

30 Bigs in
30 Days **2**

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the Year **7**

big

WINTER 2017



Big Brothers Big Sisters

GREATER RICHMOND
HAMPTON ROADS
TRI-CITIES



Did you know there are nearly 300 boys in your area waiting for a Big Brother? Learn more about how you can BE BIG.

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As part of National Mentoring Month in January 2017, we are recruiting 30 Bigs in 30 Days with a focus of recruiting more male mentors in order to reduce the waitlist of nearly 300 boys in the Richmond area. You can help. You can BE BIG. Join Mike, Maurice, Ross, and the many men in your community who are already making a difference. A little time each week makes a BIG difference. It's not rocket science – kick a soccer ball around, watch a movie, do some homework, just being there makes the difference in a child's life.

MIKE POWERS > "I WANT TO TRY TO BE LIKE THE ROLE MODELS I HAD GROWING UP. THEY IMPACTED ME IN NOT JUST MY LIFE, BUT MY CAREER AND WORK ETHIC. I'M SO PROUD OF MICAH; WATCHING HIM PUSH HIMSELF TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL AND FOOTBALL HAS BEEN AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. I'M GLAD TO HAVE HIM AS A LIFE-LONG FRIEND."

> **MAURICE GALLIMORE** "BEING A BIG BROTHER IS REWARDING. LOOKING AT THIS PICTURE MAKES ME REMEMBER HOW I USED TO BE TALLER THAN HIM. I WILL NEVER FORGET HAVING WITNESSED HIM GROW AND MATURE AND DEVELOP INTO THE STRONG INDIVIDUAL THAT HE IS. JUST BEING INVOLVED IS WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE."

> **ROSS MORGAN** "GETTING TO KNOW THE KIDS AND SEEING THEM ENJOY THE TIME WE SPEND TOGETHER HAS BEEN MEANINGFUL TO ME - WHETHER IT'S THROWING A FOOTBALL AROUND, DOING HOMEWORK, OR JUST CATCHING UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE LAST WEEK."

/ To find out more information, follow us on facebook @BeaBigVA or call 804-261-4940 to sign up to be a Big Brother today.

**BBBS
NATIONAL
MENTORING
MONTH
EVENTS**

JAN 10
Bring Your Own Big
@ Southern Railway Taphouse

JAN 12
Kendra Scott
Benefitting BBBS

JAN 17
15% Give Back Night
@ Jason's Deli

JAN 22
VCU vs. Lasalle Basketball
Game promoting BBBS

JAN 25
50% Give Back Night
@ Chipotle

JAN 31
10% Give Back & Celebration
Party @ Texas Roadhouse



A WORLD OF GOOD

Language is the key to learning, growing, and understanding. Most of us are lucky if we can effectively communicate in our native tongue, but imagine being able to speak in three different languages! That’s the goal of one of our newest site-based matches, Big Sister Vania Farnsworth and her Little Sister Ericka. Between these two, they have French, Spanish, and English covered.

Born in Madagascar, raised in France, and living the last 20 years in the United States, Vania has a deep understanding of culture and language. Little Sister Ericka’s family is from Guatemala. By playing games and reading books, Vania and Ericka look forward to teaching each other new words in their respective languages and share stories about their experiences when they meet for lunch each week.

“It’s important to be involved in someone’s life, but to impact the life of one child is so meaningful,” says Vania. Referred by a colleague and current Big Brother, Michael Weisberg, Vania cannot wait to build a strong, long-term friendship with the “sweet, adorable, and open-minded” Ericka. Stay tuned to see this trilingual, dynamic duo take over the world!

Do you know someone who would be a great Big Brother or Big Sister? We find some of our best Bigs through referrals. Send your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers our way! Or bring them to the next BYOB (Bring Your Own Big) recruiting event on January 10 at Southern Railway Taphouse.

OPERATION BIGS

Moving, changing schools, and making new friends can be hard for kids. Pair that with living in the military and possibly having parents deployed overseas, it gets even tougher. Fortunately, our Hampton Roads office focuses on serving military-dependent middle school youth as part of Operation Bigs.

Jeannie’s father is retired from the military. She’s in sixth grade and the baby of the family, so she needed

an extra someone in her life to talk to and help boost her confidence. Recently, Dianna – a former sailor in the Navy, who is now a college student – became a Big Sister. Her calm, soft spoken demeanor was a perfect match for her new Little Sister, Jeannie, who is full of spirit and style. These two Sisters look forward to meeting each week to work on building self-confidence and developing stronger relationships with friends and family.



To get involved in Operation Bigs, reach out to Program Manager Amy Young at ayoung@bigbrobigsis.com or 757-392-5155.



