



Greetings from Gillian

Goodness me, what another busy quarter of the year it has been! Yep, between all the outreach programs we have had (thanks to the many volunteers who have been occupied aiding us in staffing the informational fairs) and remembering, of course, the outstanding success of our 2016 Golf Classic Fundraiser, we still haven't come up for breath!

I'm not complaining, mind you, because it's these very factors that detail the income resources needed to operate the six standard programs functioning under the umbrella of our BBBS organization.

Why? Because this organization IS IMPORTANT to the community for the reason that it has and, continues to, improve the quality of life for many of our Rockland children. What could be more important than that? However, without the empathy and selflessness of our volunteer mentors, Big Brothers Big Sisters would not be a reality.

Indeed, for those of you who wish for an opportunity to "give back" to the community in a way that is meaningful personally and socially, as the benefactor, you will have a chance to offer our county's children the ability to receive vital, social and emotional support - (studies show that children who have a Big Brother or Big Sister (mentor) benefit tremendously from the experience as a key for life improvement and attitude change).

The word mentor can be traced back to Greek mythology; it means teacher. Yes, without a doubt, mentors teach, inspire, motivate and guide! Yet mentoring is not a one-sided relationship. Both mentor and child must be willing to identify with and, mutually, respect each other. In short, both must develop a bond of trust. This is the means to a successful mentoring relationship and, by joining our BBBS family, you will receive the professional support needed to help you along the path. Our caseworkers are skilled and trained to assist each match relationship and always at your aid – so you are never alone on this wonderful course of carrying out the tasks of a mentor.

Why am I discussing mentoring relationships now? Perhaps, it is because I have received many success stories about our BBBS Rockland youth and their exceptional adult role models. Hence, I should like to take this opportunity and commend all of our BBBS team of volunteer mentors for their enthusiasm, continued commitment and their "big" hearts. Bravo!

So, in closing, for all the people that are contemplating becoming a mentor, I leave you with this thought: If every person helped just one child, what an impact that would have – It could change the world!!

