

BIG NEWS

SUMMER 2016



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

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MATCH SPOTLIGHT: Meet Little Brother Marven & Big Brother John



Marven & John at their Community Based match meeting (top left) and during their match at OpenLink's Site Based program

Marven and John have been matched since 2014 in our Site Based program at OpenLink. This summer they became the first match to make the transition from a Site Based match to a Community Based match. As a Site Based match they met bi-weekly at OpenLink's offices as part of a group supervised by a BBBSLI case manager. As a Community Based match they will have the opportunity to continue their relationship, spending time together in various ways.

"Giving back to the community was something I really wanted to do and being matched with Marven in OpenLink's Site Based mentoring program has been amazing," said John.

He also said, "It feels great to be part of a milestone as the first match going from Site Based to the Community Based program and I hope we are a catalyst for others who want to make that transition".

Marven shared, "My Big Brother John is the best Big Brother! He makes me feel very cared about and he is always so kind to me. At the start of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program at OpenLink I was really nervous to meet and spend time with someone I had never met before. But I knew I had to give it a shot and as time went on I got to know him better. Now I feel so comfortable with John and view him as someone who will always look out for me".

"When I first met Marven two years ago he was very quiet and shy and now he has become more vocal and his confidence has definitely improved," said John.

Both Marven and John are thrilled about continuing as a Community Based match and are excited about the new ways they can spend time together.

"I really look forward to all the different things Marven and I will now have the ability to do. Marven and I have a shared interest in football and that is something we bond over. Now that we are a Community Based match I can help him practice and go to his games which is something both of us have wanted to be able to do," said John.

Marven exclaimed, "I felt really happy when I found out that John and I would be continuing our match in the Community Based program. I am so excited about all the fun stuff we will be able to do now and I know we are going to have the best time together! I love him very much and feel so thankful he is my Big Brother".

BECOME A BIG

Do you have a few hours a month to
make a difference in the life of a child?

Apply to become a Big or refer
someone you know at BBBSLI.ORG.



Fancy Feet for BBBSLI Littles & Their Families Thanks to Donations from Synclaire Brands/BCNY International

BBBSLI would like to extend a huge thank you to BCNY/Synclaire Brands International of Hicksville and their CEO Evan Cagner for generously donating brand new designer children's shoes to our program throughout the year.

Thanks to their donations Littles and their families have enjoyed several designer shoe giveaways. Fabulous designer shoes were given away at agency events and during the year at both the Levittown and Islandia offices.

Synclaire Brands/BCNY International manages an extensive portfolio of children's fashion footwear for every occasion. Designer brands include Michael Kors, Tahari, Stuart Weitzam, Tommy Hilfiger, Kenneth Cole and more.

Evan Cagner, CEO of Synclaire Brands shared, "We feel very strongly about helping in the best ways that we can." He also added, "We really like to focus our help in our own backyard. The world is a big place, but we like to think local and give locally to make the biggest impact and that's why we chose Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island."

Most recently, they donated shoes for us to distribute at our Annual Summer Picnic. Our Littles and their siblings had huge smiles as they choose from a wide selection of amazing shoes. Getting to go home from the picnic with a brand new pair of shoes was a fantastic surprise for both the children and their parents!



Summer Series 2016 Activities

Based on seed funding for our newly created Activities Fund from former Big Zach Fink of ZBF Geothermal, BBBSLI hosted a summer series designed to promote health and wellness for our Littles. Our first event was a Paint Night, followed by Bootcamp, Yoga and Nutrition, Basketball with the Stony Brook Lady Seawolves and a Swim Lesson series with instruction from the Levittown Swim Association. For more information on supporting our Activity Fund, please contact Jamison Skala at 516-731-7880 X227 or jskala@bbbsli.org



Paint Night - Under the Stars



Swimming Lessons with The Levittown Swim Association



Boot Camp Workout



Yoga & Nutrition Class



AdventureSail Regatta



NFL Heroes Football Camp



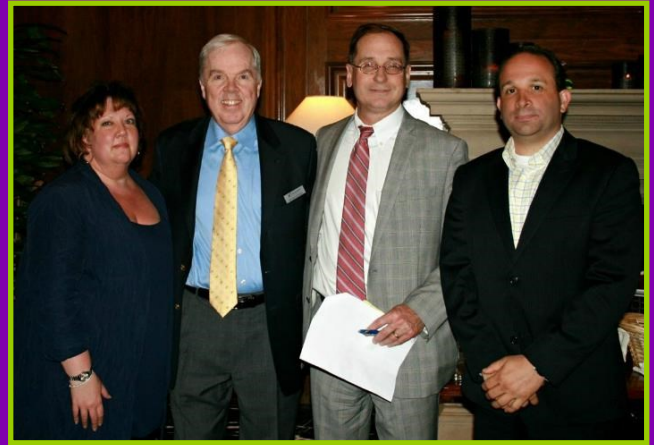
Hance Family Foundation Beautiful Me Self-Esteem Workshop

New Board of Directors Slate 2016-17

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) would like to announce the new slate of officers for its 2016-17 Board of Directors: Board Chair, Thomas Slome; Vice President, Richard Grossi; Treasurer, Michael Paley and Secretary, Liz Meyers.

