

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Fundraising Breakfast Serves Up Coffee and Inspiration

While many folks in Boston rose early to celebrate all things Irish on St. Patrick's Day, Big Sister Association rose early to inspire nearly 200 people from Boston's prominent corporations and community organizations. Those who attended our first Rise & Inspire Breakfast at the Seaport Hotel in Boston learned about the positive impact mentoring can have not only on the girls we serve, but on their families and communities as well.

Our emcee, Channel 5 news anchor Liz Brunner, gave guests a warm welcome and shared highlights of the work Big Sister did this past year: we served more than 3,000 girls throughout Greater Boston; partnered with more than 50 schools and community sites; and supported an average length of match of 31.5 months in Community-Based Mentoring. She then introduced the audience to keynote speaker **Melissa MacDonnell, Vice President and Director of Community Affairs at Liberty Mutual.** Not only is Liberty Mutual one of Big Sister's largest funders, but MacDonnell herself created the Liberty Mutual Mentoring Initiative, a \$1.5 million strategic effort resulting in research,

technical assistance to mentoring programs, and more than 1,700 new mentor-mentee matches in low-income communities throughout Massachusetts. This initiative represents the single largest corporate investment in mentoring in the country.

"Sometimes what we really need to do is just bring in the light: to learn how to lift up young people; to encourage them; to press courage into them; to inspire them to stand up and to speak out for what is right; to teach them the power of their potential. And that's what a Big Sister does," said MacDonnell.



Melissa MacDonnell, David Shapiro, and Blake Jordan rise & inspire!

The inspiration continued as **Wayne Ashley**, a single father from

Dorchester, took the stage. He spoke about the incredible impact Big Sister Association has had on his family by matching each of his three daughters—**Caitlin, Catherine, and Helen**—with her own Big Sister more than a year ago. Mr. Ashley painted a picture of the challenges surrounding his daughters who range in age from nine to 12. He spoke candidly about his their peers' experimentation with drugs and sex, and the violence his family has witnessed in their own

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Dr. Lisa Machoian is an expert on girls' mental health issues

Shedding Light on Teen Depression

Dr. Lisa Machoian taught in Harvard's Department of Human Development and Psychology and was also the director of their Gender Studies Concentration. She has worked with teenage girls for more than 20 years. She is now a consultant and lecturer who has lent her expertise to parents, teens, schools, psychiatric hospitals, and Big Sister Association's Intentional Mentoring workshops. She is the author of *The Disappearing Girl*, which explores depression in teen girls.

In your research, you have explored many of the pressures facing adolescent girls that can lead to depression. What do you think are some of the biggest challenges facing girls right now?

Girls have to grow up too fast. Listening to girls, I hear that 14 year olds are now dealing with what 17 year olds were once dealing with; what were once issues for 14 year olds, are now issues for 11 year olds. This means that girls have to cope with more adult-like issues before they have the

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Highlights

- ★ Twenty Years of Friendship and Counting!
- ★ Focus On: Intentional Mentoring Expansion
- ★ Meet a Harvard/Kent Elementary Match



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

Issue VIII of Big Sister Bulletin
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emotional and cognitive development to contend with such pressures and they may not have developed the coping strategies to deal with situations that they are facing.

They are constantly receiving mixed messages about sex, sexuality, and healthy relationships. Girls are increasingly more objectified through the media and advertising. There are more sexual pressures and expectations than ever before: “sexting” (text messaging suggestive pictures of yourself to another person), hooking up, and “friends with benefits.” There are more cliques and more bullying among adolescent girls. Aggression takes place socially and via the Internet in the form of cyber-bullying. Girls are constantly bombarded through the media and technology like never before.

What are some of the signs parents, guardians, teachers, or mentors should look for in a girl who might be suffering from depression?

It is important to know that girls' depression does not always “look” like or manifest the same symptoms as adult depression. For example, girls suffering from depression may still want to go out and be with friends. Often girls' signals of depression or impending depression are dismissed as typical teen angst or teen mood swings and are not always taken seriously. If girls are making negative comments about life or themselves, this can be a sign of trouble. If there are changes in a girl's sleeping, eating, friend groups, behavior, or if they no longer like to do the things they once loved to do, this may also be a cause for concern.

