

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER



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To find out how to become a mentor or how to enroll your child (ren), please contact our Program Supervisor, Sarah Arras, at 845-634-2199 x4 or email at sarras@bbbsofrc.com!

To donate to help support our mission, please visit our donate page at www.bbbsofrc.com/donate

Follow our social media accounts:

 @big-brothers-big-sisters-of-rockland-county

 @BBBSofRC

 @bbbsofrocklandcounty

“A mentor is someone who allows
you to see the hope inside
yourself.”

Oprah Winfrey

USE THESE HASHTAGS FOR ALL YOUR
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:

#BBBSRC

#DEFENDERSOFPOTENTIAL

#IGNITEPOTENTIAL

Provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported **one-to-one** relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.



A message from our President/C.E.O. Gillian Ballard!

Springing and singing Summer Wishes to all!

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." - *Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina* - so this brilliant quote brings me to ask that you, our devoted readers, look to plan a project entitled "MENTORING" since it is a movement with a role for all citizens and for all times of the year to register and become part of our BBBS team!

This year, 2019, will ring in 35 years of continuous programming to our community. What an achievement, especially in these uncertain times! Without missing a beat, we have carried on - thanks to the wealth of volunteers/or team members who incessantly enquire to become mentors.

In addition to those who get involved as a "team member" of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the movement also includes any one individual, corporation, private donor, board member willing to do whatever it is they can to provide support in whatever manner is applicable to their personal time/family restrictions or financial obligations.

You see, ours is a movement of multi-cultural and multi-generational people with many diverse life-styles - but -who make it possible for our professional case workers to assist making match partnerships that yield remarkable results. The Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors, or "Bigs," as we call them, make a remarkable difference throughout Rockland County. The "Bigs" in our movement can be young college graduates, through to retirees - meaning that they are any diverse group or individual who care about how the children are growing up in our community. Why? Because with growing economic pressures on families and communities across Rockland, the need for all people to join the BBBS movement is urgent! Because? Our county's children are facing risks that lead to soaring dropout rates, violence and crime - not to mention, experimentation of opioids.

So, with this information in mind, we invite you to join our movement by simply calling the office: 845 634 2199 x 4 or visit our website, www.bbbsofrc.com, and take a peek at all the many programs we offer.

We also invite you and your friends, family members and those on your own email lists to consider becoming a mentor or a program supporter or select from a number of ways that you can do your part to make a difference and encourage others to do what they can as well, so do please ask.

We want our entire community to know that the BBBS movement works not only because of the Bigs, but also because of people like yourselves who support them!

Until next time, look around you and remember this other brilliant quote from that great lady, Eleanor Roosevelt "the basis of good human behavior is kindness."

Until next time, enjoy this season of renewal and warmth,
Gillian

MEET THE OFFICE STAFF!



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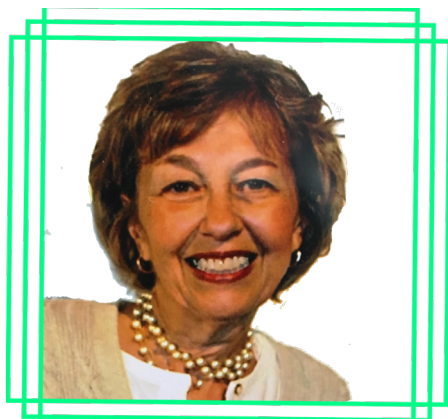


Big Brother Keith

BBBS OF Rockland would like to give a HUGE thank you to Big Brother Keith for donating \$300 to BBBS of RC through Facebook's Fundraising Platform. Keith has been such an impactful mentor to his Little Brother Anthony and they have built up such a strong relationship! To create a Facebook birthday fundraiser, follow the steps on the fundraiser page at www.facebook.com/fundraisers. Keep in mind that you'll be asked to provide the following information when creating a birthday fundraiser:

1. The nonprofit you want to raise money for.
2. The amount of money you want to raise.
3. The date you want your fundraiser to end.
4. A title and description for your fundraiser.

Note: This feature is only available in some areas. Only nonprofits that have been approved for fundraisers on Facebook can be selected to receive donations for these fundraisers.



