

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Our History is Her Future

Dear Friends,

This is a very exciting time for Big Sister as we begin our 60th year of serving girls in Greater Boston! As the CEO of Big Sister, I am humbled by the thousands of people like you, who have given their time and resources over the years to help girls reach their full potential. Not only have you helped shape a girl's future, you have also impacted her family and her community. You have created multi-generational change, the impact of which will be felt for decades to come.

From our early roots in 1951, Big Sister has been at the forefront of providing innovative, gender-specific mentoring to girls. While the issues confronting a young girl have increased in complexity, her basic needs have not. She needs to be heard; she needs to develop confidence and self-reliance; she needs the ability to make good decisions and see how her present actions will impact her future. A Big Sister who will guide her in acquiring these life skills gives that girl the opportunity to become a confident, productive adult.

Former Little Sisters frequently tell us about the woman in her life who believed in her, who listened to her, who guided her: her Big Sister. The activities a Big and Little Sister share are simple: baking, playing games, going to the Aquarium, shooting hoops, combing the beach for shells, or simply walking through the park. And yet the impact is huge. Women who were once Little Sisters are now strong, confident adults. They are mothers, teachers, lawyers, and business leaders; they are women whose life's trajectory went in a new direction because someone showed them that they mattered.

At the age of sixty, many people begin to think about retirement. At Big Sister, we are just getting started. This year, we will unveil a new three-year strategic plan that combines decades of experience, skill, and knowledge with the ability to meet girls where they are today. We will be further immersed in Boston's neighborhoods, schools, community centers, and housing developments. We will seek out partnerships that give our Big and Little Sisters the opportunity to explore new skills and interests based on the unique stages of a girl's development. We will ask each of you to renew your commitment to the health and well-being of our City's girls.

Whether you are a Big Sister, a funder, a community partner, or a fellow advocate, your belief and investment in our work is changing a girl's life for the better, forever. We look forward to celebrating this landmark year with you through exciting events and stories that highlight the rich history and the vibrant future of Boston's premier mentoring organization for girls.

60 years of giving. 60 years of learning.
60 years of believing in girls.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to give girls the future they deserve.

Warm regards,



Deborah Re
Chief Executive Officer



This year's events will focus on our rich history and vibrant future...and of course, the girls!

Mark Your Calendar

FOR A YEAR OF BIG SISTER'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

- FEBRUARY 17:** OUR HISTORY IS HER FUTURE: CELEBRATING 60!
- MARCH 9:** RISE & INSPIRE BREAKFAST
- APRIL 10:** CELEBRITY CHEF DINNER @ RADIUS
- APRIL 16:** BIG SISTER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
- MAY 9:** ANNUAL MEETING
- JUNE 9:** URBAN BEACH PARTY
- JULY 9:** BIG SISTER SUMMER PICNIC
- JULY 29:** BMW RAFFLE DRAWING
- SEPTEMBER 24:** RODMAN RIDE FOR KIDS
- OCTOBER 20:** BIG SISTER HALLOWEEN PARTY
- NOVEMBER 12:** BIG IN BOSTON AT THE MFA
- DECEMBER 10:** BIG SISTER WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY

Be sure to check www.bigsister.org for updates and event details!

ISSUE 15 | WINTER 2011

Highlights

- ★ Big in Boston Brings Girls to Forefront
- ★ Celebrating Our Big Sisters of the Year
- ★ Former Big & Little Sister Reflect on Special Bond



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

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

Big in Boston Brings Girls to Forefront

Attention passengers: A girl's future is now approaching. This refrain rang throughout the evening on Tuesday, November 9, at our annual Big in Boston celebration. Thanks to more than 450 guests who gathered at The Westin Copley Place Boston and to Big in Boston's corporate sponsors, we raised more than \$500,000 in support of Big Sister's mentoring programs for girls.

The night glittered with the sights and sounds of the MBTA and the voices of those whose lives have been transformed by a Big Sister. Street musicians, images of trains racing by, and live announcements from **Chief Paul MacMillan** of the MBTA Transit Police evoked the daily ritual of many Bostonians. Guests dined in a ballroom where event guru **Bryan Rafanelli** made the familiar setting of a train station come alive, right down to the Charlie ticket napkin rings. Three ambitious Little Sisters, beaming at the Big Sisters by their side, opened the program by announcing

what they plan to be when they are "big" in Boston: a physicist, an actress, and a veterinarian. A man who truly is "big" in Boston then took the stage: **Mayor Menino**. The Mayor addressed the challenges facing girls today

and lauded the Big Sisters and those who support us for being a key part of the solution.

