

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Sister Gets an A+ in Helping Girls

Fall is a busy time in the City of Boston. The temperature drops, leaves change color, college students return, and thousands of children head back to school. Returning to school is exciting for more than 600 Little Sisters who will be reuniting with their Big Sisters in our School-Based Mentoring program. Big and Little Sisters meet once a week at the Little Sister's school during her lunch period or after-school program. Jason Gallagher, Principal of Harvard/Kent School in Charlestown, recently praised Big Sister's programs for the positive impact they have on his students. "The Little Sisters at the Harvard/Kent truly love their Big Sisters," said Gallagher. "It turns their whole day around when their Big Sister arrives."

Not only can spending time with her Big Sister turn a Little Sister's day around, it can also turn her grades around. In our 2011 Youth Outcomes Survey (YOS), Little Sisters who took part in our School-Based and Community-Based Mentoring programs showed notable improvement in their academic performance. Seventy-five percent of Little Sisters reported maintaining or improving their performance; 71% maintained or improved in reading. Moreover, 92% of respondents planned to finish high school, and 85% intended to go to college. Further research supports that most Little Sisters are able to meet these academic goals: in a 2011 survey of



Jason Gallagher, Principal of Harvard/Kent Elementary.

former Little Sisters, 82% were high school graduates, and 90% of those graduates went on to enroll in a college or trade school program.

By supporting Big Sister Association, you are showing your support of academic success for Boston's students. This is the busiest and best time for us to connect with women about becoming a Big Sister—this fall, we hope to match more than 250 girls with a mentor of their own. You can help! Consider setting up an information session where you work, allowing Big Sister to host a recruitment table in a lobby or cafeteria, or referring Big Sister to an employee resource group. Additionally, a financial contribution will help us recruit, train, and enroll these Big Sisters, and will fund professional support of Big and Little Sisters once they have been matched. Together, we can make the back to school season a success. With a Big Sister to guide them, girls can achieve an A+ in reaching their full potential.



Big Sister Brianna and Little Sister Ariyana.



Meet Big Sister's New Board President

At our Annual Meeting on May 14, Big Sister officially welcomed Sharon McNally, Chief of Staff at The Connors Family Office, as our new Board President.

How long have you worked in the Boston area?

I was brought up in Concord and then lived for 30 years in Sudbury, where Brian and I raised our three children; we moved into the Back Bay two years ago. I worked first as a caterer and then as a residential real estate agent in the western suburbs, and came to my current position five and a half years ago, after having worked for a few years in Development at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Can you describe a highlight from your time at The Connors Family Office?

There are many highlights, but perhaps the most outstanding was the day that Camp Harbor View opened in 2007. We had worked on a very tight schedule to fund, build, and staff a camp for inner-city kids—and then to figure out the programming and find 600 campers.

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Highlights

- ★ Young Professionals Give Back at the Urban Block Party
- ★ Our 2012 BMW Raffle Winner
- ★ An Interview with Big Sister of the Year Diane Ivey



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!
E-mail: SMacDonald@bigsisiter.org

Young Professionals Get Down and Give Back at the Urban Block Party... Gone 80's!

A summer rain storm couldn't keep Boston's young professionals from coming out to support Big Sister Association on June 7. The clouds cleared just in time to set the perfect scene for the Urban Block Party... Gone 80's, hosted by Big Sister's Young Professional Board. Guests got down and gave back, to the tune of nearly \$30,000. Proceeds will benefit our mentoring programs for girls through Team Big Sister in the Rodman Ride for Kids.

Boston's waterfront and mother nature teamed up to provide the backdrop for celebrating summer in the city. More than 150 young professionals enjoyed a delicious spread by East Meets West Catering as they watched the ships sail across the harbor from the patio of the Exchange Conference Center. As the sun set, Fast Times heated up the party while guests tore it up on the dance floor. Everyone enjoyed libations provided by Sam Adams, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, and RIPE Bar Juice and cooled off with trips to the raffle and silent auction tables. Lucky winners went home with gift certificates to Boston's hottest restaurants, Aerosmith tickets, a private vineyard tour and tasting, Red Sox and BC football tickets, a Nantucket getaway, and more! To commemorate the evening, groups of friends donned 80's gear, packed into a photo booth, and took home pictures complements of Photo Fun Box.

