Big Sister Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Sister CEO Awarded Lewis Changing People's Lives Award

Alan and Harriet Lewis (far left and far right) award Big Sister Chief Executive Officer Deborah Re the Lewis Changing People's Lives Award.

Deborah Re, the CEO of Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, was awarded the **Harriet and Alan Lewis Changing People's Lives Award** by **Grand Circle Foundation** (GCF) at the annual foundation dinner held at their South Boston offices.

The award recognizes a leader who has achieved outstanding results in the face of adversity and who has significantly impacted the lives of others through risk taking, entrepreneurial spirit, and leadership.

Upon receiving her award, Re shared her appreciation for Harriet and Alan Lewis' generosity and commitment to children's organizations throughout Boston. "I am grateful for Harriet and Alan's continued investment in Big Sister and their support for our mission. I know that they are going to push me, to challenge me to climb mountains, and to achieve excellence as a leader. But they will not ask me to do it alone; they will be right there with me."

As part of the award, Re will receive a trip for two anywhere that Overseas Adventure Travel or Grand Circle Travel has programs. The Foundation will also give $25,000 to Big Sister.

Past winners include **Andrea Howard**, Executive Director of the West End House Boys & Girls Club, **Erica Jamison**, Executive Director of **City on a Hill**, and **Susan Rodgerson**, CEO of Artists for **Humanity**.

23rd Annual BMW Raffle

Are you ready for summer's most exciting chance to give back and win big? A hot, new 2012 BMW 3 Series convertible or a cool $38,000 in cash could be yours. Tickets are on sale now until 11am on July 29! Look for us with the red BMW in downtown Boston June through July.

Visit **www.bigsister.org** for tickets.

Special thanks to our raffle partner:
Herb Chambers BMW of Boston
www.herbchambersbmw.com

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!
E-mail: claine@bigsister.org

Looking Back, Moving Forward

FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JERRY MARTINSON

For more than two decades, **Jeraldine 'Jerry' Martinson** served at the helm of Big Sister Association of Greater Boston until 2006 when she exchanged New England winters for blazing year-round sunshine in New Mexico.

Her involvement with Big Sister started in 1969, when she first became a Big Sister to Doreen Koenig. In speaking about her Little Sister, who currently works in the Boston Public School System, Jerry states "I didn't make the potential; that was always there. What we did was put options in front of the girls. Otherwise, how do you become something you've never seen?"

Watching her beloved organization from afar, Jerry confesses that though she does miss it, she is so proud of how much continues to be accomplished and how the organization continues to grow and innovate. For example, she values the High School Mentoring Academy as a creative solution to serve more girls in Dorchester.

She is buoyed by the commitment of Big Sister to remain a girl-serving organization and is impressed by the board, management, and staff's dedication to the mission. When asked what she hoped for the future of Big Sister in the next 60 years, her primary desire is for the organization to continue to focus on girls.

Visit **www.bigsister.org** for the full interview.

ISSUE 16 | SPRING 2011

Highlights

- 12th Annual Celebrity Chef Raises $157,000
- Match Highlight: A Father's Perspective
- Lemonade Day Gives Little Sisters A Taste For Small Business

12th Annual Celebrity Chef @ Radius Raises $157,000 to Support Little Sisters

Matthew Audette, Seth and Angela Raynor, Dante de Magistris, Jamie Bissonette, Evan Deluty, PJ Waters, and Michael Schlow.

The ambience was bright and lively as old and new friends gathered at **Radius** for Big Sister's twelfth annual **Celebrity Chef Dinner** on Sunday April 10. One hundred and twenty guests came to support Big Sister and to sample the culinary delights of six of Boston's most talented chefs. Owner, renowned chef and long-time Big Sister supporter, **Michael Schlow**, hosted the dinner and made guests feel like they were at a family gathering.

