



High School Big Sister Victoria & Little Sister Alana

News from
Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Cumberland & Salem Counties

Big News



March/April 2018

Making a Big Difference

One of the many exciting outcomes of our [High School Mentoring Program](#) is seeing our High School Bigs learn and grow through their experiences as mentors. In this program, high school students are matched with elementary students who meet them after school to provide guidance, friendship and fun! It is gratifying for our organization to see them return, after graduation, as Big Brothers and Big Sisters in our adult programs. Four such Bigs were matched recently in our [Adult School Based Mentoring Program](#) at Max Leuchter School in Vineland.

Our Adult School Based program is designed for busy adults who want to make a difference but have limited time. Our Bigs meet their Littles in school during their lunch periods. They meet for lunch once a week to play games, talk or play outside together.

Cedric Holmes was a High School Big Brother at Vineland High School, matched with Little Brother Marquis. After two great years together, Cedric graduated, and Marquis was promoted to middle school. This October, Cedric returned to our Adult School Based program as a Big Brother to Jaiden. Cedric has provided fun times for Jaiden as well as support through a time of loss in Jaiden's family.

Our newest member of this legacy group is **Emily Myers** who graduated from Our Lady of Mercy Academy in 2017 where she was a high school Big. After completing her first semester at Stockton University she once again became a Big Sister. She met Little Brother Jael in early February 2018 and already he counts the days between visits. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a Big Sister as a college student," says Emily. "Being able to put a smile on a child's face each week and giving back to my community in high school was a great feeling, and something that I did not want to lose once I started college." (*more on page 4*)

We hope these stories have inspired you to consider becoming a Big in our Adult School Based Mentoring Program. By committing, just a little of your time each week **YOU CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!** For more information on becoming a High School Big or Adult School Based Big please contact BBBS at 856.692.0916.



Pictured above: Big Brother Cedric & Little Brother Jaiden

Pictured below: Little Brother Jael & Big Sister Emily



You Change Lives



At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we talk a lot about our programs and how our Bigs change the lives of their Littles and in the process the Bigs lives are forever altered as well. So many of our Bigs tell us that they get far more than they give. That is very gratifying to hear, and we are so grateful to all our volunteers for their caring commitment.

We also talk about our donors, our loyal supporters, who help make it possible for us to provide quality programs that are safe and consistent. We know that our programs thrive through the extreme generosity of the individuals, businesses, and organizations who believe in the power of mentoring and are willing to invest in our efforts.

It is an honor to be a part of such a worthy organization that truly changes lives of others in a very positive way. On behalf of the staff of Big Brothers Big Sisters, I want to say thank you again and again for your unwavering support and commitment as volunteers and donors.

Sincerely,

Donna Bennett
President/CEO



BBBS Staff pictured left to right: Director of Development, Deborah Jewell; Director of High School Mentoring, Dominique O'Brien; Director of Programs, Tygh Powell; Development Assistant, Cherell Eutz, Director of Community Based Mentoring, Gloria Thompson, Director of Adult School Based Mentoring, Danielle Clementson, President/CEO, Donna Bennett

Remembering Aaron

A bright light that went out too soon, Aaron Ploch exemplified excellence as a student athlete and as a young man of character. Beloved by his family, friends, teachers and coaches, he had a smile that could light up a room. On September 30, 1999 at the age of 10, Aaron passed away.

To honor his memory the Ploch family established Aaron's Fund Inc. to provide scholarships for area students and to support the work of local charities including [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties](#). Run for Aaron is a family event that includes a 5K run and 1 Mile walk to raise money for the Fund.

To-date, Aaron's Fund has donated more than \$50,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters to help make more matches possible.

Join in the fun at the [Run for Aaron on Saturday, April 14](#), in the heart of South Jersey's farmland.

Registration is \$20 for the 5K and \$15 for the 1 Mile run. Registration closes April 12.

Check-in begins at 7:30 AM. Race time is 9 AM. For more information visit:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Vineland/RunforAaronsKand1MileWalk>



Swinging Away at Scotland Run



The Scotland Run Golf Club course will provide a beautiful backdrop for the first-ever **Big Golf Classic** to benefit **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties**. Built in and around an old sand quarry, Scotland Run offers a distinctive blend of wooded, quarry and links style holes. The most unique characteristics include expansive waste areas and an imposing display of cliffs.

Dan Falasca, Jr. chairs the event.

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Registration: 10:30 AM

Lunch: 11:30 AM

Shotgun Start: 12:30 PM

Dinner & Awards: 5 PM

*For more information on our upcoming events and how you can get more involved, whether through becoming an **Event Sponsor**, **Event Volunteer** or an **Event Committee Member** contact the Fund Development team at (856) 692-0916.*

If you enjoy attending golf outings, wine tasting and pairing, competitive auction bidding, walking or running, dreaming of your next new car, Big Brothers Big Sisters has an event for you. Throughout the year, Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts special events that are perfect for entertaining your clients and staff, family gatherings, night out with your friends or just rewarding yourself.