As the evening progressed, guests heard from those who have been directly affected by our work. The first was **Alyson Tayetto**, a former Little Sister, who is now 22 years old and earning her Master's degree in psychology. She is the first in her family to attend and graduate from college. She spoke about the isolation she felt as a girl from Roxbury attending school in Lexington through the Metco program. In 1998, Alyson was matched with **Big Sister Susan Hook**. "My Big Sister simply let me be me. Instead of being passive and shy, I became confident. Instead of being angry and frustrated, I became happy," said Alyson. Among those listening to her speak was Susan Hook herself, who traveled from Florida to support her former Little Sister!

Alyson's inspiring story was followed by **Little Sister Janelle** and her mother, **Sharon**, who shared a touching tribute to Janelle's Big Sister Jessica. Sharon spoke about raising her daughter in a neighborhood where she witnesses teenage girls getting pregnant and dropping out of school. Janelle was overweight and teased by other kids: "I was worried that if Janelle didn't feel good about herself, she wasn't going to grow up making good decisions," said Sharon. "I decided that a Big Sister could relate to Janelle on a level I just couldn't. Big Sister Association brought Jessica and my daughter together in a relationship that has been life-changing." In the five years since they were matched, Jessica has encouraged Janelle to

lead a healthier, more active lifestyle.

According to Janelle, Jessica never once criticized her. This non-judgmental support resulted in some serious changes for Janelle and a weight loss of 22 pounds. Sharon noted that she too became more active and started eating better as a result of her daughter's efforts.

The evening ended with the presentation of our **Believe In Girls** award. This year's recipient was **At-Large City Councilor Ayanna Pressley**. Councilor Pressley was chosen in recognition of her civic leadership, advocacy on behalf of women and girls, support of mentoring, and the care and guidance she offers her own Little Sister of nearly one year, Arianna. She stressed: "In order for girls to be it, they must first see it."

Many thanks are in order to those who made Big in Boston a success. We would like to thank Big in Boston co-chairs, **Jerry Rossi of The TJX Companies, Inc.** and **Fredi Shonkoff of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**; Big in Boston emcee, **Lisa Hughes of WBZ-TV**, our Big in Boston sponsors (listed below); our Big in Boston host committee; and our dedicated Board of Directors. We especially want to thank all those who attended and showed their support for Greater Boston's girls. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Big in Boston as we celebrate our 60th anniversary!



Mimi & Paul La Camera, Melissa MacDonnell, Blake Jordan and Alicia Verity support mentoring at Big in Boston



Big in Boston! Mayor Menino with Alyson Tayetto, her former Big Sister, and her mother Althea

\$50,000

Holly McGrath & David Bruce

\$35,000



\$25,000



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Meet Our Big Sisters of the Year

Who was really BIG in Boston this year? Big Sisters! On November 9, we celebrated our Big Sisters and Community Partner of the Year. These outstanding women have gone above and beyond in bringing our mission to life. The awards were presented by **Tufts Health Plan**, who believes in the healthy impact all of our Big Sisters are making on their Little Sisters and our community.

IRENE SHUI Community-Based Mentoring

Irene, who lives in Jamaica Plain and is an epidemiologist for **Harvard Pilgrim Health Care**, has been matched with **Little Sister Kiara** for more than four years. In that time she's helped the formerly shy Kiara, now 16, blossom into a more confident and outgoing young woman. Kiara lives with her mother and two brothers in the South End. Due to her eldest son's mental health and behavioral challenges, Kiara's mother feared that her daughter would get lost in the shuffle. Though Kiara's mother strives to set a positive example for her daughter, she felt a Big Sister would be able to further expand Kiara's horizons. "Irene takes the possibilities that I hold out to my daughter—that women can study hard, work hard, and play hard, travel, explore, and be independent, while still in loving relationships—and shows them to her as reality," said Kiara's mother.



"Irene does so much with her life: she's working, going to school, taking care of herself and her family, she travels, has fun, and has a life, but she always has time for me," said Kiara. Irene and Kiara enjoy activities ranging from the new and different to the everyday. They take advantage of community service opportunities together, love to watch movies and cook, and often just go for a walk and chat. "We combine doing fun things with having serious conversations about our futures, school, jobs, relationships, and current events," said Irene. Through these interactions, Kiara credits her Big Sister with improving her social skills and attitude toward learning. "I've always been really shy, and I guess being around Irene so much has helped a lot," said Kiara. "She's helped me improve my academic success too," added Kiara. "I remember telling her at our first meeting that I loved to read and one of the first things she ever gave me was a book."

JESSICA ROY Community-Based Mentoring

Jessica, who lives in Natick and is a trader at **The Baupost Group**, has been matched with **Little Sister Janelle** for more than five years. Janelle lives with her parents and her twin brother in Boston's South End. Before she was matched with her Big Sister, Janelle felt insecure when kids at school



teased her because of her weight. The teasing made it difficult for Janelle to concentrate on her schoolwork. Janelle's mother was pained to see her daughter's feelings hurt and upset that it was affecting her academic abilities. She felt that a caring adult outside the family who could broaden her daughter's horizons and spend time with her on a one-to-one basis would benefit Janelle.

