



Big Brothers Big Sisters®
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY



**DEFEND
EMPOWER
IGNITE
POTENTIAL**





from the desk of

GILLIAN BALLARD, CEO

As we gradually return to a normal society - please permit me to share some thoughts with you.

Firstly, to quote Franklin D. Roosevelt - "the only thing we have to fear is... fear itself!"

I so applaud that attitude of mind - and he was right also to say that applying social values is as important as keeping our "heads above water" (my quote)!

Secondly, through maintaining our own high standards and a mindset to that effect, we here at BBBS have succeeded in maintaining operations by re-opening our offices and developing/creating options for parents, volunteers, and employees for "in person" vs. virtual.

Thirdly, not only have we now expanded our award-winning mentoring programs, we have also expanded our Court-Ordered Visitation Program, which offers four distinct services: Virtual, In-Home, Community, and On-Site.

Fourthly, changes have had to be made - not changes in ethics alone, but changes in the pathway of creative and constructive uses of necessary operational change, in order to sustain programming, as a whole, for the greater good of our communities.

It has not been an easy path for us during this gloomy period and I cannot say enough about our staff, all of whom are the most effective, most dedicated employees and - it is thanks to them that we are performing so well.

In conclusion, and in the face of a weakened economy and many people encountering personal challenges, BBBS's willingness to continue to work against the tide of conflict is enabled by our dedication and passion to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The many "working poor" families, as they learn to stretch a dollar and do more with less, are an inspiration to encourage us to maintain the provision of our services which is owed to the many supporters, foundations, individual friends and volunteers to whom we extend appreciation and utmost thanks!

In closing we must remain optimistic in what could be referred to as "the new norm!" Studies say the pandemic is improving (according to the average American's attitude surrounding COVID-19) and some, have said "their lives have been seriously disrupted by the pandemic, but some aspects of life are getting easier."

Let's stay with that hopeful statement, so that you know YOUR BBBS AGENCY is always here. Please visit us at www.bbbsofrc.com or call: 845 634 2199 x5.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this important work and its achievements!



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Board of Directors



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Mission & Vision



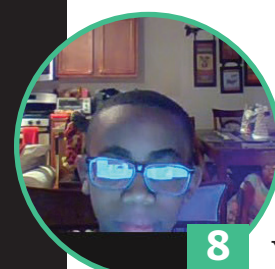
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Why Give to BBBS

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES. CHANGING LIVES.

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 7 through young adulthood in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

MISSION

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

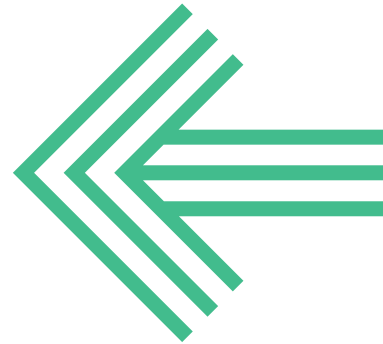
VISION

All youth achieve their full potential.

ACCOUNTABILITY

By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community we are accountable for each child in our program achieving:

- Higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational success



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Officers 2021:

Jennifer Sislin, Chairperson
Ed Brignoni, Vice Chairperson
Keith Brown, Treasurer
Louis Gerzofsky, Recording Secretary

Directors 2021:

1 year term: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Robert Barilli
Keith Brown
Teresa Faherty
Louis Gerzofsky
James Lugo

2 year term: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022

Bruce Bortniker
Scott W. Milich
Jennifer Sislin
Scott Ugell

3 year term: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023

Ed Brignoni
Jacques Tortoroli

Advisory Board

Sheriff Louis Falco III, Rockland County Sheriff's Department
Hon. Alfred J. Weiner, Supreme Court Judge (Retired)

Legislative Liaison

The Hon. Harriet Cornell

ABOUT BBBS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

In 1977, Family Court Judge Alfred J. Weiner requested that the Rockland County Probation Department create, with the assistance of the Court, a Big Brothers Big Sisters program. The concept would offer an alternative resource for the Court to provide help for children who were brought before the Judge as justice-involved youth and persons in need of supervision. It was anticipated that this program would prove to be an additional tool for the Court to prevent youngsters from having to be placed by the Judicial System in various correctional facilities outside of the community.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program would supersede an original program entitled "Volunteers in Probation" which had been created to find available adult volunteer mentors for these troubled youngsters. Volunteers in Probation was administered by the Probation Department with a volunteer Board of Directors which had been recruited to help provide professional support and advice. Volunteers in Probation was eventually incorporated and entitled 'Friends of Volunteers in Probation.' Early meetings of the organization were held on a regular basis within the chambers of the Family Court. 'Friends of Volunteers in Probation' was ultimately found to be very successful in helping build the much needed self-esteem for many of the children that came into the Court.