Young Professional Board member, Jamie Charles, rounded out the evening by sharing a friend's story. "My friend, a Big Sister, asked her Little Sister if she could do more for her than visiting and taking her out each week," he said. "Her Little explained that, though she may feel like spending time with her is not enough, it means the world to her and is exactly what she needs." He closed by explaining to the crowd the importance of giving each girl the opportunity to have a role model in her life.

Special thanks to Urban Block Party sponsors Boston.com, eSec Lending, Patrick Carney Foundation, Vistaprint, and Yozell Associates. We would also like to thank East Meets West Catering, Boston Beer Company, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, RIPE Bar Juice and Photo Fun Box. We appreciate all those who supported Urban Block Party and look forward to more fun at the next young professionals' event!



Urban Block Party Donors

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Big and Little Sisters Have a Blast at Our Annual Summer Picnic

Plenty of sunshine set the scene as Big Sister Association began our annual Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 14. Many excited Big and Little Sisters met at UMASS Boston where bus service, donated by Paul Revere Transportation, was waiting to provide a ride to the picnic at Camp Harbor View, located on Boston's Long Island in Quincy, MA.

Big and Little Sisters were welcomed to the camp by Big Sister staff members who had planned a fun-filled day for them. At registration, they discovered that each match was in a different group for the day. Each group had their own itinerary or "camp schedule." Activities included swimming, a clue-hunt including a physical activity at each station, a water-balloon toss, a rainy-day relay, a Suffolk Construction-themed sandcastle building station, arts and crafts, and more! Big Sister CEO Deb Re even picked up a hula hoop herself to join Little Sisters in an energetic competition. Throughout the day, DJ Ranell kept spirits high with a selection of fun tunes.

When lunchtime came, matches were greeted by a huge spread of hot dogs and hamburgers, catered by b.good. For frosty treats, the b.good shake truck "Harvey" mixed up yummy shakes, and the Mix 104.1 ice cream truck handed out free samples of Turkey Hill ice cream cups. The day concluded with a group dance to the "Cupid Shuffle." Bigs and Little Sisters had a blast at Camp Harbor View, and can't wait to come back next year! Big thanks to Summer Picnic sponsor Suffolk Construction's Red and Blue Foundation.



Interview with Board President Sharon McNally

Continued from page 1

When the buses drove up to camp the first morning and 600 kids were greeted with a breakfast of Belgian waffles and bacon, there was a lot to celebrate.

How did you first learn about Big Sister?

I knew about Big Sister peripherally, but became better informed when I was asked about five years ago to join a meeting between Big Sister CEO Deb Re and Jack Connors. Deb had come to see Jack to ask for his advice around building a board and to solicit a sponsorship for Big in Boston. Not surprisingly for anyone who knows Deb, she came away with both goals met.

What interested you in joining Big Sister's Board of Directors?

I was attracted to the idea after witnessing Deb's passion for the work and felt that I could have some impact in terms of fundraising and creating relationships for the organization.

Have you been influenced by any mentors in your own life?

My mother has always been my mentor—and continues in that role to this day. She



Sharon McNally with Big Sister of the Year Jessica Reardon and her Little Sister Victoria at our Big Sister Appreciation Breakfast.

has supported me with wisdom, patience, encouragement, and unconditional love and has provided me a model of strength, courage, and resourcefulness for which I am immeasurably thankful. Every girl deserves what I got from my mother.

What are some of your interests outside of your career and your work with Big Sister?

Although I left my catering career behind many years ago, I am still an avid cook and love entertaining family and friends. I am also a runner and exercise enthusiast, a reader, and a current events and political junkie.

How does your experience on Big Sister's board compare to your expectations?