Now 13 years-old, Janelle has become an outgoing, self-assured young woman well-equipped to enter her teen years. "I'm seeing a new Janelle, and overall I like what I am seeing," said her mother. Janelle's friendship with Jessica has given her the confidence to make healthy decisions and do better in school. Janelle's mother reports that she is able to pick good friends and though she was once a struggling student, her grades now are mostly A's and B's. "Jessica makes me feel seriously good," said Janelle. "I was overweight and she helped me with healthier eating and exercise. The important thing about this was that I never felt criticized by her. She helps me be a better me!"

The Baupost Group wishes to congratulate Jessica Roy on her "Big Sister of the Year" Award. Your colleagues are very proud of your contributions and commitment to such a worthy organization!

BETH FAVALORO School-Based Mentoring

Beth, who lives in Charlestown and is a managing director at **Putnam Investments**, has been matched with **Little Sister Cindy** for more than four years. Though Cindy, who is now in sixth grade, recently transitioned from the Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown to the Josiah Quincy Upper School, Beth continued to make Cindy a priority. "It never crossed my mind not to come back each year," said Beth.

Beth has always been full of ideas, often creating lists with Cindy at the beginning of the year that include activities they would like to accomplish. These activities range from taking pictures and making collages, to painting their nails, making bracelets, and playing games. "I most enjoy when we talk about what's happening in our lives," said Cindy. Beth has nurtured her Little Sister's confidence by being open and listening, which has allowed Cindy to shed her once intensely shy demeanor and become a gregarious young woman. Beth has consistently been open to the support of her Big Sister social worker and advocated for more Big and Little Sister matches at the school, notifying her social worker of girls who expressed an interest in the program.



LIZ MICHEELS Group Mentoring Mentoring

Big Sister's Group Mentoring program, **TEAM** (Team Enhanced Approach to Mentoring), runs throughout the academic year at middle schools in and around Boston. In this program, specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of adolescent girls, a group of Big Sisters engages in structured activities and discussions with a group of Little Sisters under the leadership of a Big Sister social worker or Master of Social Work level intern.

Liz, who lives in Newton, has been a life-long volunteer, working with organizations that promote the healthy development of adolescents and women's reproductive health. While many **TEAM** Big Sisters may participate in the program for a couple of years, Liz has gone above and beyond in her commitment by volunteering as a **TEAM** Big Sister for seven years at three different sites in the Boston area. Liz strives to make each girl in her group feel included. She is attentive to the simple details, like bringing a healthy snack for everyone, and to the larger issues, such as identifying sources of conflict among the girls. Most importantly, she never gives up on them. "Even when the girls seem tough at first, I love the process of getting to know them, seeing how smart and caring they really are," said Liz. She remembers details about the girls' lives, as well as her fellow Big Sisters, and makes a point to check in with each person. Liz consistently brings a positive attitude to the group that is contagious and genuine.

JESSICA DUGAN Director of Community & Business Partnerships, Boston Renaissance Charter School Community Partner of the Year

Jessica has been the driving force behind Big Sister Association's partnership with the Boston Renaissance Charter School since 2004. In the past five years, we have served more than 60 girls through our School-Based Mentoring program and 140 girls through our Group Mentoring programs at the school. Jessica has been a consistent, engaged site contact who strongly believes that our mission is an asset to the girls in her school. "Big Sister's programs help us support the social and emotional development of our students. This is a core part of our mission as we work to eliminate barriers to students' academic success," said Jessica. "Girls gain skills in leadership, healthy decision-making, and social responsibility, with the added benefit of developing a relationship with a female mentor." Jessica enthusiastically resolved challenges involving both space and scheduling for our program and advocated for the continuation of our partnership when the Renaissance made its transition from downtown Boston to Hyde Park in 2010.



Where Are They Now?

FORMER BIG AND LITTLE SISTER JACKIE CHURCH AND JESSE KWAN

In April 1989, Jesse Kwan and her mother left their home in Hong Kong in search of a better life. Jesse's mom had sought greater opportunities before, when she escaped China's communist regime in hopes of getting an education and the freedom to live the life she wanted. She eventually married, settled in Hong Kong, and gave birth to Jesse, whose given name is Wai Lam. Jesse's father immigrated to the United States shortly after his daughter was born in an effort to establish the new life he and his wife sought. He settled in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood and began working at a local restaurant.

Eight years later, Jesse and her mother arrived in Boston. Jesse was devastated to leave her home and the large extended family that filled it. She wondered how she could possibly have a better life with a father she had never known, in a country whose language and customs were unfamiliar to her. One year after their arrival, Jesse's father died unexpectedly, leaving Jesse and her mother alone, struggling to make ends meet in a country completely foreign to them.