In the
Spotlight

Making a Big Difference *(continued)*



HIGH SCHOOL BIGS RETURN AS ADULT SCHOOL BASED BIGS

Lea Westergaard was a Big Sister while at Vineland High School. She graduated last June. Staying local to attend Cumberland County College, Lea wasted no time getting into the Adult School Based program. She was matched with Ja'Lynn in October 2017 and they hit it off immediately. Ja'Lynn looks up to Lea as a college student who is pursuing her dreams and goals.

—a perfect example for a young girl!

(pictured above are Little Sister Ja'Lynn & Big Sister Lea)



Big Brother **Benjamin Quinones III** was matched with Little Brother Damion in December 2017. Several years passed after Ben's time as a High School Big Brother. In those years, Ben graduated from college and worked in the Boston area for a time before he returned to South Jersey with his young family. As a local small business owner and with his experience as a father, Ben has a unique perspective to offer as he mentors 10-year-old Damion. (Ben & Damion pictured above)

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

Donata Dalesandro

Mark Fox

Dawn Hunter

Denise Jackson

Michael Loyle

Priscilla McCoy

Kathleen Norton-Gallaher

Debby Novick

Paul Perino, Jr.

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

Donna Bennett
President/CEO

Deborah Jewell
Director of Development

Tygh Powell
Director of Programs

Gloria Thompson
Director of Community-Based
Mentoring

Danielle Clementson
Director of Adult
School-Based Mentoring

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:

Wednesday, April 4 at 12:15 PM

Tuesday, May 1 at 6 PM

Wednesday June 6 at 12:15 PM

Light fare and refreshments will be served.
Please RSVP by calling Cherell Eutzy at 856-692-0916.

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.southjerseybigs.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!

It's coming! **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).

Meet the winemakers themselves and enjoy the fruits of their labors. 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 is co-chaired by BBBS Board members Denise Jackson and Cosmo Giovinazzi, IV. The event features both live and silent auctions.

Be one of over 200 guests to bid on an assortment of gift baskets, sports memorabilia (including a **football signed by Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles!**), artwork, experiential and vacation packages with all proceeds helping change the lives of our community's children.

Join the fun, meet new people and help make a **BIG** difference for youth in our community! The party begins at 6 PM on Friday, May 11, 2018 at the Eastlyn Golf Course & Greenview Inn, Vineland, NJ. All are welcome!

Discounted tickets are available for \$85 per guest at www.BBBSTheBigNight.com until May 4th. After that date the price increases to \$100.

To donate an Auction item, [purchase an ad](#) in the Program Book or [Sponsor](#) the event call Cherell Eutzy at 856-692-0916.



Scholarship Opportunity

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties will offer 10 scholarships, each in the amount of \$1000, in 2018.

Criteria:

1. High School Senior that is currently a trained/matched High School Big Brother or Big Sister and has documented a minimum of **20** hours of participation in the program, **OR**
2. High School Senior who is/was a Little that is/was either matched or waiting to be matched, **OR**
3. High School Senior whose parent/guardian is a Big Brothers Big Sisters agency volunteer or staff member.

Scholarship Amount:

\$1000.00 will be payable to the school that you will be attending.

Requirements:

1. Applicant must fill out an application (attached)
2. Write an essay – “How has being a Little or a High School Big impacted you at this time of your life, and how will you continue to use the skills and experience that you have learned to be a leader in the future?” **(typed)**

OR

“Describe how your experience participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters events/activities made an impact on your life. What skills have you learned and what experiences have you had that have prepared you for your future? How will you use those skills and experiences to be a leader in the future?”

**** Please note: Applications must be completed in their entirety to be considered. ****

Deadline: Monday, April 16th

Submit application and essay to:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties
ATTN: Danielle Clementson
P.O. Box 2188
1944 E. Landis Ave
Vineland, NJ 08362-2188
Phone: (856) 692-0916
Fax: (856) 692-0766
E-mail: dclementson@southjerseybigs.org

If you have any questions, please call the Big Brothers Big Sisters office at (856) 692-0916. Winners will be announced at your high school's award ceremony or through mail correspondence.

March/April Events

Date	Event
March 24	Yarn Chicks: Michaels Kids Clubs – Saturday Mornings \$5 – ages 6 & up
March 24	Peter and the Wolf: Wheaton Arts 2pm free
March 29	BBBS Easter Party – By Invitation and RSVP ONLY
March 31	Easter Treat Bag: Michaels Kids Clubs – Saturday Mornings \$5 – ages 6 & up
April 11	Cirque Ziva \$12: Levoy Theater
April 20-22	Disney's My Son Pinocchio Jr.: Child \$20 Adult \$22 Levoy Theater
April 28	Upper Deerfield Community Day

New Matches January 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Match Date</u>
John	Luis	1/25
Melita	Jamora-Lynnea	1/31

February 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Match Date</u>
Nancy	Naja	2/1
Emily	Jael	2/2
Janice	Sumaiyyah	2/7
Brooke	Faith	2/20
Kristen	Zakiyyah	2/23

Match Anniversaries

March 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Years Matched</u>
John	De-Andre	6
Lisa	Soul	4
Christopher	Kenny	4
William	David	2
Jafet	Eliceo	1
Elizabeth	Grace	1

April 2018

<u>Big</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>Years Matched</u>
Joyce	Alisha	6
Jennifer	Dahlia	5
Nicholas	Robert	3
Judith	Aubreonna	2
Whitney	Jesias	2