Honestly, it takes more time than I expected it to, but anything worth doing usually falls into that category! I like my board colleagues, I like the work that we do to support the staff of Big Sister, and I love the opportunity to help bring about the relationships that are built between Big and Little Sisters. I'm proud to represent Big Sister in the Boston philanthropic community.

What is your vision for Big Sister over the next two years?

I see Big Sister growing to serve more girls, gaining in our reputation as thought leaders on mentoring girls, and attracting the attention of the new breed of philanthropists. I want us to be bolder in our self-image and "edgier" in our presentation. We ARE reliable and tried and true, but I'd like us to be seen as a little more exciting than that—because the work that we're doing is!

Congrats to the Winner of our 24th Annual BMW Raffle!

Big Sister Association recently celebrated the successful completion of our 24th Annual BMW Raffle, held in partnership with Herb Chambers BMW of Boston. Boston resident Jeremy Ragus, a Managing Director at SCS Financial, was this year's lucky grand prize winner. The raffle drawing, which was held at 100 Summer Street in Boston on Monday, July 30 drew a crowd as anxious participants and Big Sister supporters gathered in anticipation of the results. Little Sister Faith of Dorchester, age 10, accompanied by her Big Sister Sharyn Clemente, pulled ticket #130, the only ticket that had been purchased by Ragus. Alexis Harvey, Big Sister Association's Vice President of Operations, called Ragus to give him the good news. "You're kidding!" was his response. Ragus was given the choice of either a brand new BMW or \$38,000 in cash; he chose the car, and selected a powder blue convertible. "When I was younger, I always dreamed of having a BMW," Ragus said as he admired his new vehicle.

Thanks to the raffle participants, we were able to sell out all 1,750 available tickets for the second year in a row. Your generosity will enable us to provide Big Sisters for more of Boston's girls in 2012. We look forward to your continued support in next year's raffle. Who knows... we could be announcing your name at next year's drawing!



Melissa Steffy, General Manager of Herb Chambers BMW of Boston; CEO Deborah Re; Jeremy Ragus, grand prize winner.

From Big Sister Staff Member to Big Sister of the Year: An Interview with Diane Ivey

Big Sister of the Year Diane Ivey has been matched with her Little Sister Tiffany for nearly three years.

You were a Big Sister staff member before you became a mentor. What made you decide that you wanted to become a Big Sister yourself?

I actually always wanted to become a Big Sister, even when I was a staff member. I was working at Big Sister and attending graduate school part-time, which required me to study on weeknights and weekends, so I did not feel that it was the right time to be a Big Sister. When I made the decision to focus full-time on my Master's degree, I decided it was time to become a mentor. It's been really important to me to be a positive role model to young adults, particularly girls, and after seeing how much work and dedication Big Sister Association actually does in the community, I knew I was ready to be a Big Sister myself. Often times as adults we are so focused on our work that taking the time to mentor really brings what's truly important to life.

Who is one role model that you have had in your life?

I have many role models in my life and all of them have been women. I am very proud to say that. A woman who has mentored me from afar through her passion, perseverance, humanitarian efforts, and hard work is Ms. Oprah Winfrey. Many people have said Ms. Winfrey is their mentor and, yes, I can join that list. I can relate to some parts of Ms. Winfrey's childhood and adolescence, as well as the fact that I majored in Mass Communications in undergraduate school in the South in hopes of one day becoming a powerful journalist. Seeing Ms. Winfrey on television every day

gave me that extra confidence to continue on. Although my career path has taken a different route, Ms. Winfrey's life lessons gave me the courage to not only finish my degree in Mass Communications but in Political Science as well. Her way of thinking about life and what life has to offer has allowed me to learn from my mistakes and grow as a woman—a businesswoman. As I turn 33 years old in December, I realize that I am still young, but I am stronger, wiser, bolder, and more confident than I have ever been before. I have no regrets in

start young. I don't believe that at all. I believe that the teenage years are the most crucial point in a young adult's life. I know it was for me, and I wanted to make sure that I was able to mentor a teenage girl.

What has been the most interesting activity that you and Tiffany have done together?