Jesse and her mother moved to Brighton where nine year-old Jesse took on the role of a parent: translating conversations with the landlord, interpreting utility bills, and talking to shopkeepers. She got herself to school every day at the Harvard Kent in Charlestown, and to an after-school program at the Josiah Quincy in Chinatown, while her mother worked six days a week to support them. A school counselor, who was helping Jesse deal with the grief of her father's sudden passing, saw that Jesse needed a chance to be a kid again and become comfortable in her own skin. She recommended a Big Sister.

In August 1990, Big Sister Association matched Jesse with Jackie Church. Jackie was a first-year lawyer in her late 20s, Japanese-American, and not at all unfamiliar with feelings of displacement. With her father in the Air Force, Jackie, her mother, and her two younger siblings frequently moved around the country. Jackie's mother never became comfortable with the English language or American culture, which left Jackie often filling the "parentified" role that Jesse played in her family.

Upon first meeting, Jackie and Jesse were both nervous. Jesse panicked that her Big Sister would expect her to speak English well, and Jackie was afraid that her outgoing personality might overwhelm her new Little Sister. Though the two did not talk much during their first visit, Jesse was eager to show her Big Sister her bedroom, her awards from school, and her keyboard-playing skills. They played Super Mario Brothers together and made a plan to visit the Museum of Science that weekend.

Jackie and Jesse were featured in the sampan newspaper in 1991

Though Jesse warmed up to her Big Sister quickly, her lack of confidence in speaking English and limited knowledge of American culture often made her shy and quiet. Jackie recognized in Jesse the discomfort with speaking English that she had experienced with her own mother. She encouraged her Little Sister to ask questions of store clerks as a way to help her gain confidence. She planned activities that would boost Jesse's confidence in English, like scrapbooking and visits to the Arnold Arboretum and local museums. She also incorporated elements of Jesse's own culture into their visits, like going to Chinatown for

authentic dim sum. At the same time, she gave Jesse the opportunity to act her age. "I had to model being a kid," said Jackie. "We would go ice skating and fall down and laugh at ourselves. I showed her that it's ok to not be perfect." However, Jackie found it difficult to allow herself to be imperfect. "You learn so much about yourself through the act of mentoring," she said. Jackie let her Little Sister know she understood what Jesse was going through: "Sometimes I would just say to her 'I know what it's like to have a strict Asian mother.'" Jesse understood this to mean that Jackie had experienced the same pressure she felt to do well in life, given the opportunity she had in America, and the parental duties she was expected to take on at times.

A few years into their relationship, Jackie joined Big Sister's Board of Directors. She headed the recruitment committee and focused on engaging more Asian women as Big Sisters. She recognized the need for women who could bridge the cultural gap for first generation Asian-Americans like Jesse. "No girl should have to rely on luck to succeed in life," said Jackie. As a Big Sister she understood the powerful impact a mentor can have in guiding a girl in making healthy decisions; as an Asian-American, she knew that it was not always easy to ask for help. "A mother asking for a Big Sister is not about admitting she can't handle it," said Jackie.

As Jesse entered her teens and a new school, she came to rely more on her Big Sister for support. In seventh grade, Jesse was accepted to the prestigious Boston Latin School. Though she was bright, and excelled in math, music, and science, she still struggled with reading, writing, and public speaking. "I had to come to terms with the fact that I wasn't number one; everyone was really good," said Jesse. She gravitated toward other Asian students for friendship, but found herself teased for being a part of this group and for her lingering accent. Jackie encouraged her Little Sister to embrace her identity. She suggested that Jesse go by her given name of Wai Lam, a name she had never used in school before. To Jackie's surprise, Jesse even ran for class office. She did not win, but taking the risk illustrated Jesse's newfound confidence. Jesse also began taking language courses—French, Japanese, Latin, and Greek—and excelled in them, despite her difficulties in learning English. "From Jackie, I learned persistence, especially in the face of the new and different," said Jesse.

That persistence paid off as Jesse applied to college with Jackie's help. "My mom and I have so much respect for Jackie," said Jesse. "She helped me navigate parts of life my mom could not." Jesse attended Emmanuel College and played on the volleyball team. However, she often felt overwhelmed by college life. After she broke her hand, Jesse was forced to stop playing volleyball and soon dropped out of college. Jackie was there to provide support and guidance. She didn't push Jesse to go back to college, but she did encourage her to have a plan. Jesse soon returned to school and graduated with a degree in education. "Knowing Jackie is behind me through the good stuff and the bad stuff is important to me," said Jesse.

Today, Jesse is 30 years old and manages a restaurant in Boston. She wants to pursue a career as a training director for a national restaurant chain. She continues to spend time with Jackie frequently. They relish the true friendship they now share as adults, relying on each other for guidance and support. "Without Jackie, I would still be that same, shy nine year-old girl," said Jesse. "I would not be who I am today."



