

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



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In This Issue:

- New Board Members and Legislative Liaison
- New Bigs & Littles
- Big's 'Corner'

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

**"NO KID IS UNSMART.
EVERY KID'S A GENIUS
AT SOMETHING. OUR
JOB IS TO FIND IT. AND
THEN ENCOURAGE IT."**

Robin Sharma



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 BOARD CHAIR:

As many of you may have heard, the federal government is extending the voluntary national shutdown to April 30th, as the COVID-19 pandemic increases throughout the U.S.

This shutdown affects so many people but it doesn't mean that we have to stop working and not keep our "business as usual."

During this unprecedented time, we have all been encouraged to adapt to a 'new normal' in many different ways. Our "new normal" may be working virtually, or going to a store and finding that shelves are not as stocked as we would like, or having conversations with friends from a 6-foot distance. No matter what your new norm is, please remember that it is important to adjust the best you can. The precautions can help.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Rockland County is also adapting to our "new normal". We have put a lot of changes in place to allow our Bigs/Littles to continue to virtually see each other.

We have also worked with our national organization and the Rockland County Courts to allow supervised visitations to continue "virtually". Yes, this is different than we have done in the past but the great thing is that we are able to do it and no one will miss seeing their loved ones.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Rockland County, I should like to thank our dedicated team. This team, led by Gillian Ballard, has adjusted to their new normal as well! What hasn't stopped is their commitment to ensuring that everyone they help, continues to be helped.

Wishing you all safety and good health.

Most sincerely,

Jennifer Sislin,

Chair, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County.



SPRING GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS AND A SIGNIFICANT SALUTATION:

These are extraordinary and unprecedented times, and I know that all of us are anxious and afraid of COVID-19. As we try to reduce the spread, your dedicated BBBS staff is working remotely from our homes, in support and furtherance of the BBBS mission to aid and assist the positive development of Rockland's children. We are here for you to email or leave telephone messages, which will be responded to immediately, but - should you wish - with our full team support, we will provide all the support you need - as time and an antidote will, eventually, beat this virus.

Together we will get through this awful period of our lives as we "tip our hats" and to quote Governor Cuomo "take this opportunity to thank all the workers on the front line of this crisis: the healthcare professionals, the doctors, nurses, EMTs, the firefighters, the police officers, the transit workers, and countless others. There are no words that can convey how deeply grateful our community is for their selflessness, professionalism and bravery. They are heroes."



On a lighter note, on November 14th of last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland had its annual fundraising gala celebrating 35 years of service, and the money raised was the second-highest amount during my 23 years of employment as CEO of this fantastic organization.

The event honored six "Angels" who have consistently over many, many years, volunteered their time, sponsored events and/or donated items benefitting our children and their families: The Backpacks Foundation, Bruce Bortniker, Judie Greenstein, Independent Insurance Agents of Rockland, Patrick Hogan, and Lenny Spiegel, Owner, Duke of Oil,

Over 120 guests, made up of Board Members, friends, family and supporters came out to enjoy a night of good food, conversation and networking at La Terrazza restaurant in New City. Our county's elected officials also participated in the evening's festivities, including NYS Assemblywoman, The Hon. Ellen Jaffee, our County Executive, The Hon. Ed Day, BBBS Legislative Liaison, The Hon. Harriet Cornell, Family Court Judges, The Hon. Sherri Eisenpress and Will Warren (Retired), Clarkstown Justice Court, The Hon. Judge Scott Ugell and Dominican College President, Mary E. O'Brien and Sr. Barbara McEneaney, Director of Campus Ministry.

A superb professional auctioneer, by the name of Barry Cherwin, was an act unto himself. His overview of why donations are so important to us was demonstrated by his articulate summary of all the programs that BBBS provides throughout Rockland, including the Visitation Program and the Rockland Alive Mentoring Program. The latter program, RAMP, focuses on children who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic.

So why not join the BBBS family and volunteer to become a mentor in our 1 – 1 mentoring program? It truly is an empowering opportunity to change a child's life and give back to your community. We encourage you to apply to become a Big today as we operate under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and shine – you can be the very change that a child needs!

