

Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report December 2020

Participants:

- # of School Based Matches - 18 thus far. This will increase slightly in the next month.
- # of Community Based Matches - 52. Waiting List - 141
- # of Work Place Mentoring Matches - 3 thus far. This will increase slightly in the next month.

Program Highlights:

- Again, our community based program continues to do well. We are slowly but gradually adding new matches, we are taking in more bigs (mostly female) and we are receiving more inquiries on how to become involved.
- Again, our School based and site based programs in schools and at BNY Mellon continue to be a challenge. Remote mentoring is not drawing a lot of interest for bigs or littles. Many of the littles do not have computers at home and some do not have phones (or very limited access). Required paperwork that we send out or hand deliver is not making it back to us. Many parents are politely asking to pause until we can do in-person mentoring again in the schools. However, we are now opening a handful of matches at each school and are in experimentation mode with introducing modes of communication and activities between the bigs and littles.
- The 1st edition of our very first newsletter was published in December. Thanks to Mary, an SU Public Policy major, for setting up and putting the finishing touches on this publication.
- 25 of our littles received Chrome Books and school supplies from Spectrum. The littles received their gifts in a drive-through distribution on Saturday 12/5. Mayor Ben Walsh and Syracuse School District Superintendent Jaime Alicea attended the ceremony along with Spectrum and PEACE Inc. officials.
- Our Holiday Party took place on Saturday 12/12 here at Sumner School. Because of COVID restrictions, the event was drive-through only. Nonetheless, we had close to 40 matches (little with big, little with parent) attend. Littles, families of littles and bigs all received a generous supply of gifts and tasty lunches items, all sponsored by a grant from the Arby's Foundation. The Onondaga Co. Sheriff's Dept. also supplied winter hats-mittens-scarves for the littles. Holiday music could be heard, raffles were held and prizes were given out for those who dressed in the most festive motif. Lots of laughter, lots of smiles. It was a tremendously fun day that broke up the monotony of the restrictions that we have been living under for months now. We needed this!

Upcoming Events:

- Advisory Council Mtg. (remote) on Wednesday Jan 13th at 5:30 pm.



Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report December 2020

Success Story:

The following is an e-mail that we received from one of our long-time bigs a few days after our Holiday Party:

Good morning - before my work day gets away from me, I wanted to thank you (and the entire BBBS community) for all that you do to make kids' lives better. I cannot speak highly enough of this organization and how well you operate and CARE about what you do. A'Janay was absolutely thrilled with her Chromebook and we had so much fun at the Christmas drive thru party. We really got into the Christmas spirit when we decorated ourselves and our car. That made a huge impact on us both because there has not been a lot of celebrating in our lives lately, so it was just pure joy!

Please be safe and enjoy your holidays and again, thank you for all that you do.

Alison Waters