Drug abuse is one way girls self-medicate and cope with depression. Often they resort to drugs, self-harming or acting out as a way to make adults take notice that something is wrong. Many girls who are depressed act out and are dismissed as having “conduct problems,” but the underlying depression is often missed. It is a problem when we overlook girls who are hurting inside, and they feel they must hurt themselves or others to get adults to understand.

It is important to know that girls can become depressed without having experienced any of the major risk factors for depression such as trauma or abuse. Girls who are being shunned by other girls (or boys) may be at risk, especially because the peer group is so influential and important for adolescent girls. Other triggers may include a break-up or a family loss, separation or conflict.

You have focused your work almost exclusively on adolescent girls. What have you found to be the benefits of focusing on gender when it comes to building a girl's confidence and resiliency?

First we must understand that girls and women face different issues in our culture that are also mediated by race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religion. It is important to know how to buffer their specific challenges and stressors, and how to build confidence and resiliency in turn. Different socio-cultural messages need to be contended with, different gender ideology, messages about how to act, how to speak, having to please others, what to say and not say, what to do and not do, how to look or not look in order to be a woman all impact girls' development, sense of self-worth, and hope for their future. If we talk to girls about gender and raise their consciousness, then we help them to see beyond culturally imposed limitations and we can help them grow into strong, confident, and resilient women. I am currently doing research on resiliency in girls and look forward to sharing the results.

How can someone like a Big Sister help a girl avoid falling prey to depression?

It is important for girls to talk about their lives, concerns, worries, hopes, and dreams. Simply being available to listen is extremely important. Girls equate listening with caring. A good, confiding relationship with an adult is the strongest protective buffer against stress that can cause depression.

Knowing the risk factors for depression will help that caring adult be aware of what she might be dealing with. Encourage your Little Sister to build a social support network and help her if she is uncomfortable being social. Support the development of healthy coping strategies and model healthy ones for them as well. Encourage self care, healthy eating, getting enough sleep and exercise. Big Sisters can model taking care of themselves and being good to one's self so that girls learn how to not only take care of themselves, but also value and cherish themselves.

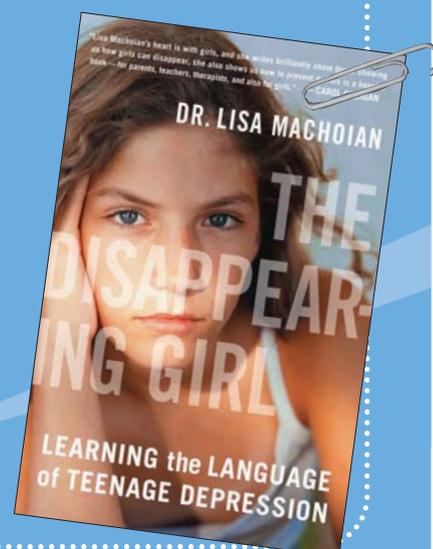
Why do you think it is important to have an organization that focuses on the specific developmental and social-emotional needs of girls?

An organization like Big Sister that focuses specifically on girls enables us to understand more fully the needs of girls. This allows us to address and meet the particular needs of girls directly, comprehensively, and in a focused way. Girls face different issues and pressures than boys do and we need havens that take this into

consideration and actively address it. We still live in a patriarchal society, one in which these girls are growing up in. Focusing specifically on girls takes into account the socio-cultural context of their lives and helps provide a place for them to flourish.

Signs of Depression in Girls

- Not doing things they used to like to do
- Low energy
- Changes in eating and sleeping patterns
- Anxiety, irritability, agitation
- Low frustration tolerance
- Mood swings
- Acting out
- Self-destructive behavior
- Substance abuse
- Excessive sexual behavior, high-risk behaviors
- Physical complaints/ailments, headaches, stomach aches
- Negative comments about herself
- Pessimistic attitude
- Isolation, withdrawal
- Drawing or writing very sad or worrisome pictures, poems, or stories
- Grades plummet, not wanting to go to school



Where Are They Now?