Chef **Jamie Bissonette** (**Toro** and **Coppa**) kicked off the meal with tuna crudo, coupled with charred and pickled ramps, sunchokes, celery and fermented black beans. **Dante de Magistris** (**Restaurant Dante** and **Il Calsale**) served a rich pasta e fagioli made with mafalde pasta, octopus, pine nuts and grappa-soaked raisins. Not to be outdone, **Stella**'s **Evan Deluty** plated Atlantic salmon over a spring pea timbal made with a morel mushroom broth. Breaking with the seafood theme, **Seth Raynor** (**The Pearl**, **Corazon del Mar**, and the **Boarding House**) presented arepas, topped with red chili pork, and dressed with a guasacaca sauce, cotija, sour cream, cilantro and lime. The fifth course, created by **Radius**' own **Matthew Audette**, was a slow-roasted veal sirloin teamed with truffled pommes purée, spring vegetables and a lobster vinaigrette. **PJ Waters**, also of Radius, finished the meal with a coconut rice pudding with passion fruit gelato, prickly pair sauce and crispy soba noodles.

In between courses, emcee **Lisa Hughes** of **WBZ-TV** enlivened guests and congratulated Big Sister on mobilizing 170,000 volunteer hours in 2010 to mentor girls. Former Little Sister **Jesse Kwan** recounted the life-changing impact of her Big Sister **Jackie Church** on what was the 22nd anniversary of her immigration to Boston from Hong Kong. Whether it was helping Jesse apply (and get into) Boston Latin Academy or encouraging her to learn new languages, Jackie was a steadfast and motivating force for Jesse.

"To the woman who taught me the importance of wearing socks and gloves in the Boston winter time,... who showed me to stand up for myself, who taught me to take smart risks, who taught me everything good that is in me, that if I work hard enough in life, that I might just accomplish my feats and defeat my innermost insecurities. If it weren't for her, I would never summon enough courage to talk to you today.

After Jesse's eloquent speech, guests were given the opportunity to take girls off our wait list. Moved by notes written by girls all over Boston who wanted a Big Sister who could be their friend, who could alleviate their loneliness, who could make them laugh or even help them learn English, attendees collectively pledged $52,000, enough to take 52 girls on our wait list. Altogether, Celebrity Chef at Radius raised $157,000 and will enable us to serve 157 more girls in 2011.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Michael Schlow and his fellow chefs for creating a delightful culinary experience. Special thanks are in order for board members, **Max Bardeen** and **Sharon McNally**, who have served as event co-chairs for two years in a row and whose tireless efforts made the event such a success. We would also like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors: The **Connors Family, Normandy Real Estate Partners** and **Suffolk Construction's Red & Blue Foundation**. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us put caring and supportive mentors in the lives of more of Greater Boston's girls.

$10,000

THE CONNORS FAMILY

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Claire Moriarty
Kevin O'Brien
Sheila Porcaro
Audrey Shelto
Ann Szerlip
Jeffrey Tetrault

60 Years Strong and Not Slowing Down

Here are just a few of the experiences that Big and Little Sisters have shared thanks to our generous community partners.

Little Sister KK enjoys her first Celtics game thanks to an anonymous donor.

Big and Little Sisters enjoy a day of sailing on the Tupelo Honey courtesy of Ann Flannery.

Girls on the wait list learn self defense at Emerald Necklace Martial Arts.

First Lady Diane Patrick & Little Sister Kenya at the circus.

Little Sister Heavynnae shows off her skating skills with Big Sister Stefanie O'Shea at the Steriti Skating Rink in the North End.

Genki Spark, Japanese Taiko drumming troupe, enlivens a crowd of Big and Little Sisters at the 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.

Thank you to Daniel Saul and Dr. Ranella Hirsch for funding Big Sister events at the deCordova Museum.

Match Highlight: A Father's Perspective

Father Daniel Collins Speaks About His Daughter Aoife's Friendship With Big Sister Leigh

Appassionata, enlightened, and revealing: the three words Daniel Collins uses to describe his daughter Aiofe, her Big Sister Leigh Doherty, and their relationship.

When **Aoife** (pronounced "ee-fa") first started kindergarten after moving to Boston from New York with her father, **Daniel Collins**, she knew there was something different about her family. She was one of the few children in her class in a single-parent household and perhaps the only child who did not live with her mother.

