

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2018 Edition

## **Come Celebrate With Us This Fall!**

Dear Friends.

Is it just me or did this past summer race by? One minute we were welcoming our energetic summer interns and hosting our Littles and their families at the Summer Games and now everyone is heading back to school. And was it really back in mid-July that the NY Jets dropped in on our Dave & Buster's recruiting event to wow fans of all ages with selfies and autographs?

### **Celebrating 60 Years of Mentoring Magic**

Speaking of time flying, I want to call your attention to an incredible milestone that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services of Westchester is celebrating this year: Our local agency — founded in 1958 — will mark its 60th anniversary of making a difference in the lives of children, for the better, forever.

Six decades of dedicated service to the Westchester County community and its youth didn't just happen. We owe our track record of success to 60 years of selfless volunteers, caring staff, generous and visionary donors, and above all, the Bigs and Littles who contribute their mentoring magic to our program every day.

### **New Offices and Dancing to the Oldies**

Now, as we head into fall, we have a LOT to look forward to. Over Labor Day weekend, we moved to new office quarters that will give BBBS and Family Services of Westchester the breathing room to expand our training and program offerings in exciting new ways.

And then it's on to The Really Big Show on November 3rd at Purchase College, where the "world's greatest party band," the B-52s, will have us dancing in the aisles. In addition, we've put together an incredible roster of talented performers that includes not only fan favorites from past years but exciting new acts you won't want to miss.

Thank you for being a part of BBBS of FSW's first 60 wonderful years. Please join us as we kick off our future of amazing things to come!

#### Valerie A. Brown. Executive Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services of Westchester



### THE SMILES SAY IT ALL

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Our staff and social workers do everything possible to take everyone's preferences, hopes and concerns into account before we make a match. Our mission is to create "long and strong" matches that start happy and stay happy. Here are just a few of the recent matches that have us grinning from ear to ear.





## WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION TO THE REALLY BIG SHOW FEATURING THE B-52S

Our third annual Really Big Show is just around the corner on Saturday, November 3, and we want you there dancing in the aisles. That's because our headliners will be the world-famous B-52s, often called "the world's greatest party band" for their zany, sing-along-with-every-word hits like "Love Shack," "Rock Lobster," "Roam," and "Private Idaho."

So watch for your invitation and plan to meet us front row center at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College for the evening that Westchester Magazine recently named Westchester County's Best Non-Profit Event.

Sponsored by Morgan Stanley, the night will also feature a lineup of crowd-pleasing acts like the Harlem Gospel Choir and the Jazz House Kids Big Band with something for everyone.

### REUNIONS AND FUN AT THE SUMMER GAMES

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This year's event, held on Saturday, July 14 at Saxon Woods Park, featured a delicious hot dog lunch, a DJ, games and mini-golf. And we owe a special thanks to Living Word Christian Church in White Plains for their generosity in donating backpacks filled with school supplies once again.

As the weather cools and the pace of everyone's lives picks up in the fall, the memories of this year's Summer Games will truly keep us warm.

Check out the link below to see many more pictures of all the fun we had!









### NY JETS PLAYERS SPOTLIGHT OUR NEED FOR MORE BIG BROTHERS

Q: What do you get when it's the hottest day of July and players from the New York Jets drop in on your recruiting event being held at Dave & Buster's fabulous new Pelham Manor location?

A: The coolest afternoon of the whole summer!

That was the scene when Jets stars Lorenzo Mauldin, Elijah McGuire and Terrelle Pryor, together with former player Rob Carpenter and fan favorites Fireman Ed and Alex Giamo, joined the fun at BBBS's first-ever Big Game Day on Sunday, July 15.

It was awed looks and happy laughter all around as the kids (and more than a few grown-ups, too) posed for selfies with their sports idols, scored priceless autographs and challenged each other to arcade games.

#### **Positive Role Models**

And it was a special day for the players, too. Wide receiver Terrelle Pryor remarked that, "It's good to interact with the kids and be someone positive in their lives."

Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin agreed, recalling, "I can definitely relate, growing up in foster care. [When I was young] I understood that people gave their time to come and hang out and give me encouraging words. Now, it feels good to be the guy to actually come out and give those words of encouragement [to someone else] and be a part of their lives."

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Big Game Day was the brainchild of BBBS of FSW Advisory Council member and Big Brother himself, Gary Seckendorf. He envisioned an event that would not only treat children still waiting for mentors to a great day but help focus attention on our pressing need for more male mentors. Seckendorf enlisted the help of NYSF Magazine founder Jason Koeppel, who recruited the Jets players to ioin in the fun.



Paidamoyo **Domingo Graduated Yonkers** 

ATTENDING High School Class of 2018





Jaden **Anderson** 

ATTENDING Vestchester Community College FOR CULINARY ARTS

Adriyel Jamés-Bennett

**Graduated Palisade** Preparatory School in Yonkers Class of 2018

ATTENDING St. John's UNIVERSITY





Aaron Davis Graduated Mount Vernon **High School** Class of 2018

ATTENDING Westchester Community College

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We are so proud of our BBBS Littles who recently graduated from high school! In addition to the above grads, let's hear it for Janel Jackson who graduated from Riverside High School in Yonkers and will attend SUNY Canton; Jelani Miller who graduated from Valhalla High School and will attend SUNY Oswego; and Keilani Vaughn who graduated from Nellie A. Thornton High School in Mount Vernon and will attend Alfred University.

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We'll miss you, Port Chester, but we aren't going far. In early September, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Family Services of Westchester are moving "down the road" to new offices at 2975 Westchester Avenue in Purchase.

Leaving the vibrancy of Port Chester for the tranquility of an office park will be an adjustment but we're excited about having the space to host more meetings, programs and training in our new offices.

We want to thank Marks Paneth, George Comfort & Sons, GHP Office Realty and the RPW Group for the furniture donations and Monster Movers for their energy, patience and good nature! Our phone numbers and email stay the same, but stop by to say hello! Here's our new contact info:

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But we know that level of commitment doesn't fit with the demands of everyone's schedule. That's why we want to mention some other great ways to help our cause: Maybe you'd like to be a smiling presence and an extra pair of hands at our special events? Or maybe you're an administrative whiz who could help us with data input or other projects around the office?

And last but certainly not least, please know how much we appreciate your financial and clothing donations. Your clothing donations help us raise money for programs, and your financial donations help us cover the cost of matching our Littles with their perfect Bigs.

## **Thank You For Your Caring Donations**



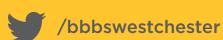
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