the history of our agency our call for mentors couldn’t be more urgent. With more than 70 Littles waiting for a Mentor, we ask you to step up and get involved. Whether you consider a site-based program or the community-based program, whether you have a formal college education or a graduate from the College of Life becoming a virtual Mentor in 2020 could be the most rewarding experience you ever have. As you stop, reflect, and regroup, please consider finding time to become a Mentor and join our movement of Virtual Mentoring today.

“However, I am called upon to serve, I will serve with grace as my style, gratitude as my attitude, and humility as my touchstone.” Anonymous

Sincerely,

Donna Bennett
President/CEO
Congratulations to our Bigs of the Year

Emmanuel Gauffeny is the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties 2020 Big Brother of the Year! Emmanuel was matched to Little Brother Tommy on November 13, 2013. Since being matched with Emmanuel, Tommy has established the goal of becoming a Mechanical Engineer and through their mentor-mentee relationship, they have been able to have the opportunity to dedicate time to mutual hobbies including sporting events and car shows.

Judy Napoli is the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties 2020 Big Sister of the Year! Judy was matched to Little Sister Aubreonna, known as Bre, in April of 2016. Since being matched with Judy, Bre has unearthed a goal of pursuing a career in the medical field and have spent their time together playing board games and enjoying fashion.


Stay Active Mentally

As we continue to oblige by Governor Murphy’s stay-at-home order, staying occupied and having fun is important for both your mental and physical health. Below we have a few resources for you to use with your family or your match!

1. Wheaton Arts Family Art Workshops Online: to check out some examples of activities you can participate in, visit https://www.wheatonarts.org/learn/family-activities/family-art-workshops/.
2. Cumberland County Library: Ongoing services and eResources are available to all residents of the county. Learn more at https://www.cclnj.org/ or call (856) 453-2210.
3. Rowan College South Jersey is presenting free online enrichment classes: register for the classes at https://bit.ly/CumberlandVT. To gather further information please contact Cindy Phillips at lphiili8@rcsj.edu.
The No Show Big Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us on May 15th for our No Show Big Night featuring pianist and singer, Darin MacDonald. We are grateful for everyone who donated to us in an effort to help us continue our mission of one-to-one mentoring programs. While the COVID-19 Pandemic has canceled or postponed many of our fundraising events, we will not stop our mission to ignite and defend the power and promise of our youth. Thanks to our great staff, we have been able to seamlessly transition to virtual mentoring and continue to make an impact every day, but we still need your help, now more than ever! Even if you missed the No Show Big Night, you can still support our mission.

Please consider donating to our programs at:

DoALotForALittleToday.org,
Through PayPal at https://paypal.me/SouthJerseyBigs,
Or text DonateNow to 243-725.
Meet the Team

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

Michele Plumbo, Board Chair
Emmanuel Gauffeny, Vice Chair
Cosmo Giovinazzi, IV, Treasurer
Kathleen Norton-Gallaher, Secretary
Shayne Bevilacqua
Donata Dalesandro
Kenneth Dondero
Mark Fox
Dawn Hunter
Denise Jackson
Michael Loyle
Erin Feldman-Mendez
Cesar Morales
Priscilla McCoy
Kathleen Norton-Gallaher
Debby Novick
Christopher Wolf

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties, Staff & Volunteers

Donna Bennett
President/CEO

Melody Montgomery
Director of Development

Tygh Powell
Director of Programs

Danielle Clementson
Program Manager

Alicia Fearon
Program Manager

Madisyn Miller
Program Manager

Eliud Rivera
Program Manager

Paul Gramm
Volunteer Office Staff

Judy Napoli
Volunteer Office Staff

Tamaris Cooper
Volunteer Office Staff
# New Matches

**March 2020**

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<tr>
<td>Ka’Nijha</td>
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# Match Anniversaries

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