FORMER BIG SISTER MEG McMILLEN AND FORMER LITTLE SISTER SANDRA FAIOES HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER THROUGH 20 YEARS OF UPS AND DOWNS

We were city kids," said Sandra Faioes of growing up in Dorchester in the 1980s. "We didn't go to the pool or the beach in the summer; we played in the street." She went on to describe her childhood as the "typical working-class immigrant family experience." As her Cape Verdean mother and Portuguese father struggled to work multiple jobs and attend school, Sandra and her older sister were often responsible for taking care of themselves. "I was cooking my own dinner at age six," said Sandra. "I needed an adult in my life. Not because my parents didn't give structure and support, they were just overwhelmed by the immigrant life and the responsibilities."

One day, Sandra began to notice a woman who would show up at a neighbor's house every week to take the girl out for a few hours. When Sandra saw the girl leaving with the woman and a pair of roller skates in tow she finally asked her neighbor who the woman was. The girl told her it was her Big Sister. Twelve year old Sandra immediately called Big Sister Association of Greater Boston herself and requested an application for her own Big Sister.

Sandra imagined her Big Sister would take her anywhere she wanted to go and buy her the material things her family couldn't afford. When Big Sister Meg McMillen showed up at Sandra's house for the first time without a shiny new pair of roller skates for her Little Sister, Sandra began to doubt her decision to have a Big Sister.

The two met a few more times, and when Sandra realized that Meg was not going to buy her presents, her interest started to wane. Meg noticed this and asked Sandra plainly, "Do you want to have a Big Sister or not?" Sandra recalled that this was the first time anyone had really held her to a decision. She realized she *did* want a Big Sister in the truest sense: someone who would be her friend and mentor; someone who was there just for her. "Meg was mine, versus my mom who I had to share. Meg was independent of everything else in my family. It was a totally honest relationship," said Sandra.

Meg and Sandra continued to see each other regularly over the years, cementing their special bond every step of the way. They would use tickets donated to Big Sister Association for the theater and sporting events. They went ice skating or spent time browsing at the bookstore. "Everything we did opened me up to something I had never done before," said Sandra. Meg showed Sandra a world beyond the neighborhood she was growing up in, but she also related to her Little Sister's environment. As the two got to know each other, Meg revealed that she had grown up in Roxbury and Dorchester and was the fourth of five children in a family like Sandra's whose parents struggled to provide for their children. "When she told me that, I knew she wouldn't pity me or not understand me," said Sandra. "I felt early on that she was truly invested in me."

"I don't think there has ever been a phase in my life when I didn't need Meg," said Sandra. When Sandra felt self-conscious and awkward as a teenager, Meg was there to listen and let her know it would not always be that way. When Sandra got accepted to Boston College, Meg encouraged her to go. When Sandra graduated from high school, Meg took her out for a celebratory dinner. When Sandra needed help moving into her dorm at Boston College, Meg was

there with boxes and packing tape. As Sandra, now 33, navigates the adult dating scene and cares for her ailing parents, she has Meg to turn to for advice and support. "Sandra knew that I would always be there when she needed me, but not in her face," said Meg.

Both Meg and Sandra are high school teachers now. Meg decided to go back to school to earn her bachelor's degree and is now working toward a master's degree at Sandra's alma mater, Boston College. Meg is currently an English teacher at Quincy High School. Sandra earned her master's degree in Education and is now working toward a second master's degree in Special Education. She teaches Language Arts and History at The Engineering School in Hyde Park. The two see each other and communicate regularly. "We are deep and thorough friends now," said Meg. "It's as though we really know each other's true colors—good and bad."

While Meg claims that she cannot take credit for Sandra's success in life, that she was "just there for her," it is evident that just being there for her is what Sandra needed all along. "I can't imagine what my life would have been like without Meg," Sandra said. "That's like asking 'what would my life have been like if I didn't have an arm?'"

Are you a former Big or Little Sister who is at least 18 years old? Become a part of the Big Sister Alumnae Association! To find out more and join the community of former Big and Little Sisters visit www.bigsister.org/alumnae or call Judy Neufeld at 617.236.8057.



