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big

SPRING 2016



Big Brothers Big Sisters

GREATER RICHMOND
HAMPTON ROADS
TRI-CITIES

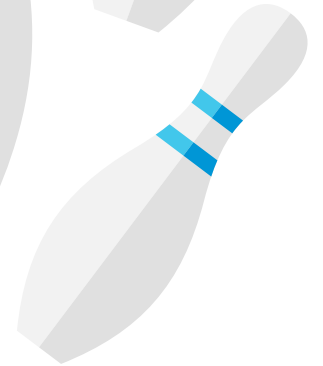
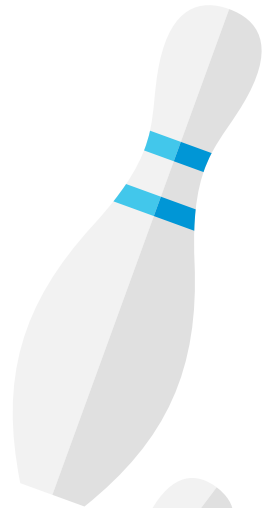


We help the whole family by encouraging our kids' passions and keeping them focused on what is important.

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BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE 2016

RECORD-BREAKING IMPACT



52 TEAMS, 20 SPONSORS, AND 583 INDIVIDUALS RAISED OVER \$70,000 DURING BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE 2016!

After months of fundraising, Richmond's BIG celebration included nearly three hundred people who enjoyed the festivities. Teams made the night fun with team t-shirts, competitions, and prizes for strikes and high scores. Snag-a-Job had favorite t-shirts remembering the old Fabio commercials quoting, "I Can't Believe It's Not Gutter." Another team made matching tie-dye t-shirts. The spirit of the evening was not limited to watching NCAA basketball on the big screens!





See photos from May 7th's Hopewell event on Facebook and look for Hampton Roads Bowl coming Summer 2016!

To support kids building social skills, increasing academic success, and creating healthy lifestyles, teams raised money by hosting benefit nights at local restaurants, sharing videos on social media, going door-to-door in their neighborhoods, and much more. The top team, Altria Favor-a-Bowls, raised \$4,770 – before all of their corporate matching gifts came in! **Together, the teams raised the necessary funds to provide 66 children in Richmond with a caring and compassionate adult mentor who can make a BIG impact on their lives.**

BY **BIG**

BRING YOUR OWN BIG 

Each year many more parents request a mentor than Big Brothers Big Sisters can provide. **The greatest way you can help is to recruit more mentors by sharing how joyful and easy it is to change a kid's life for the better, forever, with just a few hours a week.** Do you know a friend, colleague or family member who would make a great Big? Plan to join us in June throughout Richmond, Tri-Cities and Hampton Roads to help us serve more kids!

/ [Make sure future Bigs get an invitation to the fun!](#)
[Send email addresses to amakriyianis@bigbrobigsis.com](mailto:amakriyianis@bigbrobigsis.com)

BROTHERS, SISTERS & BIGS



WHEN ONE CHILD IN A FAMILY NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF A BIG, THEIR SIBLINGS USUALLY NEED SUPPORT, TOO.

Families enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters face any number of challenges, like living in a single parent family, living in poverty, having an incarcerated parent, having a deployed parent, or living in communities where risk factors are high. Our Moms, and other parents and guardians, want the best for their kids, and reach out for help. **We love to help all siblings in a family so no one feels left out and the family can see the cumulative benefits of life-changing friendships.**



As though having triplets wouldn't be hard enough, the Walker family faces the challenges of frequent changes and moves due to their sister's enrollment in the Coast Guard, ranking Yn1 e-6. 12-year old triplet brothers Zyaire, Zuriel, and Zechariah Walker were each matched with a Big Brother in Fall 2015. The triplets are flourishing with their Bigs as they each have their own special life-changing friendship. Zyaire and Big Brother Eric are "two peas in a pod" – always laughing and joking as they focus on health and nutrition, by request of Mom, Kiva Walker. Big Brother Ryan encourages Zuriel's love of dinosaurs and desire to study paleontology someday. Big Brother Joshua and Zechariah share a love of church and photography. All three boys made Honor Roll at Blair Middle School and their **Mom credits their Big Brothers for encouraging their different passions and keeping them focused on what is important.**

