

FALL 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

"THE DELICATE BALANCE OF MENTORING SOMEONE IS NOT CREATING THEM IN YOUR OWN IMAGE, BUT GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE THEMSELVES."

Stephen Spielberg



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.



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is eager to inform you that we are celebrating our 35th anniversary this year.

What an achievement! We have operated our national model, 1 – 1 Mentoring Program throughout many turbulent economic times and not only continued with our navigation to keep on track but established over 26 adjunct programs throughout the entire county.

Our largest program is the Court Ordered Visitation Program which we have been operating for Family Court for the past 15 years!

We have come a long way and the journey, although bumpy at times, has caused us to reflect on our achievements.

Seven times the New York Business Bureau has provided accreditation to our organization for meeting its charitable standards and the commitment from our Board of Directors and personnel causes us to believe that our success lies in simply serving families that need us to rebuild their lives and provide the opportunity for improvement in self-development.

Each of us who work “in the trenches” with our kids and their families, finds how humbling it can be but the fulfillment we encounter at the outcomes of our services is second to none.

Compassion and consideration are the keys to opening the doors for each child and youth needing an improved prospect with which to look forward and to the families who are victims of domestic abuse, our RESPECT to their pain can only come through our achievements in helping them.

The awesome moments witnessed through our victories, seeing “our kids” graduate from our program and enroll into college, seeing our parents conquering their substance abuse and celebrate their recovery, are jubilant moments shared by us all.

These flashes of memory encourage us in our expectations as service providers, but nothing would be possible without your steadfast support – Yes, you are responsible for these accomplishments as well, so will you continue by helping us fundraise in recognition of our 35th anniversary?

PLEASE HELP US HELP OTHERS.

Please join us at 6 p.m. on Friday, November 22nd at La Terrazza Restaurant for dinner, dancing, and socializing. If you can or can't make it, you could promote your business/company either by advertising in our Journal or being one of our Sponsors. Register on line at <http://bbbsofrc.com/gala> to see sponsorship levels and ad sizes.

In our eyes, nothing is too small because everything is for the greater good.

Should you wish to call me, please do so: 845 634 2199 x 5.

In gratitude,
Gillian





Big Brothers Big Sisters®

OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

REGISTER TODAY!

*35th Anniversary
Recognition*

Friday, November 22nd, 2019

La Terrazza Restaurant
291 S Main St.
New City, NY 10956

Tickets/Sponsorships online:
bbbsofrc.com/gala

Questions?

Please contact BBS
of Rockland CEO
GILLIAN BALLARD
65 North Main Street
New City, NY, 10956
E: gballard@bbbsofrc.com
O: 845-634-2199 x5

Pre Sale:

\$100 per person / \$175 per couple

Door Registration:

\$125 per person / \$200 per couple

Social Hour
@6pm

Dinner, Dancing,
and Awards
@7pm



Toyota of Rockland



LiaCars for Life.

CELEBRATING HONOREES WHO HELP US HELP THE COMMUNITY OF ROCKLAND

NEW - OFF-SITE COURT ORDERED SUPERVISED VISITATION

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is now offering "off-site" court ordered supervised visitation.

The location of the visitation will be determined after an interview with both parents/guardians. The cost of this service is \$50/hour. Visits will be limited to up to 4 hours per session.

For more information contact Saira Vargas, Executive Administrator, (845) 634-2199 x2, svargas@bbbsofrc.com.

MEET THE OFFICE STAFF!



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Executive Administrator
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Jonette O'Kelley Miller
Communications Coordinator
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jmiller@bbbsofrc.com

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL - THANKS TO THE BACKPACK FOUNDATION!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is pleased to partner, once again, with The Backpacks Foundation annual donation of backpacks to our various Littles.

Starting this Fall, 63 of our Littles, including youth in elementary school to those in high school, will begin their school year equipped with backpacks in a variety of beautiful colors and designs which have been filled with school supplies.

Sincerest of thanks, Denise and your team of high, and middle school students: Anthony, Thomas, Will, Cara and Brendan. BBBS is indebted to you on behalf of the many families we serve.



Sarah Arras, Program Supervisor (on the left) welcomed Denise Spar (on the right), Founder and Executive Director of The Backpacks Foundation to our offices.

The Backpacks Foundation was established in 2006, after Denise with her family and friends saw the financial challenges facing many families when preparing their children for a new school year. Via their service, since 2007, over 3,200 backpacks have been given to community nonprofits and school districts both in New York and New Jersey.



ROCKLAND ALIVE MENTORING PROGRAM TRAINING SERIES:

On July 11th, BBBS of Rockland County's RAMP Program, in partnership with the Lexington Center for Recovery and the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and other Drug Dependence, Inc., began its training series addressing the needs of youth who have either abused opioids, or, have been impacted by the addiction of their parents, through support, intervention and prevention. Mentors were invited for a pizza party with an introduction to substance abuse led by Kathleen Carney, LMHC, the Clinic Director of the Lexington Center for Recovery.