Jackie and Jesse enjoying their friendship today



Jackie and Jesse were featured in the sampan newspaper in 1991

Match Highlight

BIG SISTER JUDY DOMBROWSKI AND LITTLE SISTER ASHLYN

She has to like Chinese food," nine year-old Ashlyn told the Big Sister social worker who came to meet Ashlyn and her family at their home in Jamaica Plain. The social worker assured Ashlyn that she would do her best to find a woman who fit the bill.

Ashlyn's mother called Big Sister Association out of concern that her daughter needed someone she could talk to outside their family. Three years earlier, Ashlyn's parents divorced. Ashlyn was angry, but did not want to communicate her feelings to anyone. Her mother got her involved with sports and dance, which helped Ashlyn get out some of her aggression, but she still would not open up.

When Judy Dombrowski showed up looking closer in age to Ashlyn's mother and having taken the T from her home in the Back Bay, Ashlyn was skeptical. She had hoped her Big Sister would be young and have a car. Then Judy announced they were going out to lunch for Chinese food.

Looking back, Ashlyn, who is now 17, said: "Honestly, I think it's been better to have an older Big Sister. Judy's not into herself, she's always been really into me and what I wanted to do."

Without a car, Judy and Ashlyn have ample opportunity to explore every corner of the city and get to know each other in the process. "We always have a plan, and we walk a lot, which is cool," said Ashlyn. One of their favorite activities is walking through the Public Garden in

to love these walks in the park. Another of their favorite activities is eating at a new restaurant every time they visit Chinatown; eventually they hope to try them all. "Whatever we do, it's always out of the ordinary compared to what anyone else I know does. We've even eaten eel together. My friends still don't believe that!" said Ashlyn.

Judy's willingness to listen and to check in with Ashlyn on her thoughts, feelings, and what is going on in her life, has given Ashlyn greater confidence. "We just connected; it was amazing," said Ashlyn. "Judy's presence makes you feel like you can trust her. My time with Judy is stress-free. Being with her is so relaxing, my worries just fly out the window." With that trust, came Ashlyn's ability to finally express her feelings about her parents' separation with her Big Sister. After that, it was as if a weight had been lifted. Judy recalled that a year or two after they were matched, Ashlyn's stepfather told her that he had seen a significant change in Ashlyn, especially the increase in her self-esteem.

Now that Ashlyn is in high school, she and Judy often talk about the future. "When I was in school, girls were expected to become teachers or nurses or housewives," said Judy, who grew up in the suburbs of Boston; the middle child in a family of three girls. "I broke free from that. I was a good artist and I wanted to go to art school." Ashlyn's own aspirations lie in the field of biochemistry. "I could be a doctor in the field of biochemistry," Ashlyn said proudly. She is inspired by her Big Sister who became a graphic designer, despite the lack of encouragement she received from those around her. She also knows that with her Big Sister's support she is one step ahead in achieving her own dreams. "At first I just wanted a fun Big Sister, but what I got was so much more than that."

“My time with Judy is stress-free. Being with her is so relaxing, my worries just fly out the window.”

the spring, where Judy will identify all the flowers and tell her Little Sister about them. Ashlyn admitted that while she complained at first, she soon grew

Ashlyn and Judy at the Big Sister Appreciation Breakfast they attend almost every year



Ashlyn and Judy spending time in a local park in 2005

She Said What?

LITTLE SISTERS TELL US HOW THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR CITY, WHAT'S TOUGH ABOUT BEING A GIRL, AND WHY MORE GIRLS SHOULD HAVE BIG SISTERS.

"Girls need to have Big Sisters because they stick up for you!"

-Little Sister Serina, age 8
North End

"Being a girl is tough because your brothers are mean to you."

-Little Sister Hannah, age 9
East Weymouth

"Girls need a Big Sister because those who don't have a role model need to have one."

-Little Sister Shelby, age 12
Cambridge

"Being a girl isn't that tough, except when people expect girls to be vulnerable, obedient, and perfect."

-Little Sister Cindy, age 13
Chinatown

"If I were the mayor of my city, I would put more police around."

-Little Sister Tia, age 13
Chelsea

"Being a girl is tough because we get picked on."

-Little Sister Haylee, age 9
Malden



2010 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more, excluding event-specific donations, to Big Sister Association between September 25, 2010 and November 30, 2010. Thank you for your generous support!

Inspiration Maker \$5,000 - \$9,999

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*Denotes Legacy Society
members: current and former
Big Sisters

Thank You!