We believe that providing Rockland's children with quality mentoring, education, and support services is a system of ongoing evaluation in their young lives. Matching children with a caring adult mentor who can serve as a positive role model will ultimately aid them to develop into confident adults while also helping to build stronger bonds with family and peers.

To learn more about our agency and how you can support us, please contact us at www.bbbsofrc.com.

Until I write again as we spring into June, be safe and be healthy!

Gillian



TIPS ON SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER PRACTICES TO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the WHO (World Health Organization) and other leading health authorities, social distancing is one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. The following are tips to help you practice proper social distancing at work and at home.

Everyone should know of the importance of practicing everyday preventive actions that can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If it is necessary to go to work or visit a public place, stay approximately six feet or more away from others
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles)

How do you disinfect surfaces for the coronavirus disease?

For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

Can you contract the coronavirus disease by touching a surface?

People could catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects – and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

How should I get food?

While food markets remain open and restaurants are available for take-out only (in most locations), the best option is to have your food delivered.

If I do go shopping at a market or pick up food at a restaurant, what additional precautions should I take?

When you get home with your food, you could take it out of the containers, throw those out, and then wash your hands thoroughly before eating.



What about people in good physical shape and under the age of 30?

While the elderly and those with pre-conditions are the most vulnerable, every demographic group (age, background, etc.) is susceptible to contracting the virus, especially if in close contact with others who have the disease or have been exposed. Once again, social distancing should be practiced by everyone.

What about children?

Cases in children tend to be milder. A new study in the journal Pediatrics finds that 13% of children with confirmed cases of COVID-19 didn't show symptoms. Subsequently, children and others with mild or unnoticeable symptoms can often be carriers of the disease.

Should I visit my elderly relative or friend?

Probably not. Older individuals are the most susceptible population. Distancing yourself from elderly people protects your loved one and yourself. However, be aware that social isolation is a concern for people who live by themselves or cannot see others. Make sure to use tools at your disposal to stay in touch with others - phone, social media, video conferencing, etc.

Should I visit outdoor public places like parks and playgrounds? Can I exercise outside?

Only if social distancing can be practiced. Families can stay together, but there should be sufficient distance - six feet or more - from all other people. In general, people may go outside, but should limit their exposure to any public place.

Playgrounds in particular can be places where the virus can be transmitted through clustering or contaminated surfaces. Team sports like basketball, soccer, etc. are also discouraged at this time.

Is it OK to get together with my friends at my or someone else's house?

I know everyone and they are all healthy.

Gathering in groups of just a few people, whether indoors or outdoors, is strongly discouraged. Now is not the time for social groups, parties, get togethers, etc.



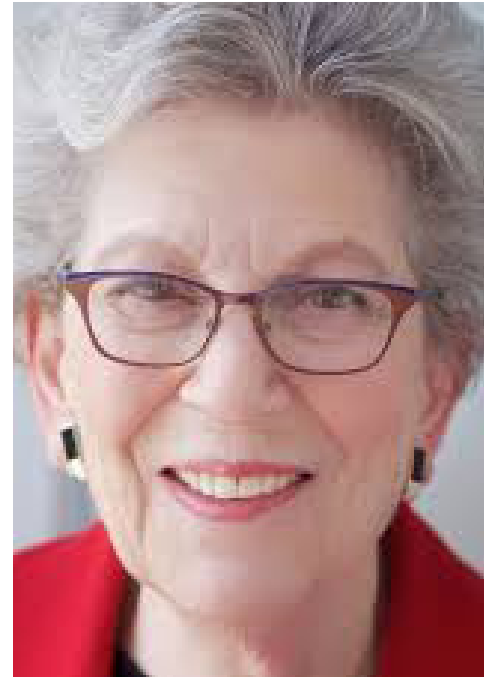
INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON



BRUCE BORTNIKER



ANTONIO OLIVIERIA



THE HON. HARRIET CORNELL



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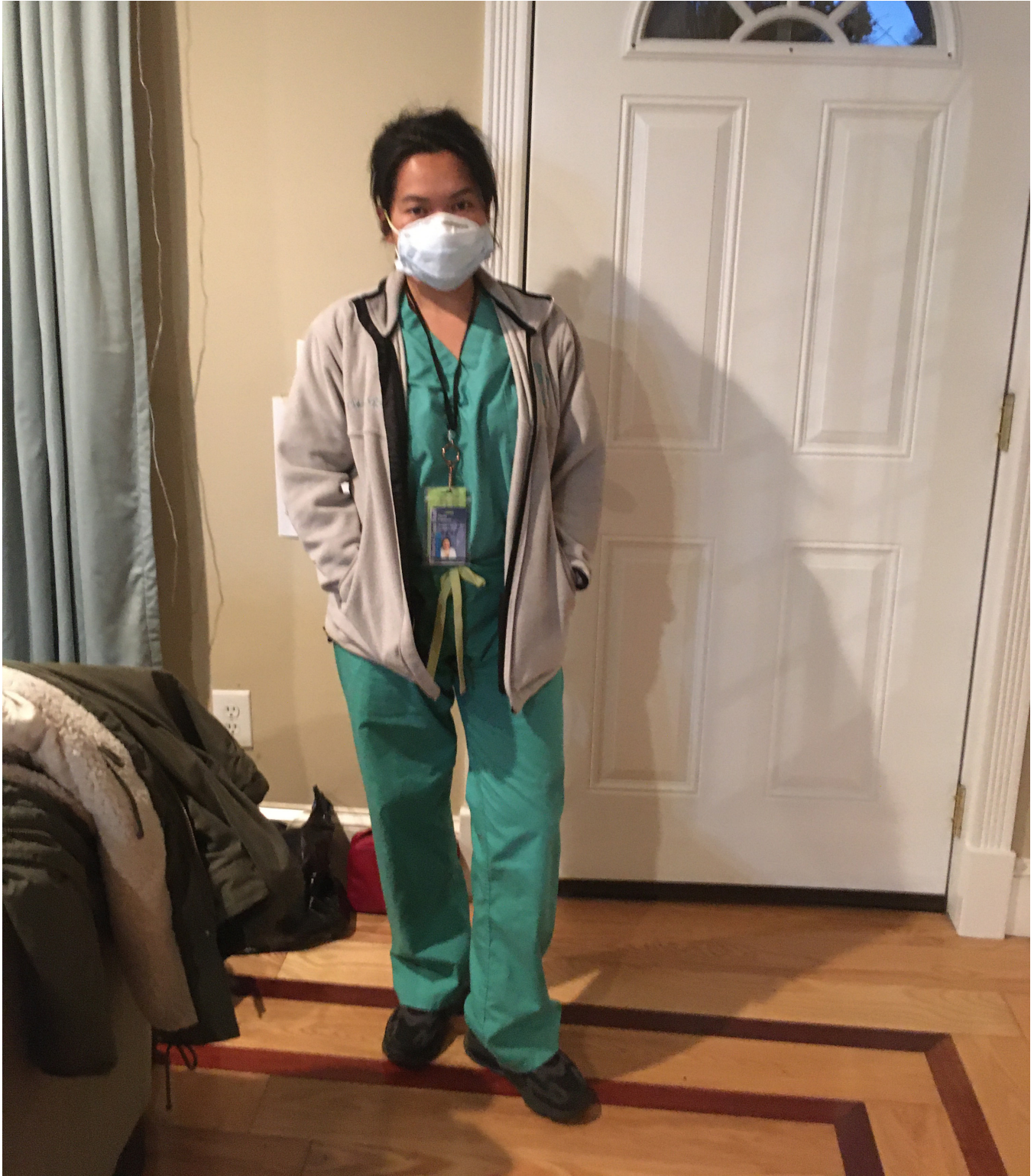
NEW MATCHES 2019 - MARCH 2020





THANK YOU TO A LOCAL NURSE AND BIG SISTER SHEILA

BBBS says a very big thank you to Rockland nurse and Big Sister Sheila, for her compassion and caring to those battling this virus!





