

BIG NEWS

WINTER 2018



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

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SPOTLIGHT: "What I Love About Being A Mentor!"

Mentoring builds relationships that are as meaningful for the mentor as they are for the child. Our Bigs frequently tell us they became mentors to "give back" and never imagined how much they would gain and learn from their Littles. We often highlight the positive impact our Bigs are having on the lives of their Littles, but the benefits of the mentoring relationship are truly mutual! We asked our Bigs to share how their lives have been impacted and what they love about being a mentor.



"I love how special my Little Sister makes me feel no matter what we do ... big or small!" - *Big Sister Janet*

"I love the joy I feel when my Little brings up things we've discussed years ago."
- *Big Brother Brian*

"It's so rewarding to spend time with my Little Brother - his youthful exuberance and passion for life is contagious."
- *Big Brother Chris*



"I love being forced out of my comfort zone and doing things I haven't done since I was a kid." - *Big Brother Matt*

"My Little has taught me to never stop believing in myself and working towards my own dreams." - *Big Sister Sydney*

"I love how my Little makes me feel needed and important." - *Big Brother Emmitt*



"I love knowing I'm having a positive influence on a young man while having fun together."
- *Big Brother John*



"I love how my Little Sister keeps me feeling young!" - *Big Sister Dina*

"I love the pride I feel when hearing about my Little's accomplishments."
- *Big Sister Elizabeth*



WE NEED MENTORS!

BBBSLI currently has 500 children waiting for a mentor. Take the first step, visit: bbbsli.org/become-a-big/ or call (516) 731-7880 X 212

40th Anniversary Gala Celebration Raises Over \$200,000 for Mentoring on L.I.

On October 5, 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island hosted its Annual Presidential Gala celebrating the mentoring agency's 40th Anniversary at The Inn at New Hyde Park in New Hyde Park, NY. As the premiere fundraising event of the year, the Gala drew 300 guests and raised over \$200,000 for BBBSLI to continue providing mentoring and support services to Long Island's youth.



Past Gala Honorees in attendance at the event

"Thanks to the extraordinary support from sponsors and honorees over the past 19 years, our annual Gala has raised more than \$5 million dollars in gross revenue for the agency. The funds raised each year at this event help us provide more children with the quality mentoring services that have remained a constant over the last 40 years," said Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island CEO, Mark Cox.

In celebration of BBBSLI's 40th Anniversary, this year's event included a special presentation recognizing all the agency's former Gala Honorees. Special recognition was also given to BBBSLI's former CEO, Bill Tymann, who led the agency from 1979 through 2014. Mr. Tymann received a standing ovation as he accepted a special award in honor of his 34 years of leadership and service helping children on Long Island. In addition to former honorees and supporters, several Littles and their Big Brothers and Sisters attended this year's event.



BBBSLI Celebrates Halloween with Spooktacular Party

BBBSLI matches, family members and staff put on their costumes and came together at the Westbury office on October 29, 2017 for a Spooktacular Halloween party!

Festivities included a door decorating contest, toilet paper Bride & Groom of Frankenstein competition and other fun Halloween themed games. Littles were then invited to go office to office trick-or-treating where they received a variety of fun giveaways.



Holiday For Kids' Sake 2017

Thanks to the generosity of over 300 companies and individuals, Holiday for Kids' Sake 2017 created magic for over 500 children across Long Island! Sponsors purchased specific items from each child's wish list along with many other gifts based on their age and interests. Over 100 volunteers helped sort and pack gifts and 50 volunteers, with their family and friends, delivered gifts and food to families across Long Island. Thank you to everyone who made Holiday for Kids' Sake 2017 a success!



Winter Blast 2018

On January 20, 2018, in celebration of National Mentoring Month, BBBSLI hosted its annual Winter Blast match event presented by Geico at Dave & Busters in Islandia. Bigs and Littles all enjoyed a fun filled day of games, food and raffles. The event also included a book fair, sponsored by The Book Fairies, which allowed for every Little to leave the event with brand new books.

"Winter Blast is always one of our favorite match events of the year. It is an incredible opportunity for our matches and the BBBSLI team to come together, socialize and have fun! We're grateful for the donors and volunteers who help to make this possible," said Nancy Farrell Travers, Director of Services for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island.