Big Sister's Board President,
Max Bardeen, and Board Chair,
Tim O'Brien, get ready to ride

On the Road to Success

The unseasonably hot and sunny weather on Saturday, September 25, brought new meaning to the term "sweat equity" for members of Team Big Sister, but that didn't keep them from giving it their all in the Rodman Ride for Kids. Our team was proud to be represented in each race—from our brave 100-mile rider to our enthusiastic 25-milers—and finish strong in both riding and fundraising. Team Big Sister riders raised a total of \$77,000, which will be matched up to 10% by the Rodman Ride for Kids. **Tim O'Brien**, team captain **Lisa Scannell**, and **Peter Reinhart** are this year's top fundraisers, each of whom at least doubled their \$1,000 goal.

In addition to meeting and beating the team's fundraising goal, highlights of the day included 25-miler, **Judy Keefe**, finishing her ride in just one hour; our Board of Directors chair, **Tim O'Brien**, and president, **Max Bardeen**, taking on the 50-mile route, and counting six current Big

Sisters among our riders. "I wanted to give back to an organization that, by matching and supporting me and my Little Sister Jazmyne, helped me to become a better person just by knowing her," said **Big Sister Tamara Johnson**. "Raising money through the Ride is helping to make more Big and Little Sister matches like mine!" Tamara is a four-time rider and a Big Sister for more than five years. Even those who were not actually riding got creative with their fundraising this year. In lieu of riding a bike, some of our virtual riders pledged driving miles in our Big for a Day program that serves girls on our wait list.

Big thanks to those who volunteered for us at water stops and cheering stations, and especially to our riders and virtual riders who brought us to our fundraising goal and beyond! We look forward to hitting the road with you again next year in support of inspiring our girls and transforming our community.

TEAM BIG SISTER 100 miles

Paulette Kelly

50 miles

Nicole Cushion
Maxwell Bardeen
Tamara Johnson
Timothy O'Brien
Amy Ross

25 miles

Gregory Corrado
Jane Deery
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Pattie Garrahy-
Robertson
Alissa Greif
Julia Horvitz
Abigail Ingalls

Diane Ivey
Judy Keefe
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Lisa Scannell

Virtual Riders

Essence Arzu
Alexis Bulkley
Jill Callahan
Terri Campbell
Ryan Harvey

TEAM BIG SISTER SUPPORTERS

Gifts of \$200 or more
to Team Big Sister.

\$1,000+

Laura & James Cafferty
Denise Jefferson
Casper & Marc Casper
Harvard Pilgrim
Health Care
Foundation
Margaret Ingalls
Judy Keefe &
Daniel Modelane

Dolores & Marvin
Mitchell
Kerry Nelson &
Alan Milinazzo
Sabrina & Bob Nicholson
Linda & Tim O'Brien
Joseph Realmuto
Lisa Scannell &
David Carlon
Shawmut Design &
Construction
Kathleen Wallace

\$200-\$999

Rick Bellew

Jennifer Borislow
Terri Campbell
William Douglas
Mark Gaunya
Rebecca Kellogg
Colleen Kenney
Jim Klopper
Sheila & Paul LeFevre
Michael Lukasek
Sven Meier
Amy Ross
Lori Rutter &
Jeff Behrens
Daniel Romanow &
B. Andrew Zelermyer

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between October 1, 2010 and December 31 2010. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

11 YEARS

Lisa Riordan & Alicia Lynn

9 YEARS

Sarah Alcorn & Kayla
Courtney Genovese & Henrietta
Jacqueline Ostrow & Aliyah
Betsy Sanderson & Shamika
Kelly Welch & Christina

8 YEARS

Laura Cafferty & Joseline
Susan Magocsi & Tiarra
Tula Mahl & Brenda
Donna McCabe & Jarels
Shannon Robinson & Miranda
Melissa York & Danielle

7 YEARS

Sarah Aliberti & Victoria
Jennifer Ensign & Nicolette
Jessica Goldberg & Joannie

6 YEARS

Jessica Broady & Natavia
Barbara Holland & Kalyn
Betty Ly & Annie
Colleen Nobles & Kaitlin
Claudia Pouravelis & Aryana
Jessica Quint & Frances

5 YEARS

Karen Barbarisi & Sara
Nicole Cerimeli & Munah
Tania Diachisin & Kelsey
Joy Falk & Roseanne
Sabrina Heisey & Cassandra
Andrea Jackson & Ashley
Renee LeBlanc & Taryn
Rebekka Lee & Tanaja
Danielle Meuse & Lexi Grace
Helen Stefan & Ann
Gail West Jones & Breyanna
Lesley White & Chaquita

4 YEARS

Kayleen Aardema & Felicia
Rosemary Aylward & Joanna
Melanie Baird & Ashley
April Barton & Akira
Mary Buttarazzi & Kaneisha
Rolanda Chance & Rosalyn
Monika Chas & Janielka
Marie Cresswell & Courtney
Molly Estabrook & Roxanne
Erin Hines & Krystal
Rose Jolicoeur & Kimberly
Elizabeth Kassab & Olasha
Ana Leon & Sally
Melanie Robinson & Latishia
Jessica Tooley & Angelica
Lindsey Waldron & Nashaly