Seeing the impact this was having on his daughter, Daniel reached out to Big Sister in 2009. While he had been co-parenting Aoife with a close friend, **Amelia Stiles**, he recognized that his daughter yearned for additional female influences in her life. In wanting a Big Sister for his daughter, he wasn't looking for a replacement for her mother, who currently resides in Augusta, Maine. Rather he wanted to expand the network of adults who could help guide her through childhood.

Daniel, an only child himself, thinks back to his youth surrounded by his father's large family in western Massachusetts. He remembers his Uncle Jimmy Collins who had been a major influence on him, with much fondness. "It's one of those things that you carry with you for the rest of your life." He wanted his daughter to enjoy and benefit from this type of relationship with a caring adult. **Big Sister Leigh Doherty**, who Daniel describes as "enlightened," has certainly fit the bill.

"Leigh fills a role that no one else in our circle could," says Daniel. Her relationship with his daughter is very different from those Aoife has with him, Amelia and Aoife's mother. Leigh is more like a "favorite aunt," which is exactly what he was looking for.

Daniel admits that two years ago there had been several rocky moments for his non-traditional family. He is grateful for the ways in which Leigh acted as ballast for Aoife through those tough times.

"It would be difficult to overstate how important it was for Aoife to have a friend like Leigh to whom she could talk during those stressful days. I suppose that every family goes through such occasional periods of uncertainty. But for a child in that situation, having one reliable friend providing emotional continuity and stability ... can make all the difference between "one of those unpleasant things we all have to go through" and "a full-blown emotional disaster." Leigh's handling of the situation as it developed was careful, effective and, most importantly, always directed at Aoife's best interests... So three cheers for Leigh."

In the two years since they've been matched, Leigh has helped reveal the qualities and strengths that he knew his daughter had in her, but wasn't sure would get the chance to emerge. When asked to describe Aoife, Daniel chose *appassionata,* an Italian word, because "an English word just won't do" to sum her up. "She's a very warm-hearted person" he says. "She has the soul of an artist."

He notes that she is very perceptive to the feelings and motivations of others, a talent that she has started to channel into theater. At 11, he's seeing that she is really starting to come into her own. As he watches her confidence bloom, Daniel credits Leigh with helping foster these positive changes.

"My daughter is my hope for the future, my reason for getting up in the morning... so it's wonderful to see."

** Happy Father's Day to Daniel and all the fathers in Big Sister's Community.*

Join Big Sister's Online Campaign

2011 marks the 60th year of Big Sister Association mentoring girls in Greater Boston. As we celebrate this milestone, we are working hard to reach our goal of serving nearly 3,000 girls this year. **We need your help to do it!**

How can you help? Join Big Sister's 60th Anniversary online campaign! We're striving to raise $60,000 during our 60th Anniversary from our dedicated community of friends and supporters. There are thousands of people who want to make a difference; and no donation is too small. Using CrowdRise.com, we have made it easy for you to get involved!

Simply head over to our 60th Anniversary Project Page at http://www.crowdrise.com/bigsister60 and click "JOIN THIS TEAM." From there, you can create your own fundraising page. See an example of a Big Sister page at http://www.crowdrise.com/brennadowning (left). After you sign up, Brenna from the Big Sister staff will contact you with tips for making your page as effective as possible.

We don't just have a goal of raising $60,000 – we also want to involve as many of our friends as possible. So please start a page, tell your friends, and help us further support the girls of Greater Boston.

It costs $1,000 to make and support a match for one year. $60,000 will help create 60 mentoring relationships for the girls on our wait list.

Questions? Contact Brenna Downing at 617-236-5311 or bdowning@bigsister.org!

Lemonade Day Gives Little Sisters A Taste For Small Business

Little Sister Lulu and the Babson College Mascot in Jamaica Plain.

On May 1st, Little Sisters accompanied by their Big Sisters set up lemonade stands all over Boston as part of Lemonade Day, a national event dedicated to inspiring young children to be entrepreneurs by teaching them how to operate their own small business.

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston pairs girls ages seven to fifteen with a caring and supportive mentor who can help them realize their full potential. During the course of their mentoring relationship, a Big Sister will introduce her Little Sister to many new ideas and possibilities for her life and career that she might not have otherwise considered. Big Sister Association actively seeks partnerships and opportunities that provide enriching experiences for the girls we serve. It was with this in mind that we partnered with **Babson College**, along with Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, Friends of the Children - Boston, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families to bring Lemonade Day to Boston for the first time.