HUZZAH! HUZZAH! CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY LEVEILLE

Congratulations are in order to our Big Sister Ashley Leveille! 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!



NEW CITY FLORIST DELIVERS BIRTHDAY GIFT TO BIG SISTER MARLENE

New City Florist deliver birthday gift to Big Sister Marlene!





Won't You Be Part ^{of} our Success Story?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland is a non-profit organization supported through the government of Rockland County, its villages and towns. Federal, state and corporate grants, as well as fundraising, directly supports the children in your community.

When you donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters, you help make a difference in the lives of young people. Your financial support helps us provide programs and services throughout the Rockland community so we can nurture more college graduates, community leaders and entrepreneurs. In addition, your support enables BBBS to:

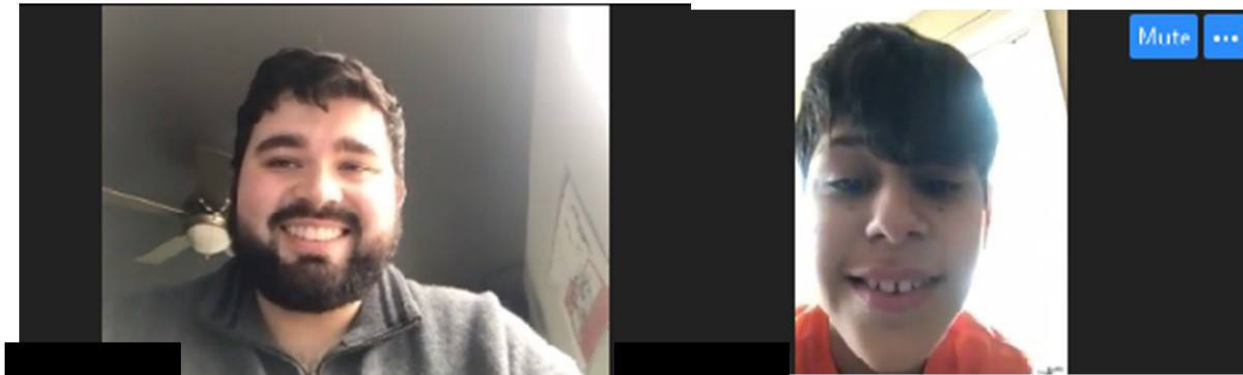
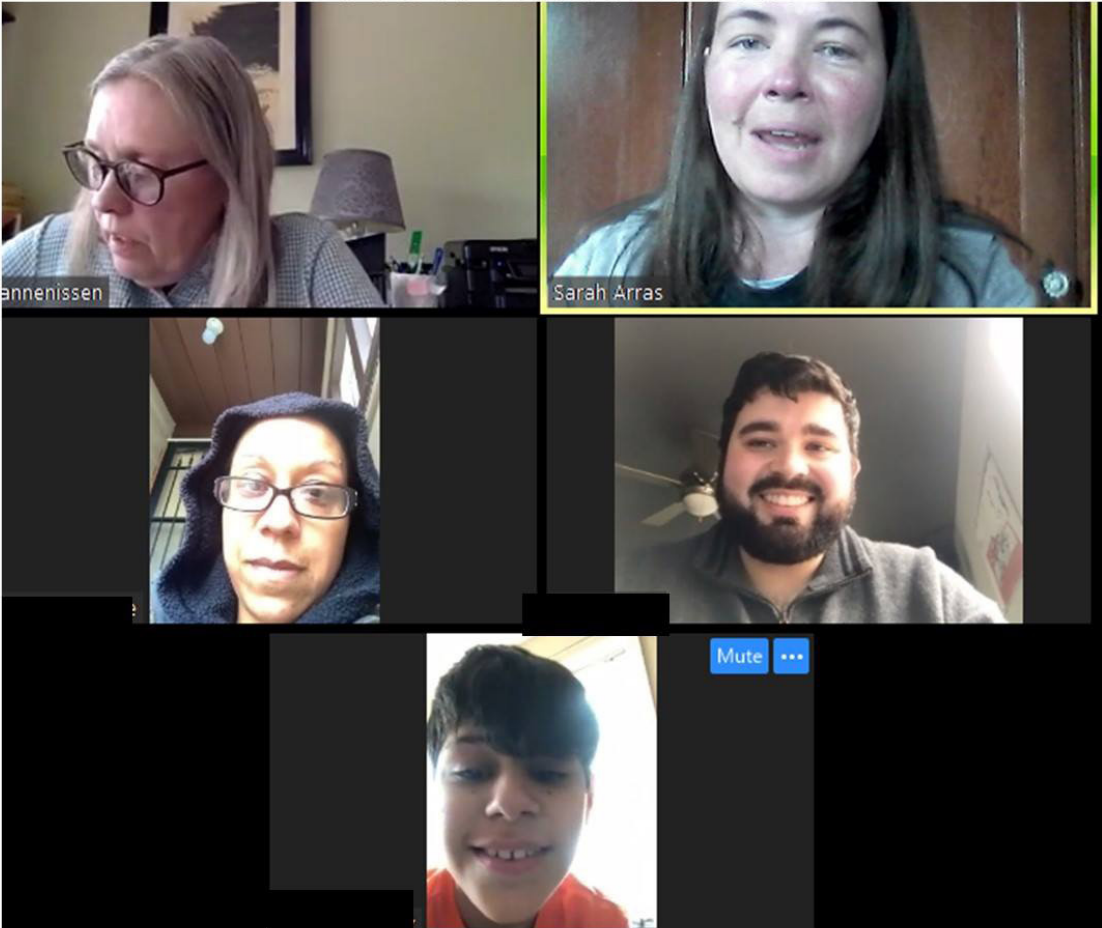
- offer cultural and social activities to enrich the opportunities and lives of children.
- recruit new Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers.
- cover the costs of background checks, while ensuring trained professionals match Littles to responsible Bigs.
- provide ongoing supervision and relationship support for every Big, Little and Little's family.



VIRTUAL MATCH

Thank you to Big Brother Nile and Little Brother Jay for being part of our first virtual match. Hope you are looking forward to your first virtual activity! This is a momentous and first-ever occasion in our 35 years of service in Rockland County!

BBBS First Virtual Match



Congratulations Nile & Jay!



GREAT NEWS! READ ALL ABOUT IT! HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Moe's Southwest Grill of Nanuet supports Big Brother Big Sister to help Rockland's youth and their community. Moe's Southwest Grill is a locally owned business, lending a hand to provide fresh and nutritional entrees directly to your door. Free delivery on orders of \$10+ and for families of 4-6, Moe's has introduced a Build Your Own Taco Kit for just \$34.99.



BBBS IS ALSO PROUD TO THANK DUKE OF OIL, NEW CITY FOR ALL ITS DOES IN SUPPORT OF THE BBBS MISSION

DUKE OF OIL is open weekdays 8-4 and Saturday 8-3. But doing all regular services. Taking no appointments just come on down. Super clean and sterile environment. Following ALL CDC regulations.
<http://www.dukeofoilandtune.com/>



BBBS IS ALSO PROUD TO THANK 16 HANDLES, NEW CITY FOR ALL ITS DOES IN SUPPORT OF THE BBBS MISSION

16 Handles of New City is now open for CURBSIDE PICKUP and DELIVERY ONLY.

Curbside through our website, 16handles.com and go to online ordering.

Delivery through Doordash.com

<https://locations.16handles.com/16-handles-gdda0333aaod>





OUR BIGS ARE REAL HEROES! PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES COMING.

Big Thanks to Big Brother Darnel Pierre who continues his work as Culinary Director at the Food Kitchen for the Residents in NYC for the organization Services for the Underserved.





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Big Sisters**
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

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