You’re invited to join Match Makers, our new monthly giving program, and make a BIG impact by helping match waiting Littles to caring, compassionate mentors throughout the entire year.

It’s a easy and hassle-free way to create life-changing friendships all year long. As a Match Maker you help create a new match every month. Your steady support provides the resources to recruit Bigs to match with those waiting Littles...and to help those friendships thrive over time.

For more information, contact Olivia Garrett, Development & Marketing Manager at ogarrett@bigbrobigsis.com or 804-261-4940

Big Thanks to our Community Partners



NASCAR driver AJ Allmendinger #47 with Big Billy Dalrymple and Little Ja'Quan



ALEX AND ANI



TARAGIBSONPHOTOGRAPHY

Thanks to **Troutman Sanders** for hosting our 3rd Annual Big of the Year Celebration at their elegant downtown location overlooking our mighty James River. **Mosaic Catering** provided the hors d'oeuvres and drinks – those sweet potato ham biscuits were a hit! Congratulations to our six honorees: Tarra Balcom, Chris Cooke, Frank Isemann, Jamie Jackson, Candace Nicolls, and Don Olson. The honorees were selected by entries made by their Littles and then by online voting from the community. Each of the honorees spoke on their experiences as Bigs and the life-changing impact of mentoring. Thank you to **Tara Gibson Photography** for capturing the most special moments during the celebration.

Thanks to **YMCA Bright Beginnings**, 30 Big/Little matches started the school year off on the right foot. After sharing dinner, the Littles were provided backpacks, school supplies, back to school clothes, and powerful lessons about budgeting and goal setting. Each Big Brothers Big Sisters family who participated has a household income below \$20,000/year, so Bright Beginnings alleviated many needs.

Thanks to **ALEX AND ANI: Charity by Design** for supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters through the sale of "Big Dipper" and "Little Dipper" charm bracelets until December 31, 2016. This is a great gift idea for the holidays! Feel free to stop by their new store in Short Pump any time or join us at the store on December 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Partnership for Nonprofit Excellence wrapped up its second year of partnership and started its third with Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Board Immersion program. Emerging nonprofit volunteer leaders have the opportunity to learn hands on about vision, resilience, adaptability and accountability – a few of the qualities needed to achieve and sustain success.

Kroger brought NASCAR driver **AJ Allmendinger #47** to the new Kroger Marketplace in Chester for a meet and greet with our Littles. AJ signed autographs, showed off a Chevrolet replica racing car, provided dinner, and even had a grocery bagging competition!



@BeABigVA Check out photos and more from these great events on our Facebook and Instagram pages

Big Time Fun



Whether it was shooting hoops, making art, or chowing down on some healthy snacks, everyone had a great time at this year's Back to School Celebration at the Northside YMCA. Our Bigs and Littles loved posing in the photobooth and playing corn hole too. This fun kick-off event for the upcoming school year is a positive way to help our Littles get back in gear and ready to succeed in school as well as make meaningful relationships with their peers and adults.

Thanks to high school senior, Caroline McMullan – who organized the project as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award – The Bigs and Littles also created replicas of famous art including works by VanGogh and Kandinsky. They were auctioned off at EFKS for hundreds of dollars.



LEAVE A BIG LEGACY

Your legacy can have an BIG impact. A planned gift to Big Brothers Big Sisters ensures the continuation of our mentoring programs and creates your own legacy of support.

Including Big Brothers Big Sisters as part of your will or estate is a simple way to help children reach

their potential well into the future. You can also designate Big Brothers Big Sisters as the beneficiary in an IRA, 401K, or life insurance policy. If you name Big Brothers Big Sisters as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, it benefits both the children in your community and you! Planned giving can offer significant

advantages, including tax breaks and a potential income increase. Discuss your strategy with your estate planner to ensure you maximize your benefits.

To learn more, reach out to Olivia Garrett, Development & Marketing Manager at ogarrett@bigbrobigsis.com or 804-261-4940

An Evening for Kids' Sake



LEFT TO RIGHT: Eric Jones, Dr. Michael Penn, Fanita Cooke, Dr. Angela Penn, Christopher Cooke (Big of the Year), Royal Keith Jones, Terrill Cooke, Taylor Cooke, Trenia Jones



An Evening for Kids' Sake, presented by Altria, was held at the John Marshall Ballrooms and raised over \$125,000 to support 100 matches for Big Brothers Big Sisters! Festivities included a "Cirrusly Big" cocktail from Cirrus Vodka, craft beer from Stone Brewery, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, dessert from Duck Donuts and dancing to the beats of the cover band, Hot Sauce. A trip to the Grand Canyon, laps around the Richmond International Raceway, and a weekend in DC were among the favorite auction items as well as vacations to the Grenadines, Barbados, and

St. Lucia! Our Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year – Chris Cooke and Tarra Balcom – were the highlight of the evening. Guests enjoyed the heartfelt videos of each of them with their Littles.