The most interesting activity that Tiffany and I have done was attend the Wake Up the Earth festival in Jamaica Plain. It was something new for

"Being a Big Sister is not only about mentoring a young girl, it's about becoming friends with a girl who will one day be a strong and confident woman like you."



Big Sister Diane Ivey and Little Sister Tiffany met Representative Gloria Fox at our National Mentoring Month celebration.

my life decisions and I am more resolved about my past; Ms. Winfrey has taught me all of this as a woman who exemplifies love, compassion, commitment, and fearlessness.

When you were matched with your Little Sister Tiffany, she was a teenager. Did you request to be matched with a teenage girl?

I absolutely wanted to be matched with a teenager. I can remember when I was a teenage girl going through life's changes. There is a gap in the belief that mentoring is only successful if you

Tiffany, in particular exploring different ways neighborhoods celebrate as a community. We had fun. However, our favorite activities to do together are actually going to movies, plays, and art museums. As Tiffany is attending the Boston Arts Academy and I have my own fiber arts business, we naturally enjoy all mediums of art.

Has your worldview changed since you have become a Big Sister?

My worldview has not changed, at least not in the way that I view the importance of a gender specific program. I have always believed that there needs to be an urgency to provide equal resources and opportunities to girls and women around

the world. We are at a crucial point in women's equality at all age levels, and our community leaders, politicians, and world leaders need to make this a global humanitarian effort.

What advice would you give to a woman who is considering becoming a Big Sister?

Being a Big Sister is not only about mentoring a young girl, it's about becoming friends with a girl who will one day be a strong and confident woman like you. All she needs is guidance, friendship, and a listener.



2012 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between April 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012. Thank you for your generous support!

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Jodi Wolin

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between April 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

12 Years

Ellen DePaul Fisher & Thelma

11 Years

Anna Vijayan & Ashly

10 Years

Katherine Potter & Angel
Kelly Henry & Anjelica

9 Years

Lelia King & Deidre
Clarinda Spinelli & Samantha
Melissa Carino & Anais

8 Years

Susan Rosa & Caprice

7 Years

Julie Plunkett & Ana
Ellen Royalty & Alyssa
Mary Dunclee & Heather
Lindsey Lohwater & Rosemary
Paula Rotenberg & Samantha

6 Years

Pamela Woo & Anisha
Angela Seay & Asia
Karen Angrisano & Genesis
Michelle Danis & Jennifer
Mandy Yeung & Ashley
Alexa Kontes & Chimene
Megan Belanger & Mara
Heather Ferguson & Emma
Laurie Boucher & Lacey

Lenora Clark Epps & Andrea
Erin Hayes & Kiara
Leah Hart Tennen & Christina
Lindsay Gosselin & Makayla
Irene Shui & Kiara
Angela Gomes & Ashley

5 Years

Emily Culler & Amber
Barbara Uttaro & Tatiana
Allison Rogers & Sierra
Lisa Pontes Siniawski & Ajaria
Dawn Leanness & Crisleydi
Julia Barrett & Victoria
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha
Stephanie O'Leary & Victoria
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah
Nicole Cushion & Nelise
Alison Little & Tatiana
Renee Gallagher & Nelly
Rimi Chakraborty & Jennifer
Erin Sunderland & Alexandra
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari
Tania Rizzi & Sabrina



Big Sister Rachel Howden and Little Sister Aleahna



Big Sister Evelyn Reyes and Little Sister Blasmiry

4 Years

Jessica Vaverchak & Kiayra
Jillena Furr & Ja'Najia
Becky Ravenelle & Joelle
Christy Dole & Kaleigh Ann
Nancy Zabe & Jasmine
Colleen O'Connor-Wise & Serina
Tina McDavitt & Teyasia
Zoe Agnew & Tamauri
Kristine McKinney & Fannie
Lisa Northrup & Kaitlin
Amanda Thompson & Taquasha
Lucy Bezdek & Destiny
Melissa Zandman & Rodas
Sarah Wood & Edna

