

BIG NEWS

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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MATCH SPOTLIGHT: Meet Little Brother Phil & Big Brother Barry



Barry & Phil on their first outing (left) and at Phil's HS Graduation

Big Brother Barry and Little Brother Phil have been matched for six years. When first matched, Phil was a 12 year old boy who was trying to find his way and today he is a confident young man preparing to head to college in August.

"It's an understatement to say that having Barry as my Big Brother has revolutionized my life! He has given me the tools to get through challenges and also taught me how to embrace the great things in my life," said Phil. "He has always encouraged me to be my true self and taught me to take pride in who I really am".

"I've seen so many changes in Phil during our time together," said Barry. "One of the lessons I emphasized with Phil was the importance of respecting people, especially his mom. Another thing I instilled, during our conversations and through my own actions, was that you don't have to be so serious all the time and that humor can make life easier sometimes".

Phil shared, "Barry has instilled so many virtues in me that have shaped who I have become as a young adult. He has taught me the importance of respect, integrity, compassion and being a good person to everyone I encounter". He went on to say, "Barry has been such a positive role model for me. Through his example, I've learned that I will get so much more out of things in life when I invest my whole self into it".

"My relationship with Barry is so special because he plays a combination of important roles in my life. He is a role model, a best friend, a confidant and someone I can always be my true genuine self around," said Phil.

When asked what he has gotten from being Phil's Big Brother, Barry responded, "I feel the love and so much appreciation from him. He has expressed appreciation towards me with both his words and actions. I also feel very proud of him, for his accomplishments and for the young man he is today. There were many times when Phil would bring up something I had said, months or years earlier, which showed me he was always listening and that I was making an impact".

"Barry has shown support and dedication to everything I do. I give him so much credit for where I am today. After experiencing firsthand the positive impact having a Big Brother has had on my life, I definitely want to become a mentor so I can have that impact on someone else's life," said Phil.

Barry has always put emphasis on the importance of listening to Phil. "As a mentor it's not about having all the solutions or telling them what to do, the most important thing is to truly listen. It's amazing what a person will share with someone who is truly listening and the problem solving you can do together," said Barry.

In closing Barry shared, "Phil is truly a member of my family. I can't put into words how proud I am of him. Not only of his accomplishments but that he has become a young man who is going to change the world"!

WE NEED MENTORS!

BBBSLI has nearly 500 children waiting for a mentor. Take the first step, visit:
bbbsli.org/become-a-big/

BBBSLI Honors Bigs at Volunteer Appreciation Reception & Big Night Out

On Tuesday, April 24th, Big Brothers Big Sister of Long Island (BBBSLI) celebrated their volunteer mentors (Bigs) at the Volunteer Appreciation Reception presented by Darby Dental Supply Inc. Volunteers, our Board and President's Council members, along with their guests, gathered at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, to celebrate our Bigs for the time and energy they spend positively impacting the lives of children on Long Island. This celebratory reception, held during National Volunteer Month, also recognized BBBSLI's 2018 Scholarship award recipients.

"The event was an incredible night for the agency, it was a great opportunity to bring together our Board of Directors, Presidents Council, our volunteers and the 2018 Scholarship recipients as well as their special guests. This year is a record year both in number of scholars selected and our highest total of \$86,000.00 awarded", said Mark Cox, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island. "The interaction between all of the people that are committed to the agency's mission coming together to celebrate, made for a powerful event".

Held in conjunction with Big Night Out, sponsored by Suffolk Federal and Glass & Dooley CPA's, the evening's program recognized all the Bigs for the many ways they give of themselves to positively impact the lives of their Littles. Also acknowledged were BBBSLI's 2018 Scholarship award recipients. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors pursuing higher education this fall, who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrate high levels of motivation, responsibility and resiliency in their everyday lives. These scholarship opportunities are generously made possible by Dorothy and John Talotta, as well as the families of the late Jeff Grant, the late Glenn Trovato and the late Michael J. Weisbrod.

BBBSLI would like to express our deepest appreciation to all our volunteer mentors. It is your commitment and dedication that makes it possible for our agency to make the positive impact we continue to have on the lives of young people across Long Island.



Bigs & Littles Light Up the Runway at Catwalk for Kids Fashion Show

On May 23, 2018, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) hosted their annual Catwalk for Kids Fashion Show at The Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY. Guests gathered to watch ten featured matches of mentors "Bigs" and children "Littles" light up the runway, modeling a range of looks from "thrift store chic" to formal wear.

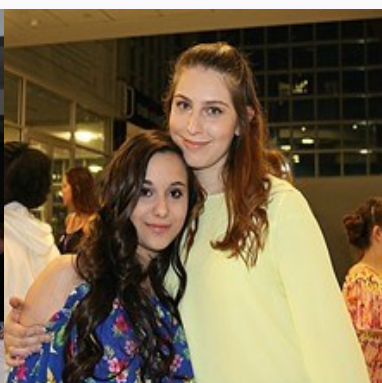
Cary Carbonaro, award winning, internationally known personal finance expert, served as the Fashion Show's guest emcee. As junior host of the event, Little Brother Josiah interviewed attendees on the red carpet and entertained the crowd throughout the night. Big and Little matches modeled the latest fashions from Lord & Taylor, Savers, Southern Tide, Steve Madden and Banana Republic.