BBBS extends sincere gratitude to Judie who volunteers with us to do match support calls and manages our Camp Scholarship Program. She has been volunteering her own time with BBBS for about 3 years now and she has built up enduring relationships with many of the families in our program as well as the BBBS staff. We genuinely appreciate the dedication and hard work she puts into making sure the families get as much assistance as possible!

Upcoming Match Anniversaries



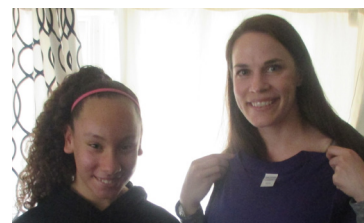
Big Brother Steve, Big Sister Ellen & Little Brother Daniel
6/27/13



Big Brother Steve , Big Sister Jaqueline & Little Brother Joseph
4/16/12



Big Sister Gail & Little Sister Tezia
5/25/11



Big Sister Katie & Little Sister Lindzey
4/30/18



Big Sister Geraldine & Little Sister Ava
4/29/17



Big Brother Gabriel & Little Brother Diego
5/13/18



Big Sister Sharon & Little Sister Ivory
5/20/15



Big Sister Ouida & Little Sister Angelyna
6/27/17



Big Sister Cheryl & Little Sister Neveah
4/9/17



by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

As an active part of our community engagement, on the second Tuesday of the month, BBBS of Rockland County participates in the Spring Valley Collaborative hosted by the Salvation Army Spring Valley Corps at 179 No. Main Street in Spring Valley, NY. This Collaborative is one of four based throughout Rockland County. Like the Spring Valley Collaborative, via their local membership organizations, the Haverstraw, Western Ramapo and Nyack Youth Collaboratives are committed to combining their efforts and resources to effectively identify and address the health, economic, educational and social issues impacting the multi-generational residents in their communities.

In addition to the monthly agenda, last March the Spring Valley Collaborative's focus was on member agencies completing a Community Health Assessment Stakeholder Survey in order to glean information relevant to their neighborhood, community groups as well as their individual constituents. A presentation was given on services offered by Legal Services of Hudson Valley which focused on the support and guidance their attorneys offer to children with disabilities and their parents.

Next month the meeting is scheduled for May 14th from 12 to 2 pm. For more information on BBBS of Rockland County and the Spring Valley Collaborative, contact Jonette O'Kelley Miller, jmiller@bbbsofrc.com, 845.634.2199, xl.



TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

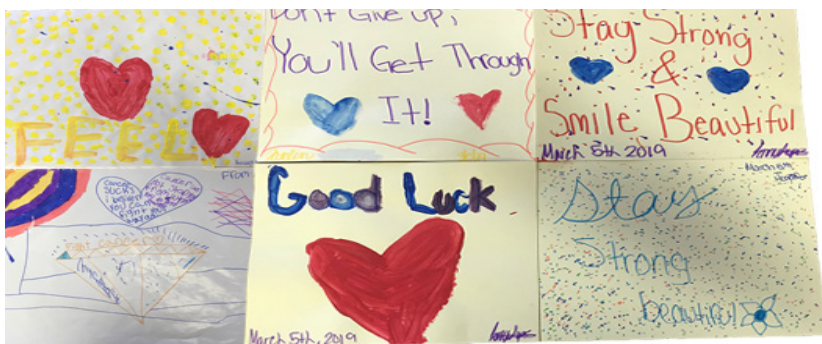


J.U.M.P.

by Saira Vargas

The Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) operated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County, is funded by the Village of Haverstraw. It is an on-site after school mentoring program serving youth living in the Village of Haverstraw, which meets every Tuesday at the Haverstraw Recreation Center. These children have been referred to the program by the Reach-Out Counseling Center of Haverstraw Village or have voluntarily joined JUMP to prevent at risk behaviors after school hours.

The program hosts approximately 40 youth on a weekly basis. While the program is in session throughout the school year (October through May), we seize the opportunity to expose the children to activities that help with conflict resolution, decision-making, consequential behavior and how these life skills will benefit their lives and their futures. J.U.M.P. is always looking for presenters and volunteers in the community to speak to the youth in the program so if anyone would be interested in this, please call Saira Vargas at 845-634-2199 x2.



