

SUMMER 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 x 4 or email at sarras@bbbsofrc.com!

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

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

 @BBBSofRC

**"A MENTOR IS SOMEONE
WHO ALLOWS YOU TO
SEE THE HOPE INSIDE
YOURSELF."**

Oprah Winfrey



USE THESE HASH-TAGS FOR ALL YOUR BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:

#BBBSRC #DEFENDERSOFPOTENTIAL #IGNITEPOTENTIAL

OUR MISSION:

To build and support **one-to-one** relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for youth.



GREETINGS FROM GILLIAN

"What you don't do can be a destructive force."
– Eleanor Roosevelt.

Oh, how I admire that elegant, wise and intelligent woman and by the same token, how I so appreciate the high regard I have for two superb organizations with which we have recently collaborated - the Lexington Center for Recovery and the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence Inc.



These venerated organizations are our "book ends" in providing a service addressing the needs of children who have been impacted by family members coping with opioid addiction. This new program entitled "Rockland Alive Mentoring Program" is a wonderful and valuable enhancement to our 1 – 1 mentoring service! From the time of its inception in January of this year, BBBS staff members have received education and prevention trainings from those who work in a field of service that is frequently underrated and we are grateful to our partner agencies on the attack against opioids.

That said and knowing how critically important our organization truly is to the community and to the families that we serve through the unique 1 – 1 mentoring model, the court ordered visitation program and the multifarious programs provided to all those requesting BBBS services, we are thrilled with our committed collaborators that now include the Rockland Mental Health Association , The Rockland Department of Mental Health, Dominican College, Spring Valley High School, Ramapo School District, The Village of Haverstraw, The Center for Safety and Change, Rockland Family Court, Lexington Center for Recovery and Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence Inc.

The goal of our new Rockland Alive Mentoring Program is to match children and youth, ages 7 - 17 years of age, who have been impacted by a parent/family members' use of opioids or who themselves, have misused the drug, with trained, qualified volunteer adult mentors as research has shown that children living through debilitating emotional, economic, and social consequences stemming from the arrest, detention, and/or incarceration of a parent are considered most vulnerable for delinquency because they are the *invisible* "victims."

Through a thorough process of interviewing, screening of potential volunteers, and interviewing the children's parents/caregivers and the children themselves, youth are matched with mentors. Each mentor commits to provide at least 4 hours monthly of one-to-one time with the child to whom they are "matched." Our professional staff provides support to the relationship through regular contact with the parent/ caregivers, the youth, and the volunteer mentors.

That said, this is a wonderful opportunity for all adults looking to "give back" to the community in a way that is meaningful personally and socially in order that our county's children receive vital social and emotional support as studies show that children who have a Big Brother or Big Sister benefit tremendously from the experience as a key for life improvement and attitude change.

Please won't you take the time to think of becoming a member of our family by volunteering to become a mentor and find out how you can become a **DEFENDER OF POTENTIAL**, by attending one of our upcoming Volunteer Training Sessions?

I close with another quote from that great lady "Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the *happiness* that you are able to give."

Sending best wishes to all those true and cherished children in the BBBS family!

Enjoy your summer, be safe and behave sensibly.



WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County extends a very warm welcome to its newest Board Member, Mr. Louis Gerzofsky, consultant for the EQ Leadership Group.

We are happy to have you as an integral part of the BBBS team!



MEET THE OFFICE STAFF!



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HUZZAH! HUZZAH! CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY LEVEILLE

by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

Congratulations are in order to our Big Sister Ashley Leveille! Earlier this spring, Ashley - Big Sister to Clayanna, campaigned and was successfully elected to the East Ramapo School Board. Currently, she serves as a lead, preschool teacher at the Jan & Niles Davies Learning Center in West Haverstraw. Her fond memories of the teachers in East Ramapo who guided her during her time in school inspired Ashley to professionally follow in their path.

Having a daughter attending school in the East Ramapo School District, also served as inspiration. Her passion and commitment resonated in her campaign slogan: "We will stand up for ALL the children!" When asked what motivated her to run, Ashley said, "I just felt that it was something I had to do." We celebrate and are thankful for Ashley's dedication! Be sure to give her your support during her tenure on the Board!





PAYING IT FORWARD - WITH SAILING!

by Jonette O'Kelley Miller

This past May, Gillian received a call from a gentleman who had been a former Little in a Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Connecticut. This gentleman shared that he wanted to "give back." As he was currently stationed in Rockland County for work, he wanted to do something for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County in honor of his Big Brother, Peter Hryniewicz.

Patrick Hogan is a tugboat captain. His work takes him to both domestic and international ports. So, when he received new orders to be based in Rockland County, Pat sailed his trimaran *u Should Tri* to dock in the Haverstraw Marina. How did he choose to give back? By giving sailing lessons to our Littles throughout the summer and into early fall!

Once a month on a Sunday, both in the morning and in the afternoon, from June through October, Patrick is hosting three Littles along with their Bigs or Parent/Guardians for a three-hour leisurely trip on the Hudson River. The Littles get to learn how to steer a sailboat; as well as putting up and rolling out the sails. Everyone is having a wonderful time!!! THANKS MUCH, PATRICK!!!





THANK YOU 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.



THANK YOU JUDIE!

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!



RCADD PRESENTATION

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

During the first quarter of 2019, BBBS went full speed in doing community outreach throughout Rockland County. During the meeting everyone 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. We 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.

WANTED



VOLUNTEER MENTORS

CHARACTERISTICS: **M**MOTIVATING, **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



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**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY