



The Source

A Newsletter for Bigs, Parents & Littles

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Staff

Case Managers

Gail Clapper
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Maret Sisas
Johanna Springston

School Based Mentor Intergenerational, HS & Special Needs Coordinator

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Americorp Volunteer:

Cheryl Cadigan
Alice Buchanan

Senior Solutions

Gail Wachter

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sushil Bhattacharjee of BBBS of Frederick County along with twelve agency directors received Gold Achievement Award from Kate Snow, ABC Correspondent, a Big Sister and Board member. These agencies were rewarded for their outstanding achievements in fund development, program implementation and retention.

Big Brothers Big Sisters 2009 National Conference, sponsored by Comcast, set the tone for major transitioning and repositioning of the program in small, medium and large size agencies throughout the country. This year's participation was less than last year's due to financial hardships faced by many agencies. The conference introduced a change in fundamental positioning – shifting the perception of Big Brothers Big Sisters from a volunteer organization to a volunteer-based donor network.

Attendees heard a moving testimonial by Florida State Senator Dan Gelber and his alumni Little Brother Travis Thomas.

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships' Executive Director



Joshua DuBois, joined by his Little Brother of nine years, Aidid. DuBois and Aidid impressed the audience with their candid, thoughtful story, spanning their initial meeting to their shared experiences over the years -- art shows, sports and personal pan pizzas. DuBois and Aidid inspired the audience by illustrating first-hand the reality that a Big Brother can change a child's perspective and greatly impact his life.

Judy Vredenburg, current CEO narrated a heartfelt summary of her experience as national leader, recognizing individual team members and agencies' successes.

"Every one of us who is attracted to Big Brothers Big Sisters believes in helping children to reach their potential. We deeply value the positive development of children, especially children facing enormous obstacles. This mission passion is what drives us. It's what has allowed us to make significant shifts over the decades. We are open to change when we can

see the connection to helping more children or helping them with greater and more lasting impact," she said.

Karen Mathis, the incoming CEO introduced herself, describing her upbringing, where her father's military career kept her and her siblings on the move. She attended 10 schools by the time she graduated high school. A "latchkey kid of the 1960's," she credits military discipline and the consistency of a parochial school education - in particular, the nuns - for keeping her on the right path.

Mathis told the Big Brothers Big Sisters that she was attracted to program for many of the same reasons that Judy Vredenburg was: her respect for the dignity of every person, her deep belief in helping children fulfill their potential and the fact that she strives to continuously learn and improve.

Mathis is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Denver, where she served as a Big Sister. She later received a law degree from the University of Colorado Law School. As president of the American Bar Association, she created the Youth at Risk program. She has partnered with the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, testified before many congressional committees and worked with White House staff. Her commitment to children's issues includes working on behalf

of teen pregnancy prevention for Planned Parenthood, and serving as a director on the Board of Volunteers of America and the Mile High Girl Scout Council.

Mathis is a collaborator with significant experience as an organizational leader, coalition builder, fund raiser, and advocate. She said she brings to Big Brothers Big Sisters external relationships, built across the decades, that she hopes will aid her as she works with agencies to achieve intentionality and financial goals to enable them to serve more children. She spoke of her passion for inclusion and diversity and said she looks forward to getting to visit agency leaders and getting to work in September.

Fund Raising News

The Frederick County Government has declined our request for a grant for next fiscal year to benefit the community and school based programs. However, the City Government has maintained its commitment. Requests for corporate donations and foundations are faring much better this year with a year end surplus. You will hear more about giving and how you can get involved in our next month's news letter. Everyone at the National Conference felt strongly that we need to ask for operating and program funds, without sufficient funds the valuable support the agency offers to children will not survive.

New Executive Committee

A new executive committee along with thirteen members of the board will be elected at July 8 annual meeting. The executive Committee consist of Frank Mitchell: President, John Schmehl: Past President, Dario Cavazos: Vice President, Fred Maurhoff: Treasurer, Esther Fiammetta: Secretary: Executive Director: Sushil Bhattacharjee. Board Members: Ernest Belton Jr., Elizabeth Brady, Richard Davies, Vincent DiFabio, Alison Getty, Susan Keller, Kendra Knoll, Tim Morgan, Laura Scafide, Michelle Simmons, and Daniel Strayton.

Mentoring Plus News

PARTNERSHIP: Case Managers from the Mentoring Plus Program will be meeting with the Heather Ridge School to discuss new partnership opportunities. Staff will also be meeting in the fall with staff members from Heather Ridge School. A breakfast meeting for the Frederick County Public School District guidance counselors and support staff will be held on August 19th and 20th to seek support and program networking opportunities.

SENIOR SOLUTIONS: The MP program welcomes a new office support trainee, Gale Wachter. Gale is employed by the Senior Solutions program which provides training and employment opportunities for adults over the age of 55 who wish to re-enter the workforce. Gale comes with administrative assistant and Personal and Home Care Aide experience. Please welcome Gail.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We would like to congratulate the following high school graduates and wish them success in future endeavors.

TIMOTHY JONES II BRAD MAZE DENZEL ZEIGLER

Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to wish our graduates great success!

Big Networking Meeting

The next Big Networking meeting will be held on Friday, July 17th, 6:30 to 8:30. The meeting will be held in the Trinity Chapel on W. Church Street directly behind the Orchard Restaurant, corner of Market Street and W. Church Street. There will be signs in front of the Chapel. Dinner will be served at the meeting.

The speaker for the evening will be Anne Ricciutti from the Community Agency School Services (CASS). CASS is a FCPS program that connects at risk students and their families to resources within the community in order to achieve family well being and to promote school success. We hope to give away some door prizes also. Please RSVP your case managers if you will be attending.