Special thanks to An Evening for Kids' Sake committee members, sponsors, and guests for your continued support and dedication to making this event a success as well as ensuring that Big Brothers Big Sisters can help create new life-changing friendships between children facing adversity and caring, compassionate adults.

CO-CHAIRS: Michele & Jim Riley and Mary & Joe Dorsey

COMMITTEE: Paige Derdevanis, Elisabeth Gelardi, Christine Kerkeslager, Kathy & Bruce Margopoulos, Lauren & Craig McCormick, Jill McGrath, Lia Mooney, Susan Lenz, Beth Phipps, Jennifer Porter, Brooke & Ken Shepard

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Chris Rennie,
Christine Rennie,
Lisa Schaffner,
Nate Kuper, Stephannie
Kuper, Beth Phipps



Talon Rice and
Sherrie Reese-Rice

Bigs of the Year



LEFT TO RIGHT: Tarra Balcom, Frank Isemann, Candace Nicolls, Ann Rohde Payes (Executive Director), Don Olson, Chris Cooke, Jamie Jackson



BIG BROTHER OF THE YEAR: CHRISTOPHER COOKE

My focus is on two areas: Education and self-confidence. I've tried to instill in Andre that he can do anything he sets his mind to. I frequently share with Andre that getting a good education is like unlocking a door that can lead to a successful future. He is a very bright young man with a passion for school. I am so proud of Andre's hard work this past academic year – particularly his achievement of "advanced proficiency" on his English and Math SOLs. Andre deserves a round of applause for his accomplishments! The second important aspect of his development is self-confidence. Like everyone, Andre will make mistakes. However, how he reacts to mistakes and what he learns from those mistakes matter most. If he maintains a positive attitude and continues to work hard in school, I believe great things are possible for Andre.



BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR: TARRA BALCOM

Jaqua and I met when she was 11 years old. Over meals, Jaqua and I have learned from each other, grown with each other, and been there for each other for the last six years. It's amazing to me how we have gone from being complete strangers to family. Matches are initially a one year commitment, and looking back I remember when we were close to our first anniversary as matches and went on a celebratory meal. Jaqua sat there quietly during lunch. She finally asked me with hesitance in her voice, 'Can we keep being friends?' Her concern surprised me, and I assured her that I certainly wanted to continue to be her friend for as long as she wanted. I knew from that moment on that we would become very important to each other. Our lives are forever impacted by each other's friendship, and there is no end in sight.

HONOREES:

Don Olson

Frank Isemann

Jamie Jackson

Candace Nicolls





Big Brothers Big Sisters

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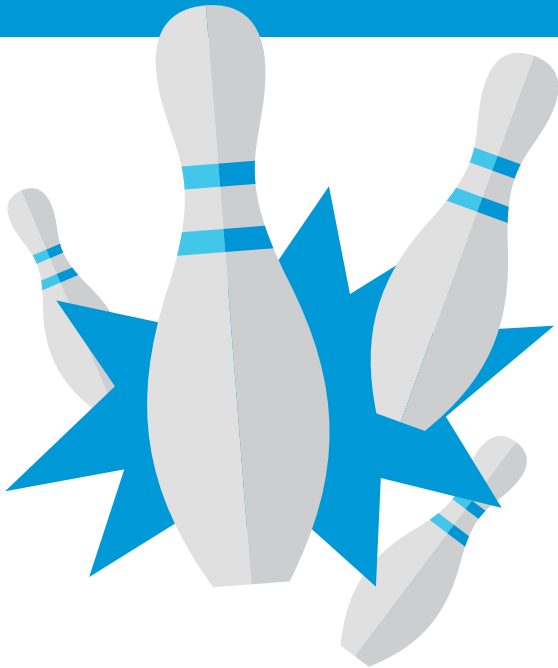
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Learn about Vania and Ericka's BIG plans to become trilingual in English, Spanish and French

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SAVE THE DATE!

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Richmond: Friday, March 10, 2017
at AMF Sunset Lanes

Tri-Cities: Saturday, March 11, 2017
at Hopewell Bowling Center

RAISE MONEY, MAKE MATCHES, WIN PRIZES!

Top fundraisers can win trips, hotel stays, restaurant and shopping gift certificates. Form your team or become a sponsor now to start 2017 with a BIG impact.



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Wegmans

/ To learn more, contact Danielle Powell at
dpowell@bigbrobigsis.com or 804-261-4940