3 YEARS

Jennifer Baltz & Kayla
Lauren Bonneau & Nyasha
Jasmine Boshyan & Kaitlyn
Irene Ceisel & Coraima
Sarah Cleveland & Isabella
Susan Collins & Zariah
Kendra Cook & Sarah
Allison Corey & Thalia
Erica Crossland & Daejia
Beth Danesco & Elizabeth
Abbey Eisenhower & Helen
Millicent Gaskell & Gianna
Ayan Gedi & Te'yah
Kate Gunnery & Nicole
Beth Kaphammer & Malyfel
Mary Kohak & Autumn
Sophie Lehar & Crystal
Tricia Luong & Sharlice
Kaitlin MacKenzie & Alicia
Meg MacPherson & Shahera
Kimberly Marasca & Larechia
Lauren Maroney & Janile
Ryan McMahon & Tairih
Julie Mumford & Caitlin
Karen Murphy & Shaylynn
Emily Patch & Jaqueline
Jessica Pinkham & Sarah
Courtney Pittenger & Tamanna

Liz Rostedt & Ieshah
Donna Scarlett & Dwonya
Kelley Spellane & Keyomi
Edwina Stewart & Francheska
Jennifer Tenczar & Liliana
Amy Tetreault & Cassie
Emily Thurston & Eliany
Jessica Walsh & Abbie
Meredith Wolcott & Rita
Mollie Worcester-Worrell & Gina

2 YEARS

Robyn Barros & Serina
Jennifer Bellizia & Lucy
Sara Bezanson & Caring
Megan Butler & Jada
Theresa Callahan & Bryana
Katie Christ & Jasselle
Kerri Cleghorn & Ismah
Donna Connolly & Zoe
Lisa Curtin & De'Nisha

Emily Dahl & Becky
Julie D'Alessandro & Azhane
Marie Delloiacono & Stephanie
Veronica Domenchello & Destiny
Kirsten Doyle & Alina
Jacqueline Drinkwater & Bonnie
Debbie Drouin & Cassandra
Emily Ederly & Thalia
Courtney Ellard & Alma
Kelsea Ertsgard & Tia
Alison Fair & Amina
Annette Ferrari & Sabrina
Amy Ferrari & Amy
Samantha Ford & Jamie
Michelle Gelinas & Alyssa
Mary Hargraves & Dayanna
Catherine Harvey & Eman
Gwen Johnson & Ivy
Jessye Joyce & Genasia
Carrie Kabat & Halley
Caitlin Keenan & Cindy
Bethany Knight & Gianni
Amanda Konkel & Serena
Julie Kuo & Kenjaya
Marcy Lamonica & Jennifer
Erika Lawson & Nehemiah

Antonette Macione & Ashley
Julia Madrigan & Deyanira
Magdalene Mazol & Kendrea
Mary McLaughlin & Alanka
Alison Miller & Liani
Beth Mooney & Echo
Constance Nehila & Jaily
Hannah Newton & Selina
Amanda Pope & Jessica
Elizabeth Ringler & Rachel
Samantha Scarf & Jasmin
Brittany Schermerhorn & Gabriella
Pi-Ping Shao & Eva
Sasha Singh & Monet
Anne Stanton & Kaise
Chelsey Stevens & Tia
Holly Stewart & Sydney

Samantha Sundermeyer & Sadeya
Yee Szeto & Brenda
Vanessa Tabuteau & Maya
Julie Wilson & Selena
Clara Zverina & Ingrid

1 YEAR

Dena Adriance & Floret
Elizabeth Aldrich & Carrie
Diana Andruszkiewicz & Melissa
Adriana Arango & Shakira
Emily Artiano & Avigail
Jennifer Austin & La'shanda
April Baglole & Janet
Reema Baniabbasi & Judy
Niejel Barber & Skyler
Amanda Barros & Marshea
Kendra Barton & Patien
Molly Binger & Amy
Kathryn Blaha & Gia
Jennie Brown & Jessica
Beth Carter & Marina
Ting Chen & Christelle
Charlene Chow & Imanie
Amy Christenson & Nyasia
Desirae Comer & Hazel Jane
Katie Cormier & Laisha
Marie Eva Cyprien & Hannah