RCADD Presentation

by Dwindell Feeley

Our Program Supervisor, Sarah Arras and Match Support Specialist, Jonette O'Kelley Miller, presented to R.C.A.D.D. (Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence) about our new program called R.A.M.P. (Rockland Alive Mentoring Program) this past month. This program has been created from a \$450,000 grant BBBS of Rockland has received to help battle the opioid epidemic that has hit Rockland County. RAMP is to target Rockland County youth ages 17 and younger who are not only using or at high risk for using opioids but also those who are seriously impacted by parents or family members with opioid addictions.

Please don't hesitate to call 845 634-2199 x4 to get more information on R.A.M.P.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

Community Outreach

by Dwindell Feeley

During the first quarter of 2019, BBBS went full speed in doing community outreach throughout Rockland County. I participated in a round table meeting at Pomona Middle School to inform the teachers and guidance counselors about our various programs and the services/benefits our organization provides. I also had a successful information table at Montefiore Nyack Hospital with the mission to recruit volunteers to become mentors for the youth waiting to be matched. We also made great matches in Q1 and we are very excited to watch these new friendships grow.

NEW MATCHES



**CAROLINE &
HAILEY**



**ALAN &
MIGUEL**



**STEPHANIE &
ANALISE**

WANTED



VOLUNTEER MENTORS

CHARACTERISTICS: **MMOTIVATING, **E**ENTHUSIASTIC, **N**NURTURING,
TTRUSTWORTHY, **O**OPTIMISTIC AND **R**RELIABLE!**

WANTED FOR: SERVING AS A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR A CHILD BY INTRODUCING HIM/HER TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS SUCH AS WALKS IN THE PARK, VISITS TO THE LIBRARY OR TRIPS TO THE MUSEUM.

REWARD:

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

PLEASE CONTACT SARAH ARRAS AT (845) 634-2199 X4 OR EMAIL INFO@BBBSOFC.COM TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME A VOLUNTEER MENTOR!



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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County Introduces



The Rockland Alive Mentoring Program

Serving children from 7-18

- **Is your child(ren) between the ages 7-17?**
- **Has your child(ren) misused opiates or has been impacted from the use of opiates by a family member or friend?**
- **Having trouble dealing with your child(ren)'s peer groups who are misusing opiates?**



Learn more about enrolling your child into the **R.A.M.P. mentoring program by calling 845 634-2199 x4 or emailing sarras@bbbsofrc.com**





POTENTIAL IS EVERYWHERE

LITTLE NEWS!



Pictured: North Rockland #5- Little Brother Joseph

BBBS of Rockland County congratulates Little Brother Joe, who was mentioned on LoHud Sports about his North Rockland lacrosse team/game. He was also invited to join the Social Studies, Business and English Honor Societies at his school. We are so excited to see where his accomplishments will bring him as we are sure his future is looking very bright!

<https://www.lohud.com/story/sports/high-school/lohud-boys-lacrosse/2019/04/02/north-rockland-nanuet-luke-morris/3333691002/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Haverstraw Collaborative
1st Wednesday of every month
12-2pm
Attended by Saira Vargas

- Spring Valley Collaborative
2nd Tuesday of every month
12-2pm
Attended by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

- Western Ramapo Collaborative
1st Thursday of every month
9-10:30am
Attended by Dwindell Feeley

- NAACP Presentation May 20th
Presentation by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

-Nyack Youth Collaborative May 22nd
9:15-11:15am
Attended by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

-2019 BBBS Graduation (held at the Rockland County Legislative Chambers)
June 4th, 2019
6:30pm-7:30pm

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Nicole Garcia, Esq.
Vice Chair

Victor Ebert,
Treasurer

Jennifer Sislín
Recording Secretary

Directors

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Banker, (Retired)

Edward Brignoni,
Law Enforcement

Keith Brown
Director of Finance
Crown Plaza, Suffern

Bernard Charles, Jr.
Deputy Mayor
Village of Spring Valley

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Lawyer
M. Teresa A Faherty Law Office

Nicole D. Garcia, Esq.
Lawyer
DeMoya & Associates

James Lugo
1st Vice President
Morgan Stanley

Scott W. Milich
Businessman/Realtor
Goldstein Group

Lee Roberts
Systems Analyst

Jennifer Sislín
Manager H.R. Service Center
Suez, North America.

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Legal/Town Justice
Ugell Law Firm, P.C.

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Rockland County Legislator