



Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Report April 2020

Participants:

- # of School Based Matches - 90
- # of Community Based Matches - 45. Waiting List - 147
- # of Work Place Mentoring Matches - 9

Program Highlights:

- We continue to receive applications from volunteers wanting to be bigs (although we cannot fully go through the normal process of interviews and so forth).
- Both school-based and community based match managers have been making deliveries to the families of their littles (and high school bigs). The drop-offs include snacks and school supplies.
- All mentor managers have been in consistent contact with all their clients (bigs, littles, parents of littles), checking to see how they are doing and offering whatever assistance they can.
- BBBS is now working with PEACE Inc. Family Resource Centers to assist family in need to food and supplies (deliveries).
- BBBS staff has been assisting Food Services 4 mornings a week, packing and loading bagged meals that are delivered to the Senior citizens that are no longer able to go to their community centers for lunch.
- Our school-based match managers in Central Sq. have been conducting virtual-classrooms with their bigs and littles. They run activities and have everyone participate. They have also been facilitating and monitoring communication (e-mail) between their bigs and littles.
- John B. has been in regular contact with BBBUSA regarding new programming ideas and updating Match Force.
- John B. has been in regular contact with Advisory Council President Brian Conboy. Brian, in turn, has been checking in with Council members, soliciting their thoughts on the status of several special events on our schedule.
- Staff has been taking advantage of this slightly slower time to take classes through the BBBUSA training program.

Upcoming Events:

- VIRTUAL Advisory Council Mtg. scheduled for mid-May.



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Success Story:

From Latasha Wilson, Senior Community Based Mentor Manager.....

Just wanted to update you on a family that we are assisting. I shared a story back at the end of March regarding a grandmother living on a fixed income, already having to care for one grandchild [who is currently a little], now she is having to raise his newborn sister. The grandmother was in need of assistance with baby formula.

I attended a dinner at Borio's Restaurant, hosted by the Optimist Club, a few months ago with Laura Pratico, my fellow Community Based Mentor Manager. She is a member of the Optimists. This Club basically tries to assist people or organizations in need. I asked Laura if this family's situation or circumstance would be something the Optimist Club will help with. Long story short, one member came through with a personal donation of \$75. Laura stated that she believes additional assistance is on the way. A money order was mailed out to the grandmother on Tuesday.

I also connected with Denise Vanderpool, Family Resource Center Coordinator. I shared the information with her on Tuesday and she immediately went to work. Wednesday morning I received an email from Denise stating she reached out to Kate at New Hope Family Services and the family will be able to get assistance with formula. I called Kate to see what the grandmother needed to do in order to get the formula. She explained the process and asked if there was anything else the family needed. When all was said and done, the grandmother was able to receive a box which contained: formula, diapers, clothing and blankets. The grandmother is able to receive 1 can of formula per month.

A special thank you for everyone's help to make this all possible. It really does take a team. We are continuing to do great things.