With the help of a mentor, the young entrepreneurs were shown how to establish their business, including setting goals, and creating and executing a plan. Most importantly, the exercise tries to teach the participants basic financial management and includes a component of philanthropy. The children are encouraged -- after covering their expenses and paying back their investors -- to open a youth savings account so they may save a little, spend a little and give a little, donating a portion of their profits to a local charity of their choice.

Big Sister Stefanie Magner reports, "**Mariana** and I had a wonderful day, and can't wait to participate in Lemonade Day again next year. My favorite part was watching her learn, and really begin to put things together and understand all of the pieces involved in running a business. I also think community involvement is very important. It was so wonderful to see how excited she got every time someone came up to buy lemonade, especially one of her school teachers who visited the stand because of a flyer she gave to him. It was like watching her realize that she is important."

Mariana selected Children's Hospital Boston as her charity of choice. "We are planning on going [Friday] to bring the money in person, because I want her to experience giving in person," says Stephanie.

Little Sister Patricia similarly enjoyed learning the different steps of running a business with her **Big Sister Amanda**. She is donating her $91 profits to a team racing in the annual Pan Mass Challenge.

After four hours of selling to happy customers, **Little Sister Nailea** didn't want the day to end. Her **Big Sister Erin Mahoney** reports "She kept convincing me to make a little more lemonade for a few more customers. Not only did we have a great time together, but I was really proud of Nailea for grasping the concept of "spend, save, give." She found self confidence in being able to buy a new outift for herself, gifts for her family, and still have money to save. We plan to hold a summertime lemonade stand when school is out. Nailea wants to use the money she earns to take her mom out for a special lunch."

Little Sister Nailea plans to take her mom to a special lunch with the profits from her next lemonade stand.

High School Mentoring Academy Big Sister Honored

Big Sister Vanessa Tabuteau named "Young Shero" by City Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Felix Arroyo for her dedication to mentoring.

Ask **Little Sister Maya** who her "shero" is and she will tell you it is her **Big Sister Vanessa Tabuteau**. For more than two years, Vanessa, a busy high school student, has been a consistent presence in Maya's life. Each week, Vanessa spends an hour outside of her schoolwork and extracurricular activities to be Maya's mentor. If it were not for caring young women like Vanessa, girls like Maya would not have Big Sisters in their school.

When Big Sister Association launched our High School Mentoring Academy in 2007, it was in response to a need for mentors at the Trotter Elementary School in Grove Hall. The school's location makes it difficult for women working in the city to travel conveniently to and from the school during the day. The solution lay just around the corner – literally. Dorchester's Boston Latin Academy, an exam school comprised of students from around the city, was just down the street; its high-achieving pupils would make ideal mentors. Sophomore to senior girls meet with elementary school-aged girls at the Trotter, on a weekly basis.

Vanessa, now a senior, became a Big Sister in her sophomore year. She is committed to being a role model to a girl growing up in her community, a girl in whom she can see a younger version of herself. Whether it is playing a board game, reading a book, or just talking, she is giving Maya the support and attention she needs to believe in herself. Maya may not know the answer to every math problem, but she does know that once a week she will walk into the school library and her Big Sister will be there just for her.

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

2010-2011 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of $100 or more, excluding Celebrity Chef @ Radius and Urban Beach Party donations, to Big Sister Association between Dec 1, 2010 and April 15, 2011. Thank you for your generous support!