Due to the success of the program "Volunteers in Probation," it was then decided to obtain a charter from the national organization Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, in order to provide the specialized structure and skilled professional guidance from an already experienced and established nationwide mentoring program. Thus, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County was established in 1984. As the original program entered this stage, everyone knew that the service was excellent, and there were predictions that now many more adults would volunteer to mentor disadvantaged children, and that it would be easier to obtain more funding.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is now an accomplished program which has grown by leaps and bounds in its service delivery. It was recently recognized by the national federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, for the significant increase in the number of children served and consequently, inducted into the National Hall of Fame, along with various federal, state and local awards.



PROGRAMS



1-1 Mentoring

School-Based Programs

BBBS collaborates with Rockland County Family Court and youth social service organizations throughout all Rockland County communities. Within our site-based programs, mentors are able to meet in a structured environment with youth, to employ life-building skills in preparation for careers and healthy life change behaviors.

Many relationships between Bigs and Littles fall under our Community-Based programs. These are one-to-one outings and activities, doing things they enjoy together.

Some Bigs meet their Littles on the weekends. Others get together with their Littles in the evenings. Each match is unique and develops a schedule that works for them.

National and local studies show that children who have role models are more likely to improve in school and in their relationships with family and friends and less likely to skip school or use illegal drugs or alcohol. Students who are successful in school are less likely to drop out, abuse drugs or commit crimes. In fact, the success of children enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters was proven in a nationwide randomized study.

Agliandro Tutorial Academy(A.T.A.)

Site-based at Street School, New City.
A tutorial program serving BBBS participants in need of extra curricula academic assistance.

Big Bags Support(B.B.S.)

Program assistance to BBBS participants in the allocation of school supplies and necessities.

Rockland County Mentoring Collaborative Program(R.C.M.C.)

Site-based at Dominican College, 470 Western Highway, Orangeburg, NY 10962

Peer mentoring after school program serving high school students from Spring Valley High School who are low academic achievers with social/behavioral issues and at risk of not graduating high school.

Site-Based Programs

BBBS collaborates with Rockland County Family Court and youth social service organizations throughout all Rockland County communities. Within all our site-based programs, mentors are able to meet in a structured environment with youth, to employ life-building skills in preparation for careers and healthy life change behaviors.

Site-Based Mentoring Programs Serving as Adjunct Service to the Community Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program:

Juvenile Mentoring Program (J.U.M.P.)

Site based at the Haverstraw Community Center/ Haverstraw Reach-Out Counseling Center, 50 West Broad Street, Village of Haverstraw

Afterschool mentoring program serving 7–15 year old youth from the Village of Haverstraw. The Program focus is based on Life Skills, Anger Management, Bias Awareness, Conflict Resolution, Gang Prevention, and Career Preparedness.

Juvenile Intervention Cyber-Bullying Education (J.U.I.CE.)

Adjunct curriculum to the J.U.M.P. Program offering preventive education on internet/ electronic persecution/harassment and emotional consequences caused to the victims.

Court Ordered Supervised Visitation (C.O.S.V.)

- Site Based at Building A, Pomona Health Center, 50 Sanatorium Road, Pomona NY, 10970
- Off-Site within the Community of Rockland
- Virtual Visitation
- Home Visits
- Safe Exchange

Family Court Judges grant Court Orders to non-custodial parents for visitation with their children. Visits are facilitated in a structured environment and supervised by court-approved child advocates. Reports of the visitation are provided to the courts as per Court Order requirements.

Family Assistance Program (F.A.P.)

Serving BBBS Families throughout all Rockland County Communities

Distribution of weekly household items, school supplies, camp scholarships, and pro bono extra curricula program activities as necessary to foster family independence and responsibility to families throughout all of the Rockland County communities.



