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Contact: Amy Sledz-Sarin, Senior Manager of Marketing & Public Relations
516.731.7880 ext. 222 · asledz-sarin@bbbsli.org · www.bbbsli.org

#GivingTuesday Real Life Example – Bikes for Kids at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island & OpenLink Mentoring Program

Long Island, NY (December 2015) – Held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday is a social media movement that celebrates giving and the generosity of people to bring about real change in their local communities. The spirit of #GivingTuesday was exemplified when Bikes for Kids in America donated 20 brand new bikes to children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island's (BBBSLI) workplace mentoring program at OpenLink.

"OpenLink is very proud to partner with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island and the Bikes for Kids in America organizations. The reach and impact of these two organizations is truly remarkable. They continue to touch the lives of so many children on Long Island," said Rich Grossi, Executive Vice President of Global Operations and Support at OpenLink.

Grossi noted that workplace mentoring is something that OpenLink believes in strongly as it not only provides positive role models for children, but also allows employees the ability to give back to our local community. "The OpenLink employees who volunteered to mentor were truly touched to see the joy on the children's faces when they received bikes from the Bikes for Kids in America organization. This was a special day for all involved."

Bikes for Kids in America is a non-profit organization with the goal of helping every child feel the joy and freedom of riding his or her own bike. For many kids facing adversity, receiving a new bike of their own is something they can only dream about. That dream came true for the 20 children in BBBSLI's work place mentoring program at OpenLink.

"When I first learned about the workplace mentoring program and the wonderful partnership between BBBSLI and OpenLink, I wanted Bikes for Kids in America be involved some way", said Enrico DeLuca, President & Founder of Bikes for Kids in America. "I coordinated with BBBSLI and Rich Grossi to work out the details to deliver 20 bikes, helmets and locks to the kids in the program. It was such a great day, bringing smiles to the faces of these special kids".

This real life example of giving created joy in the lives of 20 children that will hopefully inspire them to pay it forward in the future. On #GivingTuesday and every day, there are opportunities for ordinary people to come together to do extraordinary things. To learn how you can give to make a difference in the lives of children on Long Island facing adversity visit: bbbsli.org

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island

Incorporated in 1977, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and shine. BBBSLI makes meaningful, professionally supported matches between adult volunteers ('Bigs') and children ('Littles'). Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, please visit us at www.bbbsli.org.

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