Andre, Jayla, and Katrice are another set of three that benefit from the consistency that Bigs provide in their lives. They are fortunate to have the support of both their mother and grandmother, but they frequently change living arrangements – sometimes having six children in the same home. Having seen their cousins have caring, consistent relationships with their Bigs, Mom, Darcell, and Grandmother, Ronda, knew Big Brothers Big Sisters could help again.

Little Brother Andre has a smile that lights up the room. Matched with Big Brother Chris since 2013, "Andre demonstrates confidence and has a great attitude. He's learning that anything is possible through hard work." Little Sister Jayla and Big Sister Melissa enjoy spending time at the library; their shared love of reading helped Jayla earn Honor Roll and be selected as a one of two representatives of Richmond Public Schools in an academic competition. Little Sister Katrice was most recently matched with Big Sister Lori who helps her control her feelings and make sure not to lose her glasses – common struggles for all kids. All the matches enjoy going to the YMCA.

The Bigs build on their Littles' family values when they created matching purple tie-dye shirts for Bowl for Kids' Sake, where they raised over \$1,000 to continue to support their family matches. **Mom and Grandma both report continued progress from Andre, Jayla, and Katrice, and are grateful for the help to build positive visions for the future for all the kids.**

Sailing Away

Good News!



Tom Lewis has a passion for the James River, which he wants to share with people who might not have access – Little Brothers and Sisters definitely qualify! **Many families of Littles do not have regular access to transportation, making it difficult to take advantage of the myriad activities available on the James.** Partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Tom and his organization, Sails Angels, have helped matches canoe, kayak, study aquatic animals, identify plants, take nature walks and much more.

Big Brother Jeff Moore and Little Brother Jacobi were some of the first to take advantage of this new partnership. “Jacobi and I had new experiences together right here on the James River. We enjoyed a beautiful day canoeing, sail canoeing, checking out bee hives, having lunch on the dock. We even saw a bald eagle. We can’t wait to go back when the water is warm enough to swim and explore more!”

You don’t need any previous water experience to enjoy the beauty of the James! **Matches who take advantage of free opportunities with Big Brothers Big Sisters consistently report higher satisfaction, deeper relationships, and a willingness to try more new activities while developing each child’s interests.**

For those who don’t feel ready to commit to a Little, providing skills and expertise can help the staff in the office or matches trying new activities.

Contact Director of Programs,
Andrea Makriyianis, to see how you can help.
amakriyianis@bigbrobigsis.com or 804.261.4940

If you are 70 1/2 or older you can make distributions of up to \$100,000 from your Individual Retirement Account directly to Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. without having to count those distributions as income for federal tax purposes.

Big Brothers Big Sisters welcomes charitable IRA rollovers to start a charitable fund to benefit one-to-one mentoring relationships.

- To roll over funds from an Individual Retirement Account please contact the IRA administrator to request a distribution of up to \$100,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. Sample letters are available at your request.
- Be sure to instruct the administrator to make the distribution **DIRECTLY** to Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc.
- The IRA administrator may mail a check or directly transfer securities to Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc.
- Please make sure to contact Big Brothers Big Sisters directly so you may be properly credited with your gift and ensured it is used in the manner you wish.

Questions? Contact your professional advisor and then contact Ann Payes, Executive Director
apayes@bigbrobigsis.com or 804.261.4940



BIG HOPES IN HOPEWELL

Littles in Hopewell are 21% more likely than their peers to graduate from High School.

“My Big Sister experience has been so much more than I could have expected,” said Debbie Pershing, a City of Hopewell employee, who meets weekly with Little Sister Dana for lunch and games. “Our hour together is filled with sharing how our week has been going, discussing school, and upcoming events.”

