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**“Change a Life, Build a Future, Mentor a Child”**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As 2015 has come to a close, I want to thank each of you for your invaluable support of our many services on behalf of hundreds of children and families across the county.

At the office of BBBS, we never cease in our endeavors to grow and to this effect, I am honored to report that the year 2016 marks our 32nd<sup>1</sup> anniversary!

I have been the CEO of this wonderful organization for 20 years now and it has been a rewarding and educational experience to see the many changes that have taken place throughout these years.

The national office, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, operates fiscally independently from us as its affiliate and, therefore, it might come as a surprise to you to know that we receive not one penny for operating as an affiliate of the Big Brothers Big Sisters network. On the contrary, we actually pay annual dues for the privilege of operating such an exceedingly strict program in order to maintain the national Best Practices for Standards of Excellence. What does this mean? All those formidable forms that have to be completed and the long Intake Interviews you have with our professional staff, not to mention the support calls, are all necessary requirements for us to maintain compliance. Which, by the way means that our annual audit has to be “up to snuff” – or else!!

These requirements are somewhat unique to BBBS when compared with other mentoring programs that give preference to more casual youth-mentor relationships which require far less screening and training, do not necessarily have prescribed standards regarding participant investment, and may not involve intense and rigorous relationship supervision. **This** is the uniqueness of our program and **this** is the quality of the BBBS model and **this** is why compliance with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America as our casework watchdog offers the safety of your children as our number one concern! *Do you know of a child in need of our services? Then visit our website: [www.bbbsofrc.com](http://www.bbbsofrc.com)*

Together, over these past 32 years, we have built upon excellent programming resulting in making a positive difference bettering the lives of others. *Looking to help us? Please donate by going online to our website and under the link Donate: [www.bbbsofrc.com](http://www.bbbsofrc.com)*

Interested in volunteering? We are moving full speed ahead, with new volunteers qualifying each month as mentors to the children and youth and you too can help make that happen. By donating your valuable time and incredible talent to this worthy cause and help change the lives of children. *Fascinated by volunteering to be a mentor? Then call: 845 634 2199 x 4.*

We are always looking for additional volunteers, particularly those interested in being mentors, tutors and financial providers so if are already part of our family, please remember to ask any friends, relatives or neighbors who might be interested in being included on his multi award winning youth service team. *Want to learn more? Why not drop me a line: [gballard@bbbsofrc.com](mailto:gballard@bbbsofrc.com)*

*Wishing you a safe and warm winter,  
Gillian E. Ballard*

Words of Wisdom: [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) *“Correction does much, but encouragement does more.”*