Inspiration Maker $10,000+

Sandy & Paul Edgerley
Jean Tempel & Peter Wilson

Inspiration Maker $5,000 - $9,999

Beth & Anthony Terrana

Friendship Maker $2,500 - $4,999

Laura & Drew Carnase
Linda & Paul Carter
Judith & Lionel Fortin
Sue Hoffman
Aileen & Terry Keaney
Robin & Vincent Loporchio
Lauren & Rob Neill

Match Maker $1,000 - $2,499

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Karin Kahn* & Jay Lebed
Annette & Robert Leckie
Linda & Timothy O'Brien
Lynne & Jon O'Connor
Susan Okie Bush
Marina & George Reiser
Martha & Edward Roney
Donald Thompson
Pat Tietbohl & Doug Romich

Laughter Maker $500-$999

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Patricia Thomas*
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Mary Wakefield

Smile Maker $100-$499

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Benjamin Barnes
Alice Batchelor*
Margaret Beatty
Maureen Mathews & Robert Belknap
Susan & George Bergmann
Amy Bizar
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Kenneth Brown
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Joanne Callahan
Diane Carraway Piette & Edward Piette
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Pepsi Co
State Street Corporation
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**Denotes Legacy Society members: current and former Big Sisters*

Happy Anniversary!

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between January 1, 2011 and March 31, 2011. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

12 YEARS
Sarah Meeks & Cassandra

10 YEARS
Adrienne Armstrong & Briana
Ruth Hagearty & Racheal
Marisa Jones & Yvette
Kati Livingston & Felicia

9 YEARS
Ellen Daley & Lisette
Megan Flynn & Camille
Erica Greany & Sherly
Elizabeth McVey & Tachauna
Jessica Sandland & Rachel

8 YEARS
Nancy Christiansen & Angelique
Judy Dombrowski & Ashlyn
Leslie Greenfield & Tanissa
Audrey Paek & Samantha
Elena Proakis-Ellis & Kaitlyn
Julie Sahlins & Samantha

7 YEARS
Cindy Arens & Helen
Michelle Dolan & Mabel
Jamie Doyle & Jalisa
Jessica Healy & Kimberly
Linda Hughes & Emily
Evangelia Lambidoni & Jacqueline
Megan Lipman & Ilcia
Jenn Reale & Angel

6 YEARS
Andrea Bernard & Myeisha
Tamara Johnson & Jazmyne
Dina Pradel & Shanice
Jane Unaeze & Tiesha
Meagan Walker & Ashley

5 YEARS
Fahmida & Bashar Jesenia
Katie Basilotto & Jessica
Kayla Celani & Javienne
Marissa Cohen & Leonor
Ekaette Dunel & Ronique
Beth Favaloro & Cindy
Meredith Hubbell & Jovanna
Heidi Katz & Latikia
Vanessa Loeblich & che tibBritney
Kelly Morgan & Joyce
Stacy Pyron & Nicole
Angelica Vargas & Paola
Nicole West & Shadajiah

4 YEARS
Nicole Benson & Jami-Lyn
Anne Bost & Ranajia
Lisa Cavallo & Vivian
Kathleen Cross & Stephanie
Jennie Dubitsky & Keyana
Patricia Fallon & Laura
Aine Friend & Khadija
Susan Jones & Elizabeth
Sondra Korman & Samantha
Sabrena Maldonado & Shayla
Leslee Parker & Aleysia
Michelle Probert & Kassandra
Diana Quecano & Elisa
Annika Rafkind & Chloe
Kelly Richburg & Stephanie
Evelyn Robertson & Idalis
Andrea Santilli & Sarita
Stefanie Smith & Cheyenne
Laurie Speranzo & Selena
Caitriona Taylor & Samantha
Sally Vail & Julyanna

3 YEARS
Courtney Boen & Mayisel
Sarah Clark & Tacora
Maureen Connelly & Laree
Carmen Davis & Nataly
Melissa Ferguson & Kimberlie
Lisa Florenzano & Juliana
Juliana Gamble & Jaedah
Monica Garlick & Sherrelle
Paula Gentile & Kassandra
Hyacinth John & Taniushka
Kristy Kirby & Jenna
Patricia Layne & Brittney
Shelly Meier & Samantha
Alyssa Moskos & Kimberly
Kristen Paonessa & Brittany
Audra Peek & Adonia
Elizabeth Quigley & Mary
Mindy Reiser & Ashly
Amber Servi & Taylor
Lauren Stephenson & Jaliyah
Angela Tamzen & Justine
Valerie Wencis & Alecia