Meg and Sandra maintain a close friendship 20 years after they were first matched

“Everything we did opened me up to something I had never done before.”

Did You Know?

Getting ready to do your spring cleaning? You can support Big Sister Association of Greater Boston simply by cleaning



up your clutter! The Big Brother Big Sister Foundation collects gently used clothes and small household items for resale, then gives a portion of the proceeds to support our mentoring programs for girls!

Simply visit www.bbbsfoundation.org or call **800.483.5503** to locate a drop-box near you or to schedule a pick-up. You can even make it fun by hosting a "spring cleaning" party or organizing a clothing drive with your friends and neighbors. When its time to clean out your clutter this spring, do it for a good cause—supporting Greater Boston's girls!

Match Highlight

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING BIG SISTER SARA RATTIGAN AND LITTLE SISTER NIREIDA

What was Little Sister Nireida's life like at school before she was matched with her Big Sister Sara Rattigan? In a word, "complicated." Nireida explained that before she had a Big Sister, she would get stressed out about taking tests or overwhelmed by schoolwork, but she didn't have anyone to talk to about it, particularly during the school day. When she saw some of her friends spending their lunchtime with their Big Sisters, she thought that having a Big Sister of her own might just be the fun, relaxing break she needed.

Big Sister Sara and Little Sister Nireida were matched through our School-Based Mentoring program at Harvard/Kent Elementary School in Charlestown, where Nireida was in fourth grade at the time. Though Sara was balancing both a job and an academic career in the Health Communications graduate program at Tufts University, she wanted to get involved with the community outside of Tufts. As she thought back on all the adults who had helped shape her life in a positive way, she realized that becoming a Big Sister would be a meaningful way for her to have a similar impact on a girl. "It makes a big difference when someone's focusing just on you," said Sara.

Every week Sara and Nireida find a quiet place to enjoy their lunch and share stories of what they did over the weekend. They often enjoy playing games together like Connect Four and Chutes & Ladders, or playing MASH and Hangman in a little notebook that Sara brings every week. Now in their second year together, they are also on their second notebook! When playing MASH, which involves writing down pets they want to have, places they want to live, or careers they want to pursue, Sara and Nireida get to

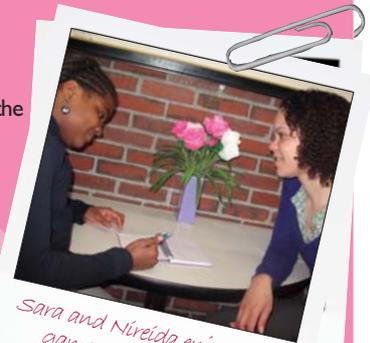
know each other better. They love to talk about their likes and dislikes and hopes for the future. Nireida wants to go to college and become a teacher, and both Big and Little Sister would like to visit France someday. "Sometimes we end up just talking the whole time and never get to finish the games," said Sara.

“It makes a big difference when someone’s focusing just on you.”

When their conversations turn to schoolwork, Nireida feels like things are less "complicated" now that she has Sara to talk to. "If I'm stressed or mad, when Sara comes to visit I feel better because she makes me laugh," said Nireida. Now Nireida even gets excited about taking tests because she looks forward to telling her Big Sister how she did on them. "She approaches tests and school more positively than before," said Sara.

Part of that positivity may also come from Sara's encouragement in subjects for which Nireida has a natural flair. When Sara brought in word games for the two to play together she noticed that Nireida enjoyed them. She began bringing in more difficult word games for her Little Sister. The more difficult the word games, the better Nireida felt about her ability to complete them.

Sara admits, however, that her friendship with Nireida is far from a one-way street. "Being a Big Sister adds a lot to my life and I think it adds a lot to Nireida's too," she said. "I can't imagine having a better match."



Sara and Nireida enjoy their games notebook at the Harvard/Kent in Charlestown

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backyard. He also spoke to the less obvious challenges of raising girls while being "clueless about the girlie stuff" his daughters are beginning to discover, such as boys, make-up, and the changes that come with puberty.

Finally, he addressed the biggest challenge of all: supporting each of his daughters as they grieved the loss of their mother, who passed away just one month after the girls were matched with their Big Sisters. Each Big Sister supported her Little Sister as she grieved in her own way.

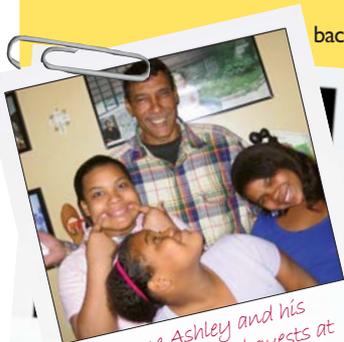
As the bonds of friendship continued to grow between the Ashley girls and their Big Sisters, it was clear that each Big Sister was uniquely suited to the needs of her Little Sister. Mr. Ashley noted our social workers' commitment to finding the right match for all our Little Sisters when he said, "If any of [my] girls were matched with any of each other's Big Sisters, it just would not have worked. What were the chances of matching all three of my girls and each with the perfect Big Sister too?" This was a sentiment his daughters echoed when they took the stage with their Big Sisters to share why each is the perfect one for her.

Rise & Inspire concluded with Chief Executive Officer, Deborah Re, asking guests to financially support Big Sister's mentoring programs for girls. A roomful of inspired guests generously gave a total of nearly \$46,000.

“What were the chances of matching all three of my girls and each with the perfect Big Sister too?”

We would like to extend a "big" thank you to Rise & Inspire sponsor **Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation**, as well as event co-chairs and Big Sister Board members, **Carol McKean, Janet Porter, and Laura Cafferty**. We would also like to thank our table captains who helped us expand

the Big Sister community. We look forward to seeing you all next year as we once again rise and inspire.



Wayne Ashley and his daughters inspired guests at the March 17 breakfast

Focus On: Intentional Mentoring Expansion

In 2005, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley developed the Intentional Mentoring initiative to help strengthen the capacity of their Today's Girls Tomorrow's Leaders-funded (TGTL) agencies in providing a gender-sensitive environment and programming for girls. "United Way selected Big Sister Association because of its nearly 60 years of experience serving girls, the quality of the mentoring programs they offer to meet the needs of girls at different stages of development, and the diversity of the girls served throughout the 69 towns and cities in which the organization operates," said **Michael Durkin, President and CEO of United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley.**

During the program's pilot year we trained and provided technical assistance to six agencies. By the end of 2009 we will have shared our gender-specific expertise with a total of 46 agencies. The United Way's TGTL agencies serve more than 20,000 girls throughout Greater Boston, which means the Intentional Mentoring training has the potential to impact 20,000 girls in our area. Therefore, Intentional Mentoring is built on Big Sister's vision of a mentor-rich community in which every girl has access to the support she needs to become a confident, competent, and caring adult.

About Intentional Mentoring

Intentional Mentoring is led by Big Sister staff member **Sharon Daura, Training Services Manager.** Sharon is a seasoned professional with experience as an educator and human service provider in gender-specific settings. She has a strong knowledge of girls' issues, with experience facilitating groups of adolescent girls and designing prevention curriculum to address their health and wellness. Prior to her position as Training Services Manager, she was the Supervisor of Match Support in Big Sister's Community-Based Mentoring program. In this role, Sharon was responsible for coordinating the department's pre- and post-match volunteer training and match support programs, conducting internal train-the-trainer processes, and providing direct match support services to Big and Little Sisters.

Sharon trains cohorts composed of front-line staff and executives from seven to eight different agencies. Two cohorts, which meet once per month for five months, are led each year at United Way's offices. The purpose of Intentional Mentoring is to provide these staff with training and customized technical assistance that focuses on:

- Strengthening the agency's capacity to provide a gender-sensitive environment and gender-sensitive programming for girls, as many of these agencies are co-ed

- Increasing the number of positive mentoring relationships in girls' lives
- Further developing the practitioner's ability to attend to girls' distinct needs, thus effectively supporting girls' social-emotional development
- Supporting all staff members of to assume the role of Intentional Mentor in addition to their more formalized role
- Creating a continuum of care for girls by enabling programs to work with other networks of support

How Intentional Mentoring Works

The training is designed to build practitioners' working knowledge of the Framework for Developing Gender-Sensitive Services. This framework is the core of the Intentional Mentoring initiative and outlines five key areas of focus for creating safe spaces for girls in youth services environments: **Staff, Programming, Policies & Procedures, Physical Space, and Agency Values.**

The training is designed to support practitioners in their roles as "intentional mentors" and to strengthen their skills in developing healthy relationships with girls. This is done by addressing the following topics:

- The critical elements of a gender-sensitive program and environment
- Establishing and maintaining health boundaries with girls and staff
- Supporting the social-emotional needs of girls, with a particular focus on the most common mental health issues for girls
- The unique needs of girls in the juvenile justice system
- Understanding girls' violence and aggression, as well as prevention and intervention strategies

Why Intentional Mentoring is Necessary

Research tells us that girls are best served in gender-sensitive programs. Unfortunately, there are legitimate obstacles to creating that type of program. A lack of funding for girls' programming is one example, as only 6% of philanthropic dollars support girls-only programs. As a result, programs are often created with a "one-size fits all approach," where program design does not address the unique needs of girls. There are very few professional development opportunities where staff can reflect on their work with girls and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to creating and sustaining a gender-sensitive program. Intentional Mentoring is important because it fills that gap.

While Intentional Mentoring is not a duplication of Big Sister's programs, it is designed according to the core values of our internal work. We know that positive relationships build resiliency in girls.

Intentional Mentoring formalizes that concept and asks staff, irrespective of job role, to think of themselves as mentors. And in the same way that training and on-going support are vital to volunteer mentors, staff members need forums in which they can learn about the contexts of girls' lives and discuss strategies for supporting girls. "The policies and procedures section of the framework inspired me to try to bring about some new staff professional development around the topic of girls' development," said one participant in an Intentional Mentoring workshop.

How Intentional Mentoring Has Evolved

Like all of our work at Big Sister, Intentional Mentoring has evolved in order to meet the needs of the girls and the staff who serve them. The training has expanded considerably since the pilot year. We have almost doubled the number of training hours—from eight to 15—to allow for richer exploration of the subject matter. Workshop participants have consistently indicated a high level of satisfaction with the interactive nature of the sessions, particularly the opportunity to discuss gender-specific programming with representatives from other agencies. Thus, the additional time allows for a balance of theory and practice, as well as small group work between agencies.

Additionally, practitioners are requesting on-going support and training. In order to respond to that request, we are designing and implementing an Advanced Training sequence this year. This training will be offered to practitioners from previous cohorts who completed the initial training. A focus group was conducted last year, with representatives from three previous cohorts to identify training needs. During this discussion, practitioners also expressed an interest in being connected with one another to exchange best practices and discuss issues relevant to serving girls. In order to respond to this, and to ensure that practitioners' knowledge and skills remain current in accordance with the needs of girls, an e-communication from Big Sister will be piloted this year. This way the agencies we have trained will continue to be supported in their work with girls.

We will use so much of what we have learned to influence our program design, recruiting, and staffing," said one of the workshop participants. Big Sister is excited to continue our partnership with United Way on the Intentional Mentoring initiative and expand it even further in the future. Being sensitive to girls needs in both a single-sex and co-ed environment is the only way to ensure girls' needs are being met, and the only way to ensure girls everywhere can thrive.

2008-2009 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between November 21, 2008 and March 16, 2009. Thank you to our generous supporters!

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Harvard University
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*Denotes Legacy Society members: current and former Big Sisters

Thank You!!

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between January 1, 2009 and March 31, 2009. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

11 YEARS

Doreen Banaszak & Kandra Lynder F. Thomas & Trejonda

10 YEARS

Jessica Langerman & Jeanette
Lori MacDonald & Michelle Kathleen McDougall & Cara Sarah Meeks & Cassandra Sandra Smith & Amanda

9 YEARS

Adrienne Armstrong & Briana
Diane Broderick & Briana Ruth Hagearty & Racheal Marisa Jones & Susanne Kati Livingston & Felicia

8 YEARS

Tonya Salerno & Yara
Lori Wassermann & Amber

7 YEARS

Donna Leigh Coolidge-Miller & Stephanie
Ellen Daley & Lisette
Megan Flynn & Camille
Erica Greany & Sherly
Elizabeth Harris & Tachauna
Jessica Sandland & Rachel

6 YEARS

Renee Charpentier & Janice
Nancy Christiansen & Angelique
Judy Dombrowski & Ashlyn
Rebecca Gilding & Aprile
Leslie Greenfield & Tanissa
Audrey Paek & Samantha
Elena Proakis Ellis & Kaitlyn
Colleen Randall & Tara
Julie Sahlins & Samantha

5 YEARS

Suzanne Alston & Dyshawanna
Cindy Arens & Helen
Terri Campbell & Khalifa
Cynthia Dantas & Tay'la
Michelle Dolan & Mabel
Linda Hughes & Emily

Evangelia Lambidoni & Jacqueline
Megan Lipman & Ilcia
Johannah Morgen & Meagan
Jamie Raudensky & Jalisa
Jenn Reale & Angel
Atara Rich-Shea & Lindsey
Jessica Ziady Healy & Kimberly

4 YEARS

Andrea Bernard & Myeisha
Jennifer Brams & Kimberly
Erica Delery & Aiesha
Katheryn Eagan & Sparkle
Tamara Grubbs & Jazmyne
Brenda Lane & Daisy
Andrea Motta & Erika
Dina Pradel & Shanice
Sarah Spurgeon & Justine
Jane
Unaeze & Tiesha
Meagan Walker & Ashley

3 YEARS

Fahmida
Bashar & Jesenia
Katie Basilotto & Jessica
Margaret Bradford & Nivicka
Kayla Celani & Javienne
Ekaette Dunel & Ronique
Gennet Fantu & Janessa-Ivory
Beth Favoloro & Cindy
Elisha Fielding & Melanie
Karen Gallagher & Meghan
Logan Hamilton & Nazadeen
Kimberly Hartwell & Courtney
Meredith Hubbell & Jovanna
Marissa Jesson & Leonor
Heidi Katz & Latikia
Jane Kepros & Arleata
Nilofer Khalifa & Mailene
Vanessa Loeblich & Britney
Kelly Morgan & Joyce
Stacy Pyron & Nicole
Anna Spencer & Marina
Laura Sprauer & Ashley
Angelica Vargas & Paola
Nicole Watkins & Shadajiah

2 YEARS

Allyson Allen & Ronazia
Kathleen Barry & Joanna
Katlyn Beaver & Heaven

Nicole Benson & Jami-Lyn
Anne Bost & Ranajia
Alisha Bouzaher & Erin
Lisa Cavallo & Vivian
Sara Conrad & Melissa
Susan Cook & My
Kristen Craib & Victoria
Kathleen Cross & Stephanie
Jessica Crotty & Mindy
Jennie Dubitsky & Keyana
Patricia Fallon & Laura
Aine Friend & Khadija
Stephanie Hallenbeck & Skyler
Susan Hayes & Quadezia
Kristin Heinze & Ariel
Susan Jones & Elizabeth
Megan Kernan & Nathalie
Sondra Korman & Samantha

1 YEAR

Kiersten Abate & Luciana
Olyn Andrade & Nuha
Ashley Biss & Ashley
Courtney Boen & Mayisel
Rebecca Bradshaw & Virginia
Lisa Brazil & Rebecca
Caitlin Burr & Kelly
Elizabeth Chernus & Carolyn
Laura Cipriano & Christine
Sarah Clark & Tacora
Catherine Colliton & Synaija
Maureen Connelly & Laree
Catie Connolly & Genesis
Carol Corrales & Danashia
Amanda Dabrowski & Tatiana