3 Years

Kristin Prescott & Jazmin
Kendalle White & Jazmyne
Megan Lodde & Jessica
Stefanie Magner & Mariana
Michelle Kwasny & Nia
Amy Garanin & Serina
Brenna Downing & Amaia
Maura Stanton & Mariah
Monica Mancuso & Yaritza
Kate Ellis & Demetra
Victoria Shea & Kaleesha
Amanda Marshall & Taina
Kristin Stashenko & Sabrina
Sandy Stutsman & Reina
Kate Bell & Teanna
Latoya Gamble & Quiline
Leigh Doherty & Aoife
Angela Teixeira & Jenny
Laurin Becker & Cassandra
Paula Carnelli & Brittney
Anoushka Riley & Abby
Kara Conceison & Anna
Brenda Anthony & Haley
Catherine Schaefer & Shelby
Kathryn Eisnor & Kourtney
Elmire Oriol & Maurisa
Amy Cho & Robyn

2 Years

Jill Merna & Jacquelyn
Shantell Smith & Abreah
Andrea Contreras & Yanializ
Ishasemnay Allen & Celena
Jessica Lee Menendez & Lesley
Caitlin MacNeil & Brianna
Jill Bradley & Catherine
Phally Eth & Patricia
Kathleen Langlois & Liany
Sara Cooney & Labria
Kathleen Flynn & Midori
Rachel Vorkink & Lauren
Emily Osgood & Katelynn
Karen Lincoln & Riley
Sofia Lingos & Jennifer
Kimberly Palladino & Brande
Kelli Carroll & Sabrina
Katrina Holmstedt & Damoni
Jaime Steele & Yandreimy
Julia Geisman & Mariah
Marybeth Nolan & Savannah

1 Year

Therese Claxton & Selena
Karen Thibault & Jazmin
Clara Smith & Lydia
Angela Coton & Janalys
Magi Lindeman & Teala
Lara Trevino & Khadeejah
Jessie Savage & Ashley
Chinonso Azuakolam & Jahniece
Hannah Hernandez & Jahnaiza
Carlene Roberts & Jahlissa
Pam Carrier & Arianna
Anne Mackin & Darianna
Meredith Tunney & Keyara
Jennifer Neira & Franchesca
Shanell Mosley & Kaprii
Heather Carbone & Desiya
Judy Carter & Trinady
Erin Kelley & Jeshanah
Melissa Nazar & Makela

Amy Zimmerman & Jhobeyda
Megan Hall & Thalia
Lily Lynch & Xikiyah
Amanda Strojny & Danaya
Alexandra Washuk & Molly
Kelly Stebbins & Alana
Jennifer Anderson & Malaysia
Lianna Danielle Pizzo & Jerri
Laura Sullivan & Gabriella
Virginia Cohen & Corima
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Two Ways to Support Big Sister on September 29



On Saturday, September 29, Big Sister Association will participate in the annual Rodman Ride for Kids, an umbrella charity event that raises funds for various children's social service agencies in Massachusetts, including Big Sister. The Rodman Ride is a 25, 50, or 100-mile non-competitive bike ride through scenic southeastern Massachusetts. After riding, participants enjoy an all day barbecue, with great food and the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes. If you would like to join Team Big Sister, visit <http://bit.ly/TeamBigSister2012>

September 29 is also the first Boston.com's Running with the Bridesmaids, a one-mile fun run through Boston Common that benefits Big Sister Association. Post-race, runners clad in old bridesmaid dresses will kick up their heels at the brunch reception in Downtown Crossing, where they will enjoy great food and drinks, and find out if they placed in the "best dressed" prize ceremony. One lucky winner and five friends will receive a trip to Las Vegas! More information on reception location and dress categories may be found here: <http://bit.ly/BSABridesmaids>.



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

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Save the Date for Big Sister's

Big in Boston

When:

Saturday, November 10, 2012

Honoring:

Dr. Paula Johnson

Where:

Museum of Fine Arts



Every Girl, a Masterpiece