The Bigs not only eat lunch, play games, and make crafts, but also talk to their Littles about their hopes and dreams. School Counselor Annessa Jones has seen a big change at Harry E. James Elementary as a result of matches. More than 91% of students at Harry E. James Elementary received free lunch assistance in 2015-16. **Four-year High School graduation rates in Hopewell are just 76%, over 10% below state-wide averages.**

With the help of a Big, 97.7% of Littles plan to graduate from High School and 71.1% feel accepted by their peers, leading to higher attendance and better behavior.

Thanks to our Hopewell partners, John Randolph Foundation, United Way of Hopewell-Prince George, and Organization of Churches & Concerned Citizens (OC3), for helping us get a great start at Harry E. James Elementary this year. More volunteers are needed for 2016-17 – volunteer interviews start NOW!

/ Contact Irvin Jennings to get started
 ijennings@bigbrobigsis.com or 804.319.5198

Life-Changing Friendships are the Real Presents



Thanks to the Richmond Christmas Mother Fund, Big Brothers Big Sisters tried something new for the annual Winter Celebration.

The grant supported playing Bubble Soccer – a hard-hitting game that’s as much soccer as it is bumping, tumbling, and laughing. The change in activities interested more matches in taking part and learning more about everyone’s skills. **Making the Winter Celebration about spending time together emphasizes the value of the Big/Little relationship, as compared to presents.**

To make sure each Little was ready for winter, they went home with a warm Big Brothers Big Sisters shirt, hats, gloves, new books, and a healthy belly full of pizza and clementines! The Winter Celebration was a great way for Bigs and Littles to kick off the holiday season together in a festive and active way.

We are most grateful to the Richmond Christmas Mother Fund and Midas of Richmond, who made this wonderful winter afternoon possible.

/ Interested in becoming a Big?
 Call 804.261.4940 and ask for Customer Service.

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN HIGH



MICAH COULDN'T STAND UP ON THE SKIS AT FIRST, BUT WITH THE HELP OF SOME WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS, HE WAS ON THE INTERMEDIATE SLOPES BY THE END OF THE DAY. IT WAS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE TO WATCH HIM PROGRESS SO QUICKLY AND TO DEVELOP CONFIDENCE IN SOMETHING HE HAD NEVER DONE BEFORE.

Five years in, friends Lee Yowell and Grant Hayes have combined their love of skiing to help Littles experience the beauty of the mountains and the thrill of going down the slopes. Generous donors made this an affordable activity for most matches – with \$40 covering all expenses for the match: transportation, snacks, lunch, lift tickets, equipment, and instruction. Friends of BBBS assisted as chaperones because many Bigs and Littles were skiing for the first time!

Big Brother Mike Powers described the day, “My Little Brother Micah and I had a great time. Micah had never been skiing, and I hadn’t been in 15 years. Micah couldn’t stand up on the skis at first, but with the help of some wonderful volunteers, Micah was on the intermediate slopes by the end of the day. It was a very rewarding experience to watch him progress so quickly and develop confidence in something he had never done before. We are both very appreciative of the opportunity and can’t wait until the trip next year!”

Several matches joined the Wintergreen trip for the third year in a row, demonstrating the value of making new friends, seeing the mountains, and having the caring support of not only the Bigs, but also the chaperones. The skiing was fun. The skill building was invaluable. **Building trust, learning the value of exercise, and trying new opportunities will help Littles build a positive vision for the future.**



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Brothers, Sisters, and Bigs: Learn how BBBS helps siblings so families can see the benefits of life-changing friendships.

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BIG BROTHERS an evening for kids' sake BIG SISTERS

SAVE THE DATE

FRI, SEPTEMBER
30TH

at THE HOTEL JOHN MARSHALL
back by popular demand,
the band **HOT SAUCE**

EARLY BIRD TICKETS
GO ON SALE
JUNE 1