On June 1st, BBBSLI held its annual Board of Directors meeting at the Garden City Hotel. The new slate of officers was installed at a Leadership Reception which took place following the annual meeting. The Leadership Reception was attended by BBBSLI Board members, President's Council members and staff.

BBBSLI would like to thank all the members of our 2016-17 Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our agency's mission. To view a complete list of BBBSLI's Board of Directors visit: <http://bbbsli.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>



(From left): Secretary, Liz Meyers; Treasurer, Michael Paley; Board Chair, Thomas Slome & Vice President, Richard Grossi

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

On Tuesday, April 12th, Big Brothers Big Sister of Long Island (BBBSLI) celebrated their volunteer mentors (Bigs) at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception, presented by Darby Dental Supply. Volunteers along with their family members, board members and supporters of BBBSLI gathered at Crest Hollow Country Club to celebrate our Bigs for the time and energy they spend positively impacting the lives of children on Long Island. This celebratory reception was held during National Volunteer Week. "The Volunteer Appreciation Reception is one of our most important events, we get to celebrate our Bigs for all they do for the agency and for their Littles and we also get to introduce the 2016 Scholarship Recipients", said Nancy Travers, Director of Services for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island. The evening's program recognized all of the Bigs for the many ways they give of themselves to positively impact the lives of their Littles.

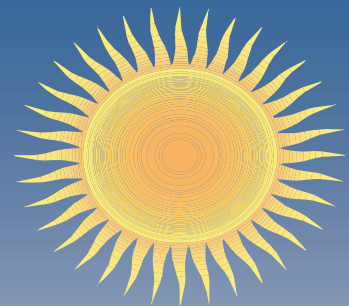


Scholarship Recipients

Also acknowledged at the Volunteer Appreciation Reception, were our 2016 scholarship award recipients. Scholarships are awarded to Littles, former Littles and High School Bigs pursuing higher education this fall, who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrate high levels of motivation, responsibility and resiliency in their everyday lives. These scholarships are made possible by supporters of BBBSLI; the families of the late Jeff Grant, Glenn Trovato, and Michael J. Weisbrod, and in honor of Dorothy & John Talotta, who recently established a new endowed scholarship.



Annual Summer Picnic 2016



On Sunday, June 12th, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) hosted their Annual Summer Picnic at Heckscher State Park. This year's event was sponsored by Principle Payments and was attended by more than 200 Bigs, Littles and their families. Each year the summer picnic provides a fun-filled day of food, music, games, art and other activities.

"We had a great day yesterday for the picnic and a great turnout. It is so important that we get a chance to bring everyone together to get to know each other", said Nancy Travers, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island Director of Services. She added, "Seeing new friendships forged between Bigs, Littles and families made the day even better".

DJ Joe played music and games throughout the day while Bigs and Littles took to the field playing softball, dancing and jumping in the inflatables. Inside the pavilion, others took fun pictures with props in the photo booth, did arts & crafts and created hand print murals which will be displayed in the Levittown and Islandia offices.

As Bigs & Littles arrived, they all received BBBSLI T-shirts. Giveaways also included new books from the book fair table and a variety of gently used sporting equipment provided by Play It Forward.

Thanks to a donation from BCNY/Synclair Brands, Littles and their siblings were also invited to choose from a large selection of brand new designer shoes to take home. The pavilion was filled with excitement as our raffle winners were announced sending many Littles home with wonderful prizes. The fun-filled afternoon concluded with dessert, snow cones, cotton candy and tons of big smiles.

In addition to thanking presenting sponsor Principle Payments, BBBSLI wants to express a special thank you to the volunteers from National Charity League Inc. who assisted BBBSLI staff members throughout the day in running the event.



Nearly \$100,000 Raised at BBBSLI's 20th Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 6th, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) hosted their 20th Annual Golf Tournament at The Muttontown Club in East Norwich, NY. This year's event presented by Broadridge Financial Solutions, honoring Tom Gambaro, brought together 108 golfers and raised nearly \$100,000 in support of mentoring on Long Island.



Tournament guests began their day with an elaborate breakfast buffet on the outdoor patio, followed by time at the driving range and putting greens. Golfers enjoyed a barbecue lunch, cocktail reception, buffet dinner, awards ceremony and raffles.

During dinner, BBBSLI's mission was brought to life as Little Brother Marven and Big Brother John spoke about their match. "When I first heard I was getting a Big Brother I was really nervous, but once I got to know John I felt so comfortable. I think John and I will have the best time of our lives doing things together," shared Marven. (Read about Marven & John in our match spotlight on p. 1)

Congratulations to this year's tournament 1st place winners:

Men's low gross with a score of 69 – Bob Madden; Women's low gross with a score of 99 – Sonia Whang; Team Low Net with a Callaway-handicapped team score of 60– Mike Aleva, Rudy Caroleo, E. David, Woycik, Jr., Bob Madden



"Summer Sizzle" 2016

On July 19th, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) held their 2016 "Summer Sizzle" Poker Tournament presented by ZBF Geothermal at The Main Event in Farmingdale. Nearly 100 players doubled down to raise \$21,000 in support of youth mentoring on Long Island.