Each match received a Dave & Busters unlimited power play card and 25 raffle tickets to use for the Chinese auction. In addition to each match getting to enjoy a fun time together, events such as Winter Blast allow Bigs and Littles to socialize and interact with other matches and the BBBSLI staff which promotes unity and camaraderie with the agency.



Annual Cruisin' for Kids' Sake Motorcycle Ride

On September 16, 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island raised \$15,000 at its Annual Cruisin' for Kids' Sake event!

Riders and passengers arrived at the E. David Woycik, Jr. Building in Westbury for breakfast, where they each received a pair of Harley Davidson sunglasses donated by Castle Merchandising, Inc., before heading east for a scenic ride to Greenport, NY. After the ride, nearly 30 supporters gathered to enjoy lunch at Claudio's Restaurant.



Players Go "All-In" at Poker Tournament

On November 14, 2017, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island presented its annual "All-In" Poker Tournament as part of its Poker & Networking event series. Over 100 players registered for the event, presented by Steve Madden, held at The Main Event Restaurant & Sports Bar in Farmingdale. The event raised nearly \$30,000 in support of mentoring on Long Island.

Barry Levine revealed the championship hand at the coveted final table. Bill Nafpliotis and Mike Byrne finished in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. The top prize was a \$2,500 Traveler's Choice Voucher. Second prize was two tickets to see Billy Joel at Madison Square Garden and the third-place winner received a 43" LG 4K Smart TV.



Join us for Poker Night 2018 on March 20th at The Main Event in Farmingdale.

For event details, sponsorship opportunities or to register

visit: bbbsli.org/event/poker-night-2018/



Seaford Boy Scouts Hold 5th Annual Clothing Drive Supporting BBBSLI

Boy Scout Troop 689 of Seaford, held their fifth annual clothing drive in support of BBBSLI. Over the past five years, the troop's clothing drives have brought in over 16,000 pounds of clothing and small household items to support of mentoring on Long Island.

The annual drive is coordinated by Assistant Scoutmaster Marc Elkin. "It's is our pleasure and brings happiness to our hearts to provide our services to help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island. As Assistant Scoutmaster, I reinforce the importance of giving back to help those in need in our community," said Mark Elkin.

"Organizing this clothing drive each year helps prepare our boys to become the leaders of tomorrow. Scout law teaches our members to always help other people. Helping BBBSLI with our drive is the biggest reward the boys can earn over any badge."

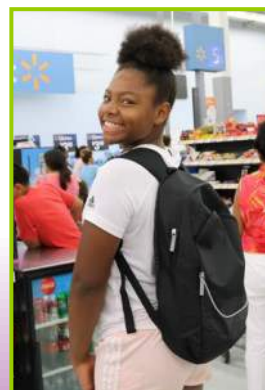


Troop 689 members and supporters helped load collections from their clothing drive on to the BBBSLI Donation Center truck.

50 Littles Receive Back-to-School Shopping Spree

Thanks to a generous donation from Smithtown Acura, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island was able to provide 50 children with a back-to-school shopping spree at Walmart! 50 lucky Littles, accompanied by their Big Brother or Big Sister, won the chance to participate in this match activity which took place at Walmart locations in both Islandia and Westbury.

The back-to-school shopping spree provided Littles with the opportunity to purchase important school related supplies while also teaching them how to prioritize purchases and budget money. Each Big and Little match received a notepad, calculator and a spending budget of \$100. The mentors assisted their mentees with identifying the items they needed most and helped them to budget the allotted money appropriately.





Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

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Web

www.bbbsli.org



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



February 28th

Presented by Vicom
Computer Services Inc.
at Governor's Comedy Club,
Levittown, NY



March 20th

at The Main Event,
Farmingdale, NY



May 23rd

Presented by Steve Madden
at The Cradle of Aviation Museum,
Garden City, NY



June 4th

Presented by Fat Guy Media
& TCI Technologies
Honoring Thomas Jacobberger
at The Muttontown Club,
East Norwich, NY

For sponsorship opportunities or questions please contact
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