YEAR IN REVIEW

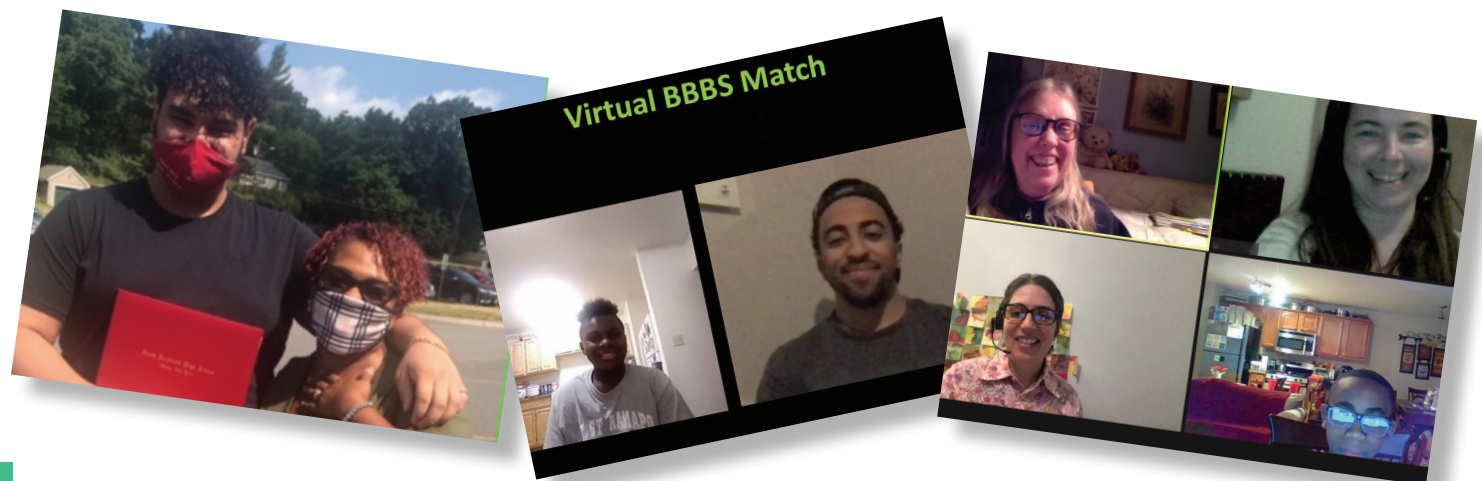
BBBS of Rockland County continues to overcome challenges and rise to the top. Throughout an unexpected pandemic and a statewide shutdown, our team at BBBS had to learn everything they could about pandemic protocols, government rules, regulations, and how to continue to do their job, virtually. They started thinking outside the box and worked with our court system and the BBBS National Federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, to ensure that we were able to continue to run programming virtually and following social-distancing rules!

Thus, while following all new protocols, we were able to continue our court-ordered visitation program and, even made new virtual matches with mentors and mentees!



During 2020 we realized that we had to assess our priorities and use some fresh ways to think. However, we soon realized our priorities had never changed! We do whatever is needed to help and support our families in Rockland County. This new "norm" has made people become more adaptable in these trying times and with that, we express our extreme gratefulness to the Bigs, Littles and especially our BBBS team. They are a small group, but a mighty team!

We have to remember that there are so many young people across our county who need a caring adult in their lives, someone they can confide in and look up to. Someone who can show them different career paths, different ways to live. Someone who will set high expectations for them. This is the work of our Bigs and our Staff. Thanks to their volunteerism, our mentors provide children with brighter and bigger futures, as well as a reason to continue to Aim High and be successful.



OUR IMPACT

46%

Less likely to
begin using
illegal drugs

27%

Less likely to
begin using
alcohol

52%

Less likely to
skip
school

37%

Less likely to
skip
a class

33%

Less likely to
hit
someone





MENTORING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Just \$5.47/day allows BBBS to provide:

- a 1-to-1 mentoring experience between one child and a fully screened volunteer mentor
- up to 4800 mentoring hours per year
- regular online training for all staff members to continue providing quality mentor instruction.
- living skills instruction and offering positive life choices.
- 365 days of delinquency-prevention services.
- 365 days of tutoring, mentoring and recreational opportunities for our youth.
- financial assistance for needy families
- family partnerships for children of single parent homes
- tutoring
- afterschool programming

THEIR POTENTIAL IS BIG. HELP IGNITE IT.

Giving starts with you at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

We appreciate all supporters, from donors to volunteers to advocates. Your donations help us make and sustain matches between Bigs and Littles – and instantly make you a part of our family.

By volunteering or donating today, you will be investing in the future of a child and the future of the world. Behind every match is a person who screens, creates and facilitates volunteers and matches to ensure the safety of the child. Your help supports the process and the work.

DONATE TODAY.

www.bbbsofrc.com/donate



SEPTEMBER IS BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH!



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**[®]
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

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