The training focused on "What is Substance Abuse Treatment" and covered the common signs and symptoms to look for in a person with a Substance Abuse Disorder. This training went into detail about the types of substance abuse disorders and a variety of ways a person can receive treatment for the disorder. The training also covered the higher risk youth who experiment with substance are at for risky behaviors; and how imperative it is to get them the support they need.

This initial session was followed, also in July, by the Lexington Center for Recovery giving BBBS of Rockland County's staff training on an overview of Adolescent Substance Abuse. This second training was conducted by LCR's Program Director Jasmine Velez. Both sessions were extremely informative and served as a foundation for RAMP's outreach to Rockland youth and teens.

August 12th, BBBS of Rockland County held its second training for Mentors entitled "Dangers in Disguise: The Bedroom & Beyond."

Margarita Santana, Prevention Program Coordinator and Kayla Cabacungan, Prevention Educator from Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence, Inc. (RCADD) changed our Intake Interview room into a mock bedroom and via an interactive exercise, enabled mentors to become more aware regarding not only potential contraband (drugs) but, also the paraphernalia, clothing and other references that may serve as indicators of potential drug abuse.

BBBS plans to offer this interactive training to our Parents/Guardians. A future date/time has yet to be confirmed. If you are interested in other possible training topics regarding adolescent opioid/drug abuse, please let us know.

Contact Sarah Arras, Program Supervisor:
sarras@bbbsofrc.com, 845-634-2199, x4.





2019 SUMMER CAMP THANKS

This year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County's Camp Scholarship Fund was able to send 25 Littles to local Rockland summer camps. Three other Littles were also employed as counsellors. We weren't able to perform this act of service alone; it truly takes a village! We are grateful for the support and generosity of the following: Clarkstown Town Camp, Day Camp in the Park, Deerkill Day Camp, Gate Hill Day Camp, and the Town of Haverstraw Day Camp. Along with the aforementioned camps, BBBS Littles were also able to attend Camp Nyack, Village of Haverstraw Day Camp, Rockland BOCES Summer Camp, and the Rockland County Community College Camp.

BBBS of Rockland County recognizes the National Council of Jewish Women – Rockland Section. The NCJW has been financially supporting BBBS of Rockland County's summer camp program since 2015. This year, the NCJW joined with BBBS of Rockland County and helped enable seven of our Littles to go to camp. We are so grateful for this ongoing partnership.

In addition, we also give thanks for a special, proactive and passionate volunteer. While respecting her wishes to remain anonymous, we recognize that because of her diligence, many of our Littles were able to attend camp; some for the very first time.

Littles and their Parents also expressed their heartfelt appreciation:
One Little wrote:

"Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters, thank you for letting [me] attend a summer program. You guys helped me get out of my house and participate in outdoor activities. It was a great thing you did for me. I met many people there. I've learned a lot when I was in the camp. I feel more open minded about things now. Thank you with all my heart, Adonis."

Parents sharing their gratitude said:

"Good morning Sarah, me and my son Da'vonte want to thank you for allowing [him] to be able to go to camp this year. This is his first time ever going to camp because I couldn't afford it, but you and BBBS made it possible for him. He had so much fun, he didn't want to leave, and he made some new friends. Thank you and BBBS for making this happen. When he found out he was going he was so happy talking about it to everyone. Thank you and BBBS and God bless, Priscilla"

"Thank you to you all. You guys are the best team! Thank you for all you do for our family and this community. God continues to bless all of you and your families! Thank you BBBS of Rockland, Angelica"

"Good afternoon, I would like to express appreciation and gratitude to Big Brothers Big Sisters for being there for my son, Leo, and enhancing his summer by funding his summer camp. Leo had so much fun and made friends at the camp. Thank you for your ongoing support., Chaya"

"I thank you for having Isaiah as a camper at Deerkill. I know things were hard at the beginning but he turned himself around and was a good camper. Hopefully he can go next year. He cried on his last day. Thank you, Minnie"





LET'S GIVE A BIG WELCOME TO BIG AND LITTLE SISTERS DIANE AND ISABELLA!

Look at Isabella's beautiful smile! She's ready for school with her new backpack!



BIG & LITTLE GO TO THE BRONX ZOO

Big (Allan Pollack) and Little (Miguel) at the Bronx Zoo in August 2019.



BIG & LITTLE AT LITTLE'S FIRST YANKEE GAME

Janelle and Little – Nicole at Nicole's 1st Yankee Game. These tickets were donated by Tina Miller from Congers, NY (a long-time season ticket holder).

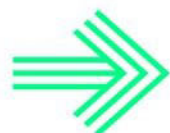




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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County Introduces



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 Sisters®**
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

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Articles by Jonette O'Kelley Miller