2 YEARS
Linda Antonucci & Elaine
Anne Baker & Carmelita
Nicole Belanger & Ashley
Jill Benham & Tanya
Vaneta Bernard & Victoria
Emma Boswell & Stefanie
Lian Chen & Yadielis
Betty Chu & Melissa
Katie Coleman & Kathy
Jennifer Coners & Tiana
Andrea Constantino & Jarisellis
Lauren Crowne & Wilmairy
Kristin Davis & Ilene
Michelle DuBow & Britney
Jessica Dunner & Natalia
Christine Florio & Janielis
Alexa Goins & Taenari
Karin Goodfellow & Shaniqua
Francesca Gordon & Carol
Melissa Graves & Amira
Sia Herr & Kevonna
Melissa Howell & Ashley
Diane Ivey & Tiffany
Jasmine Jean Jacques & Lisbeth
Valerie Kesaris & Jade
Hannah Krulewitch & Tracy
Danielle McDonough & Heizy
Anna Maria Melachrinou & Ginely
Molly Monaco & Angelica
Andreina Morales & Evelyn
Jenee Morgan & Sabrena
Lauren Nasella & Vitianna
Jennifer Nestor & Rebecca
Bridget O'Donnell & Vanessa
Layne Petrie & Alejandra
Lisa Pollack & Victoria
Claudia Rodriguez & Selena
Kondeleye Ross & Alshun
Janeen Shepard & Haley
Carol Sisson & Wendy
Brooke Thomas & Casandra
Tishayla Vanalstyne & Iliana
Lindsay Vozar & Cynthia
Audrina Warren & Celixia

1 YEAR
Katie Abarr & Zaire
Dana Aidekman & Laura
Valerie Avila & Natacki
Jennifer Baker & Hannah
Rebecca Barstein & Luz
Raeha Blouin & Rayonna
Afia Boakye & Janijah
Kelley Borer & Arielle
Angela Bray & Makayla
Marion Briggs & Jacqueline
Elizabeth Broda & Shanice
Jessica Caplice & Jasmine
Andrea Caputo & Aujha
Amanda Chan & Kelly
Molly Chase & Aleena
Samantha Chin & Jazmin
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BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Brother and Big Sister Share Wedding Day with Little Sister and Little Brother of Honor

For many couples who are about to tie the knot, the toughest part of planning their wedding is deciding who to invite. For **Leslee Parker**, 29, a Big Sister with Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, and **Jon Sproul**, 33, a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay, there were two guests who had to be there to make their special day complete.

Leslee asked her Little Sister 13-year old **Aleysia** of Cambridge to be her "Sister of Honor" and Jon asked his Little Brother 17-year old **Bryant** of Dorchester to be his "Brother of Honor" in their wedding which occurred Saturday May 21, 2011 at St. Thomas Chapel in Falmouth Heights.

"Once we decided we wanted to be married, we decided we wanted them in the wedding," Jon said last week. "They're such an important part of our lives, like family."

Bryant and Aleysia walked down the aisle with bridesmaids and groomsmen as part of the ceremony, joined the wedding party for pictures and were announced into the wedding reception at the Falmouth Yacht Club as "the Little Brother of Honor and the Little Sister of Honor."

The couple, originally from Barnstable but now living in the North End, has been serving as mentors to their Littles for a combined ten years. Jon, who works for Boston Public Schools, was first matched with Bryant, now a senior at Monument High School, in November 2005. Seeing her then boyfriend's relationship with Bryant, Leslee was inspired to become a Big Sister where she could provide nurturing guidance and support to a young girl. She was matched with Aleysia, an 8th grade student at the Martin Luther King School, in January 2007.

When asked about her match experience in 2008, Leslee remarked that it defied all her original expectations and that she looked forward to her friendship with Aleysia "growing for years to come". Indeed it has as Aleysia joined the bride and her bridesmaids as theyrode to the chapel in their limousine on the day of the ceremony.

Deborah Re, CEO of Big Sister Association, notes that such stories of Littles being part of their Bigs' wedding are fairly common.
"The bonds that develop between "Bigs" and "Littles" tend to move quickly into strong, long-lasting friendships. With matches that span years like Leslee and Jon's, Bigs get to watch their Littles grow up and often become like family."

** Congratulations to Big Sister Leslee and Little Sister Aleysia who also just celebrated their 4th match anniversary.*