



Prepared for: David Scharoun, Board President & PEACE Inc. Board of Directors

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Subject: BBBS Program Report

The following is a report for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program activities for the month of December 2017:

- We met with Ellen Beckerman, Executive Director of The Haven at Skanda, a farm for orphaned animals, to explore the possibility of bringing our "littles" there for a day of fun and exploration.
- We met with Chris Abbott, Program Manager for the Syracuse Dept. of Parks & Recreation, to learn of the special opportunities that we could take advantage of in the way of activities for our "bigs" and "littles". Special deals and access to equipment in regards to ice skating, snow shoeing, sledding and hiking were discussed.
- As a part of National Mentoring Month (January) and Peace Inc. 50th anniversary, our staff has been working closely with La'Tonia from our Main Office in promoting our program and highlighting the services that we offer. We recorded a series of interviews and videos that will be used as marketing tools in the weeks to come.
- We met with Senator John DeFrancisco at his office last week. We basically went there to introduce ourselves (as new Director) face-to-face, to thank him for his past support of our program and to drive home the point that many segments of our program may not have been possible if not for his securing of funds that led to the purchase of our 10 passenger van that transport our school-based "littles" each day that our program runs. Senator DeFrancisco promised us that he will continue to seek funds for us as this year's state money is allocated.
- We met with several more candidates for our Advisory Council. These people are REALLY excited to get started. They bring extensive resumes and loads of expertise in their field.

- We filled our 2nd Community Based Manager's position. Ebony Letlough, a LeMoyne grad, will be starting with us on 1/16.
- All school-based programs had their holiday parties just before Christmas. Our corporate-based site, BNY Mellon, treated the "littles" to pizza, snacks and gifts. It had a very "holiday" feel to the event.
- SEFCU adopted 3 families of "littles" for Christmas. The families received several gifts.
- We finalized plans with Renshi Carlos Tierney, a World Class Karate Champion, to incorporate his workshops (self-esteem, emotional health, making wise choices, anti-bullying, etc.) into school based and corporate based programming.
- Judy Nemecek, from the Youth Bureau, gave us positive feedback (observations) regarding our school-based program at CNS-Roxboro Rd and our corporate-based program at BNY Mellon.
- The LOI for the John Ben Snow 2018 Primary Grants Cycle was submitted online.
- School based: Nottingham HS/Seymour Dual Language Academy, Delaware Academy/PSLA, Dr. King Elementary, Roberts Pre K-8 / Corcoran HS had field trips to Lights On The Lake
- School based CNS/Roxboro 's Holiday Party was sponsored with food and gifts from Fed Ex.
- School Based McKinley Brighton program received holiday gifts from local church group.
- 4 Syracuse University students completed their Fall semester service learning course internship with the school based program at Dr. King Elementary.
- After a Bishop Grimes "big" (a Senior there) heard about the plight of a Blessed Sacrament "little" (lives with grandmother, couldn't afford much for Christmas, "little" REALLY wanted an American Girl Doll)...the "big" went out and spent her own money (other "bigs" chipped in) and bought a VERY expensive American Girl Doll for the "little". The girl screamed with joy when she received the doll and the grandmother was brought to tears. A truly compassionate, kind act on the part of the "big". This "big" does NOT want to be recognized in any way. FYI - we do not ask or encourage our "bigs" to spend their own money on any part of our program.