



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report Summer 2018

### Participants:

- # of School Based – 0. Will be starting over soon. We anticipate 250.
- # of Community Based - 68 Matches – 110. Waiting List
- # of Work Place Mentoring – 0. Will be starting over soon.

### Program Highlights:

- We held our annual picnic on July 28th at Thornden Park. We had approximately 15 matches (big and little) attend the event along with around 10 unmatched littles and several Advisory Council members and Main Office staff. Also, 15 Onondaga Co. Sheriff's deputies joined in on the fun and provided a lot of laughs as they joined in the activities, including corn hole, a giant bouncy house, bean bag toss and prize give aways. Our food service dept. provided an excellent summer style luncheon for all. It was a great event for everyone who attended.
- During the State Fair, we sent 20 matches to Youth Day (Aug 31st). The bigs and littles were transported from our office to the Fair and were able to spend the day walking around and taking in all the fun that the Fair has to offer.
- Also during the Fair, our Big Brothers Big Sisters program had a booth in the Center of Progress Bldg. One of our goals was to promote PEACE Inc. in general along with making people more aware of what our program has to offer. All of the BBBS staff, 10 advisory council members, a handful of PEACE Inc employees and a dozen volunteers from BNY Mellon staffed the booth during the 13 days. One aspect of the booth that the kids seemed to enjoy was our spin-the-wheel prize give away. We handed out 1000's of tiny gadgets such as fans, beach balls, key chains and blankets all with the PEACE Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters logo on it. However, the main focus of the booth was recruiting bigs. Through some crafty conversation with Fair patrons, we were able to collect 157 signatures of adults that pledged to be bigs for us. Even if we eventually get 100 of this 157, we will significantly cut in to the list of 115 littles on our waiting list. It should be noted that having a booth in such a strategic location is something that should be reviewed by PEACE Inc. in regards to a marketing tool. We engaged in 100's of conversations with people who had no idea what PEACE Inc. or BBBS was, but were genuinely interested in what services we offered. This ranged from parents and kids to senior citizens to millenials. This booth was an excellent public relations piece for us.
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### Upcoming Events:

- Advisory Council Mtg. Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30



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### Success Story:

- During our 13 day stay at the Fair, we had dozens of people tell us that they were either littles in our program at one time or that a family member of theirs was a little. These people went on to say what a positive effect that the Big Brother Big Sister program had on their lives. Furthermore, we had even more people tell us that PEACE Inc. has somehow touched their lives in a very positive way. Many went on to say how great Early Head Start and Head Start was for them. Our visibility at the Fair was an excellent public relations opportunity for Big Brothers Big Sisters and for PEACE Inc. It is strongly suggested that we look at how we can get the entire agency involved in this project next year. It was a tremendous networking experience for us. We made a lot of new friends and made the public aware of the services that we provide.