Scott O'Neill of East Norwich revealed the championship hand at the coveted final table. Greg Sibilio and Len Hecker finished in 2nd and 3rd Place, respectively. The top prize was a \$2,500 travel voucher. Second prize was a 49" LG Smart TV and the third place winner received a Hotel Indigo Wine & Spirits East End Getaway for two.



Our next 2016 Poker & Networking Series event – "All In" Poker – will take place November 15th at The Main Event in Farmingdale. For event details, sponsorship opportunities or to register, visit – bbbsli.org/upcoming-events/



BBBSLI Hosts Inaugural Fashion Show

On May 18, 2016, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) hosted their Inaugural Fashion Show, presented by Steve Madden. Nearly 200 people gathered at NYIT de Seversky Mansion to watch BBBSLI Big & Little matches walk the runway modeling a range of looks from “thrift store chic” to formal wear.

Donna Drake, Executive Producer & Host of Live It Up with Donna Drake served as the event’s guest emcee. Ten Big & Little matches modeled collections from Savers, Popi’s Place, Southern Tide and Lord & Taylor. BBBSLI staff members also participated in the show modeling a collection of fur and leather outerwear from Tsontos Furs.

This event offered attendees a unique opportunity to witness the fun dynamic and special closeness shared between Bigs & Littles. Funds raised at the Fashion Show will assist BBBSLI in its efforts to match many of the 200 children on our inquiry list waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister of their own.

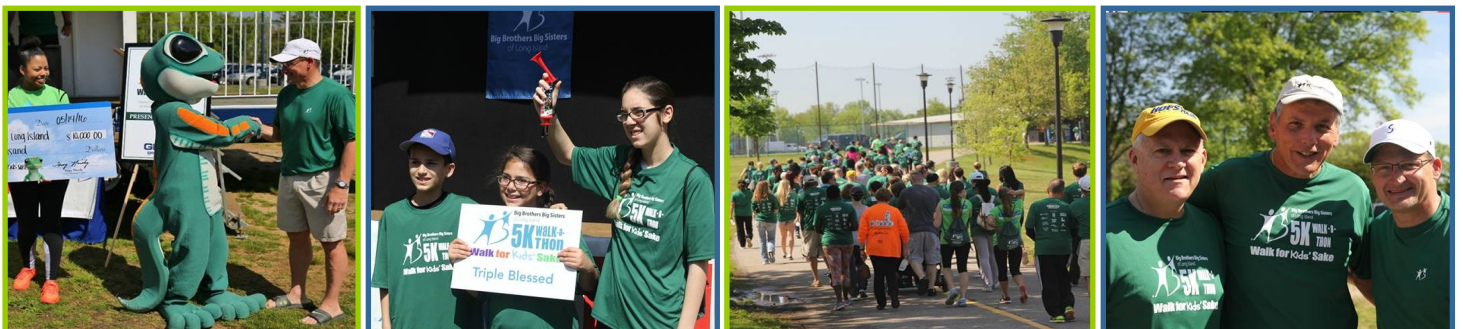


Walk for Kids’ Sake 2016

On May 14, 2016, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) hosted their annual Walk for Kids’ Sake event, presented by GEICO. This annual 5K event provides an opportunity for matches, board members, staff and the community to join together and raise funds to help BBBSLI grow the number of children served through their mentoring programs.

Nearly 200 walkers came together at Eisenhower Park on the beautiful spring morning in support of mentoring on Long Island. DJ Joe Bova played music as everybody warmed up with a stretching session led by the GEICO gecko. Siblings Angelica, Gianna and Anthony who are all Littles in the program received the honor of blowing the horn to mark the start of the 5K walk.

Funds raised through the Walk will assist BBBSLI in matching many of the 200 children on our inquiry list waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister of their own. The event concluded with a Finishers’ picnic which featured face painting, balloon art and inflatables to entertain the many children in attendance.





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of Long Island

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Mark your calendars!
**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

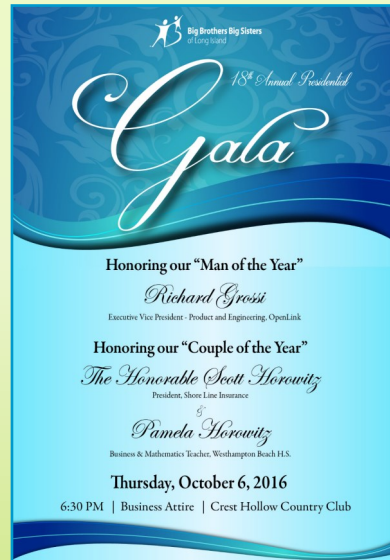
For Registration & Event Details Visit: <http://bbbsli.org/upcoming-events/>



August 12th thru 21st
in Hampton Bays, NY



September 17th ride from
Levittown, NY to Greenport, NY



October 6th at Crest Hollow
Country Club in Woodbury, NY



November 12th



November 15th at The Main
Event in Farmingdale, NY



December 18th

For Sponsorship Opportunities or Questions Please Contact Deanna Tropeano at:
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