In its third year, BBBSLI's Fashion Show offered attendees the opportunity to witness the fun and dynamic bonds shared between the matches. The event also highlighted the positive impact the Bigs have had on their Littles' increased confidence and self-esteem. Throughout the show, matches found creative ways to incorporate their unique personalities into their runway performances.

Big Sister Amanda shared, "It was an amazing experience getting to participate in the Fashion Show with my Little Sister Gia! At first, we were both a little nervous, but then we had so much fun together we didn't want it to end."

When asked about his experience modeling with his Big Brother in the Fashion Show, Little Brother Chris said, "I had a lot of fun and each time we walked down the runway it got more and more exciting!"

A big thank you to all our Bigs and Littles whose participation and star performances truly made the Catwalk for Kids Fashion Show such a success!



BBBSLI Holds First Career & College Information Night

On Thursday, April 19th, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) was thrilled to host its first Career and College Information Night presented by National Recruiting Group and Starbucks. The event, held at BBBSLI's Westbury office, was a perfect complement to the agency's Healthy Littles Series, which focuses on preparing Littles for the next step in their lives.

"What a great night, we've already outgrown our space for this event and we're planning for next year. The success of this event can be directly attributed to all the incredible volunteers, including the Bigs that came with their Little's ready to help, the 75 volunteers that came to share their time and life experiences with Littles and our staff that helped every step of the way", shared Nancy Farrell Travers, Director of Services for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island.



From the start, there was an overwhelming response from matches and volunteers willing to come speak to the Littles and to gather professional clothing. The event was fantastic, every Little wrote their first resume, learned how to apply for a job and picked up interviewing pointers. The Littles were even treated to a session with volunteer "stylists" that helped them to tie their own ties and select some professional dress clothing. This event also became a recruiting event, as some of our representatives applied to become Bigs!



BBBSLI Raises More Than \$100,000 at 22nd Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 4th, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island hosted their 22nd Annual Golf Tournament at The Muttontown Club in East Norwich, NY. This year's tournament was presented by FatGuy Media and TCI Technologies, and honored Thomas Jacobberger. The event brought together 100 golfers and raised more than \$100,000 in support of mentoring on Long Island.

Tournament guests began their day with brunch on the outdoor patio before warming up at the driving range and putting greens. The day continued with golfers enjoying a barbecue lunch, cocktail reception, buffet dinner, awards ceremony and raffles.

During dinner, President's Council Member and Big Brother, Paul Moran, spoke about his experience with the agency and encouraged guests to become involved as Big Brothers and Big Sisters for the 450 children on the waiting list. "Becoming a Big Brother allowed me to uncover a whole new world and experience what this organization is truly about. It is an honor to help shepherd my Little Brother, Michael, into adulthood and to be involved with the leadership and staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island," shared Paul.



GEICO Employees Donate More Than 200 Bags at Clothing Drive

BBBSLI would like to recognize GEICO and its employees for donating more than 200 bags at their spring clothing drive! The drive was held as part of GEICO's Employee Volunteer Week. The cool rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of employees who came together to donate 2,140 lbs. of clothing. Thank you and congratulations to GEICO on such a successful drive!



BBBSLI Represented at 2018 BBBS National Conference in St. Louis



Congratulations to BBBSLI's Program Manager, Kelly McGowan and Program Supervisor, Jacky Volpicella who presented at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America National Conference in St. Louis! Their presentation entitled, "Site-Based Mentoring: Strengthening Match Relationships through Client-Based Curriculum" provided BBBS affiliates throughout the country with

tools and resources for implementing an innovative needs-based curriculum designed for Littles in Site Based Mentoring Programs. We are so proud the conference selection committee recognized Kelly, Jacky and their team for their creative and outstanding work!



GRANTS



\$1,500 grant from We Care Nassau County Bar Association



\$7,500 grant from Long Island Insurance Community



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

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Mark Cox

Chief Financial Officer
Helen Liriano

Director of Development
Meredith McCaslin

Director of Services
Nancy Farrell Travers

Director of Human Resources
Carmelina Vassallo

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External Program Relations Manager
Chuck Lott

Program Manager
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Jasmine Collazo
Jennifer Simmons

Recruitment Specialist
Michael Oliveri

Program Assistant
Daniella Thompkins

Newsletter Editor
Amy Sledz-Sarin

www.bbbsli.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



August 10-19th
Oaklands Marina
Hampton Bays, NY



September 22nd
BBBSLI Westbury Office
to Greenport, NY



October 4th
The Cresthollow Country Club
Woodbury, NY



October 15th
Sebonack Golf Club
Southampton, NY

For sponsorship opportunities or questions please contact
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