Carmen Davis & Nataly
Amanda Degregoria & Makenna
Megan Delyanis & Jacqueline
Brandi Derr & Maurina
Katherine Dykes & Keila
Kristen Egan & Megan
Rebecca Fanelli & Crystal
Melissa Ferguson & Kimberlie
Lisa Florenzano & Juliana
Juliana Gamble & Jaedah
Monica Garlick & Sherrelle
Paula Gentile & Kassandra
Elizabeth Green & Carla
Laurie Groth & Liskel
Ligee Gu & Chantal
Nikita Gujral & Jendriana
Amy Hemberger & Kyla
Hyacinth John & Taniushka
Antoinette Johnson & Alyssa
Kristen Keating & Stacia
Marissa Keegan & Miraya
Maura Kiernan & Azhah
Kristy Kirby & Jenna
Julia Klassman & Logen
Amber Kopp & Caitlyn
Dana Kowalchyk & Tameka
Patricia Layne & Brittney
Matsuko Leatners & Kadidiato
Suzanne Lieb & Keylani

Linda MacArthur & Chayna
Rachel MacNeill & Timara
Amanda Martinez & Mickaella
Mary Mazzeo & Lauren
Shelly Meier & Samantha
Katherine Mickley & Natalya
Gisland Montour & Regine
Veronica Mora & Regat
Judith Moses & Rocio
Alyssa Moskos & Kimberly
Patricia Moy & Rachael
Gulia Muca & Destinee
Julie Muse-Fisher & Lovely
Marina Nasman & Tanisha
Whitney Naumann & Emily
Katherine Nguyen & Soteary
Lauren Ouellette & Yessenia
Kristen Paonessa & Brittany
Audra Peek & Adonia
Keisha Pierre & Dominique
Elizabeth Quigley & Mary
Melissa Rauseo & Kally
Alison Reilley & Nicolle
Mindy Reiser & Ashly
Alison Savery & Lakesha
Amber Servi & Taylor
Diane Souza & Brittany
Kathryn Stephens & Kanija
Lauren Stephenson & Jaliyah
Lauren Steyhan & Keyatta
Tricia Sullivan & Daymaira
Jennifer Tam & Matilda
Angela Tamzen & Justine
Colleen Taylor & Aaliyah
Lauren Tricerri & Tajah
Mara Trochez & Ariana
Valerie Wencis & Alecia
Alexandra Willcox & Lucy
Suzie Wilson & Christina
Pamela Zapata & Chavonna
Jennifer Zeisler & Jasmine
Caroline Zoltowski & Leydi



Happy Anniversary!

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Urban Beach Party June 11, 2009

Summer is coming early this year! Big Sister is turning up the heat for our 3rd Annual Urban Beach Party hosted by our Young Professional Board.

Urban Beach Party will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Exchange Conference Center, located on Boston's Historic Fish Pier.

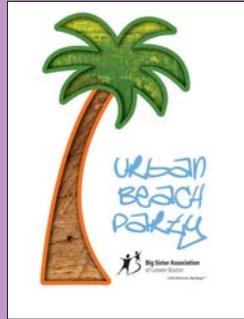
Feast on a fabulous spread from **Legal Sea Foods**, toast the night with drinks from **Barefoot Wine and Bubbly** and **Sam Adams**, and get down to the sounds spun by **Rebel the Ambassador** (back by popular demand!). Urban Beach Party will also feature an incredible silent auction and amazing raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$75 each and include all food and beverage for the evening.

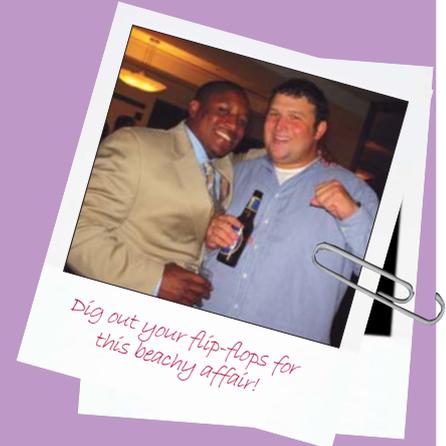
Purchase your tickets today at www.bigsister.org! 21+ only please.

Proceeds benefit Big Sister Association of Greater Boston's mentoring programs for girls.

Corporate sponsorships are available for this event. If your company is interested, please contact Jill Callahan at jcallahan@bigsister.org or 617.236.5304.



Get ready to celebrate summer...and Big Sister!



Dig out your flip-flops for this beachy affair!



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