SUMMER SUCCESS

For the month of July 2009, *Big Brothers Big Sisters School Based Mentoring Program* is placing five volunteers in the Frederick County Public Schools *Summer Success Program*. These volunteers will range in ages from 16 to 65 years old. They will mentor children individually and as a group, and also assist the teachers in their classrooms. Our hats ore off to these motivated volunteers who are spending part of their summer vacation giving back to their community.

Little Brother Timothy Jones Awarded Scholarship

Timothy Jones, a Little Brother, is the 2009 recipient of the Michael C. Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund. Dave and Mary Snyder, Michael's parents, established the scholarship in his memory after his death in 2004. Michael was a Big Brother with our organization for several years and was very committed to helping at-risk children. The Community Foundation administers this \$500 scholarship which is available to Bigs or Littles attending college.

Timothy came into our program at the age of 10. His first match was with Katie Norwood, a high school student. When she left for college, Timothy was rematched with Scott Coble. Timothy's mother, Karen, says Scott is the nicest person and the match has been a wonderful experience for Timothy, who just graduated from Brunswick High School. Scott and Timothy will continue their relationship as he enters college at Frederick Community College in the fall. Timothy wants to follow in Scott's footsteps and study criminology and, perhaps, work for the FBI one day. We congratulate Timothy on this outstanding achievement and wish him the best for continued success!

Parent Networking Group:

The program is starting a parent inter-active group to communicate concerns, issues and to share ideas and resources.

New Matches

Dillon Conners & Mike Guckenberger
Tyler Jenkins & Sophia Spadacino
Kobe Simms &
Dale and Michelle Waite

Birthdays

Iesha Dorsey	5/5
Quamain Rozier	5/7
Latoya Mitchell	5/9
Kyle Dille	5/16
Tiashaun Jones	5/19
LaReyna Vega	5/21
Dylan Dodge	5/21
Brian Smith	5/21
Venus Bolinger	5/22
Nisyhas Orleans-Lindsay	5/24
DaVaugh Naylor	5/31
Martavis Naylor	5/31
Quin Vibbert	6/7
Phillip Webb	6/12
Timothy Eckenrode	6/15
Andrea Harley	6/19
Odalis Garza	6/24
Anton Dotson	6/30

Anniversaries

Chris Snowden & Chip Kraft - 4 Years
Latoya Mitchell & Wendy Cox - 4 Years
Lane Davis & Nathan Lage - 3 Years
Andrea Harley & LaTrenda Stone - 2 Years
Joshua Rodriguez & Greg Guinn - 2 Years

Graduations

Devohnn Rozier & Jeff Bohraus - 11 Years
Brian Moberly & Rich Sorensen - 4 Years

Apologies

Big Brothers Big Sisters apologizes in case anyone's birthdays or anniversaries have not been mentioned. Thank you for your understanding.

"The little brother pictured is Khalil Hewlett, age 8, who is in 3rd grade at North Frederick Elementary. His big brother is Rick Baum from Walkersville, a semi retired business owner. The match was made in March of this year. Rick tells us they are having a blast together. They recently enjoyed attending the Woodsboro DAR event, where this picture was taken. Khalil especially enjoyed riding with "Mr. Rick" in the pick-up truck filled with bales of hay. This summer Khalil and Rick are looking forward to time together at the pool and a special overnight camping trip!"



Welcome Gail!

Gail Clapper has joined our staff as a part time case manager for the Mentoring Plus Program. Gail graduated from the University of Maryland with her degree in social psychology and has an impressive background in both office administration and customer service. She has been a resident of Frederick County for many years and previously served the community during her employment with The City of Frederick and The Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Gail is looking forward to meeting our volunteers, children and their families. Eager to begin making meaningful matches between our "bigs" and "littles", she says she is impressed by how many special long-term matches our programs have fostered and she enjoys hearing all of the happy and heart-warming success stories our "big" and "little" relationships generate. Gail can be contacted at 301-694-0188 or gail.bbbs@yahoo.com.

FREE EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT JOB CORPS

If you are between the ages of 16 and 24, motivated, and DRUG-FREE, Job Corps can help you to earn your GED or high school diploma and to receive the job training and certification you need for a successful career in a high-growth industry. At Job Corps, room and board, education, training, and placement services are provided at NO COST TO YOU!

Annual Picnic: August 15

Once again Jeff Ferris, a big brother along with associates at Winchester Homes are hosting the annual picnic at the baseball ground next to the Grove stadium August 15, 3 to 6 p.m. Jeff will handle picnic arrangements like last year along with his colleagues. He will bring food, drinks and arrange for baseball and volleyball games. Our job will be to provide additional volunteers, invite bigs and littles. We plan to purchase 75-100 Keys tickets and distribute them to picnic participants first come first serve. Please call your case managers for additional information and questions.

Recipient of Cyber Camp Donation

Thirteen year old Jordan Green is the recipient of a week of Cyber camp, a donation provided by a long time resident of Frederick County Joan Pellegrino. Cyber camp is a wonderful computer and cyber-skills camp held at various universities and colleges around the country for children from ages 6-17 years. The one-week sleep-away camp will be held at George Mason University. Jordan will be staying in the George Mason University dorm including board and lodge. This is a wonderful opportunity for Jordan. You will be expecting to hear from Jordan at the end of the camp in the next newsletter. Jordan has been matched with Lisa King since 2006.

2 East Church Street, P.O. Box 442, Frederick, Maryland 21705-0442

TODAY!!!

Please tear off this form and mail it back to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Frederick County

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Type of Volunteer Service: _____ BB/BS/Mentor _____ School Based Mentor _____ Other _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

**I would like to become a Volunteer for
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Frederick County**



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