Jennifer DeChiaro & Hayleigh
Heidi Dennigan & Staicy
Amy DiBattista & Diana
Georgina Dominique & Viviana
Heather Dowd & Jade
Linda Duchin & Danielle
Kathryn Duerr & Samantha
Candace Dyal & Tahliyah
Elisabeth Egan & Maricelys
Jill Fisher & Sara
Cecilia Flores & Rakeb
Kerryann Freeman & Kayla
Frances Fuentes & Jasmine
Patty Gallagher & Chrismary
Rashida Garcia & Sominishia
Hannah Gathman & Maryah
Rhia Goncalves & Kametria
Natalia Greenidge & Brooklynn
Courtney Grimes & Amy
Katie Grimes & Emma
Kristen Hart & DeAnna
Ingrid Henry & Sequoia
Renee Houle & Maria
Kristen Impastato & Cheyenne
Heather Ivone & Shaquasia
Nakia Johnson & Ebony
Christine Johnson & Erika
Lauren Kimball & Angel
Emily Kinback & Julia
Emily Langholz & Prya
Carolyn Launie & Shayla
Michaela Leach & Dynasia
Hannah Levenson & Makeisha
Natasha Link & Vanice
Karen Lubov & Yanni
Shannon MacMaster & Tanaija
Caroline Madison & Trina
Brittany Maiuri & Jennifer
Amy Malone & Chauntae
Wendy Mandel & Danaysha
Barbara Miller & Deja
Christen Ashley Mitchell & Kayla
Bethany Moran & Lina
Lisa Morgillo & Neila
Katherine Motter & Olivia
Delise Munroe & Lyandra

Colleen O'Brien & Janine
Maria Paniagua & Ambar
Pamela Perretti & Hannah
Elizabeth Peters & Skyla
Laura Petty & Timesha
Ariel Pineda & Laurie
Christine Power & Tberh
Victoria Prete & Nevaeh
Jemirma Rateau & Ariana
Sara Rattigan & Nireida
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Sarah Timmings & Victoria
Nancy Tran & Nevaeh
Maggie Walenty & Justina
Sarah Weatherbee & Ashley
Libby Webb & Rachelle
Jennie Weiner & Magdalyn
Katherine Whitley & Angeliz
Raychel Wingert & Michelle
Orianna Wurie & Onasia
Anita Yip & Amy
Katherine Ziewacz & Kiannette

Happy Anniversary!



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SUPPORTED BY



United Way
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BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

The Spirit of Giving

The flurry of generosity poured in like a New England snowstorm during our first-ever Wait List Wish List campaign during November and December. This year, we reached out to the families on our wait list in an effort to support them during the holiday season. In less than three weeks, our generous community purchased coats, hats, scarves, and gloves for 75 girls waiting for a Big Sister.

In a letter sent home to the families, we asked each girl to tell us what she enjoys most about winter, what she wishes for, and why she wants a Big Sister. Here's what two of them had to say:

Carlisha, age 11, lives in Dorchester with her mother and brother. "My favorite things about wintertime are the snow and Christmas. If I could have one wish it would be to see Justin Bieber. I want a Big Sister because I could go out with her and talk."

Dameka, age 12, lives in Mattapan with her mother and five brothers. "My favorite things about wintertime are the snow, hot cocoa, Christmas, and family

time. If I could have one wish it would be to play basketball in the WNBA. I want a Big Sister because I want someone to talk to and laugh with. I have only brothers and I'm lonely."

The girls on the wait list weren't the only ones inspiring us though. As a Christmas gift to each other, a husband and wife provided coats, gloves, and scarves for 12 of the girls who live in Dorchester. A former Big Sister bought winter gear for two of the girls, even though she currently lives in Singapore!

We witnessed the holiday spirit bringing joy to the girls and their families on our wait list as each eagerly arrived at our office to pick up their items, and left with brightly wrapped packages and smiles on their faces. Thank you to those supporters listed below who made this time of year a little warmer for all of them. With your continued generosity, we look forward to putting a Big Sister in each of their lives as well.



Charlannney, who is waiting to be matched with a Big Sister, picks up her new winter coat with her mom.

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Anonymous (12) | Geri Conley | Joy Falk | Maren Johnson | Linda McConchie | Margaret Quigley | Karla Ventura |
| Marge Amster | Laurie Connors | Janelle Fisher | Aileen & Terry | Carol & Michael | Deborah Re & | Erica Warner |
| Sara Arif | Kirstie Crawford | Adrienne Granados | Keaney | McKean | Peter Reinhart | Lorita Williams |
| Deborah Belfry | Sharon Daura | Jessica Hammond | Colleen Kenney | Laura McNamara | Lisa & James | Abby & John Yozell |
| Cynthia & John | Audrey DiGiovanni | Megan Herald | Kathy Kiely | Tara Medeiros | Redding | |
| Butterworth | Brenna Downing | Donalda Hingston | Marianne Kroha | Elizabeth Misero | Kathleen Wallace | |
| Peg Carson | Julianne Etcheverry | Susan Hoffman | Joan Kroha | Kym Murray | Raela Smart | |
| Sheena Collier | Lisa Ewing | Julia Horvitz | Suzanne Lieb | Shannon O'Brien | Shantell Smith | |
| Shaune Conant | Sophia Ezomoghene | Kelly Johnson | Lindsay McConchie | Colleen O'Brien | Courtney Synowiec | |