

Your Big Brothers Big Sisters monthly newsletter is here!



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of the Ocean State

# The Big News

**Vision: BBBSOS envisions a community where all children have access to mentors to support individual growth and development.**

[Visit Our Website](#)



## **A Word From Lori Viner Director of Operations & Administration**

As 2016 winds down, BBBSOS looks back at another productive year:

- Our community-based program provided over 500 children with mentors;
- Our site-based programs expanded to 15 locations statewide;
- Our Beyond School Walls program continues to grow at Amgen and it's just been introduced at National Grid;
- Successful events such as our Gala, Welcome to Summer Concert, The Big Toast, and The Big Walk helped to raise funds and awareness for mentoring while bringing new friends to the organization.
- Rhode Islanders donated over 7 million pounds of clothing and household items to our Donation Center to support youth mentoring.

We look forward to kicking off 2017 with National Mentoring Month - a celebration of mentoring and building friendships that transform lives. Be sure to keep an eye on your email and our social media accounts for announcements of upcoming activities in January.

## **BBBSOS and Barnes & Noble Teamed Up For Giving Tuesday**

It was a fun-filled day of live entertainment, story-telling, gift wrapping, and more, but mostly it was a great day of giving. A BIG thank you to all who came out to shop, celebrate, and



support BBBSOS during Giving Tuesday on November 29th! Teamed up with Barnes & Noble for a third year, 20% of proceeds from those who mentioned BBBSOS at the register were donated to our youth mentoring programs. It was an honor to have Mayor Lombardi of North Providence and Mayor Avedisian of Warwick in attendance to declare November 29th as Giving Tuesday. Kevin Mulhern, the author of *Cody the Cloud*, and Mai Donohue, the author of *Crossing the Bamboo Bridge*, read to a captive audience, while Miss Rhode Island Galaxy

2016 came to bring holiday cheer to shoppers! Our Big Sister Christina created fun holiday crafts with children, which were donated by Lakeshore Learning. Our staff and mentors also helped wrap gifts, making life easier for shoppers during this holiday season!

## Meet our Mentor of the Month!

Big Sister Christina joined our program in 2011 and has mentored three Little Sisters since then.

Christina is currently matched with Little Sister Sophia. They were originally matched a few years back, but a then 13 year old Sophia decided she was not ready for a mentor and left the program.

Last December, Sophia called BBBSOS and asked if she could be matched again. Our staff arranged a lunch meeting for Christina and Sophia where they reconnected and were soon rematched. Sophia and Christina will celebrate their one-year anniversary just after the new year.



Besides volunteering her time to mentor Sophia, Christina has helped to organize and run our annual Holiday Shoppe for Littles and their families. Christina also donates \$500 annually through her employer, which is used to help fund match activities.

A "BIG" thank you to Christina for her commitment and dedication to Sophia & BBBSOS!!!



## Not Your Average Dinner

January is National Mentoring Month and Not Your Average Joe's in Warwick is helping us to celebrate. When you dine at the restaurant at 400 Bald Hill Road on any Tuesday in January, 15% of your total purchase will be donated to support BBBSOS. Just mention BBBSOS or present the voucher below – and enjoy a great meal while you support our youth mentoring programs!

NOT YOUR AVERAGE DINNER



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
1966 - 2016  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Ocean State



NOT YOUR  
AVERAGE JOE'S  
KITCHEN & BAR

Not Your Average Joe's in  
Warwick supports Big Brothers Big  
Sisters of the Ocean State (BBBSOS)  
every Tuesday in January!

Mention you are dining to support  
BBBSOS and NYAJ will donate 15% of  
your total order to support BBBSOS  
youth mentoring programs.

## Bringing Holiday Cheer!

Santa came to visit  
over 60 matches this



weekend at the BBBSOS annual Holiday Party. The Littles were on their best behavior as they created holiday crafts, decorated cookies, and sang karaoke.

Staff and Board Members loved catching up with old and new matches. How awesome that every child was able to receive a gift? This amazing party would not have been possible without the generosity of so many. We would like to give a big thanks

to Ocean State Charities Trust and the RI Shriners for their support! Special thanks to board member Jay Allbaugh from Cox and board member Brendan Kane and the Peregrine Group team for their generous donations to make this the best holiday party yet. In all, Santa Bill of Westerly had nothing but great things to report to the North Pole!

## Bryant University Fall Fun Day

Bigs and Littles had a blast at the Bryant University Fall Fun Day on November 19th. Littles were so excited to visit their mentors at college. Together they explored the campus, created crafts, played games, and so much more. We are so thankful to have such amazing mentors and for our awesome partnership with Bryant University!



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## Donation Centers open through December 31st

There's still some time to make a 2016 tax deductible donation of gently-used clothing, shoes and small household items to support BBBSOS mentoring programs!



Donations can be dropped off at any BBBSOS Donation Drop-Off Center or any local Savers store between now and December 31st. All locations will be closed on Christmas Day but otherwise open regular business hours through the end of the year.

Visit [www.DonateRI.org](http://www.DonateRI.org) to find a convenient drop-off location near you or to schedule a free home pickup.

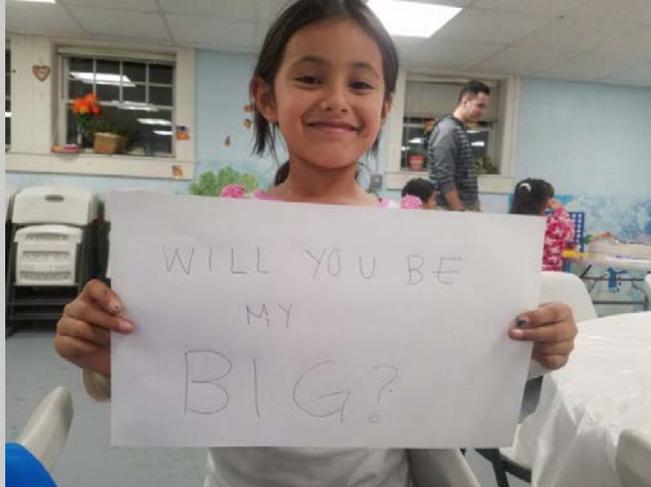
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## Our 2016 Annual Appeal is underway...

Your support helps change the

lives of hundreds of RI children every year, and we appreciate your generous donations. Each day we see the significant impact mentoring has on the children we serve. We couldn't continue this important mission without your support.

[Click Here](#) to download the appeal, for some great facts on mentoring, and information on where your donation goes. [Click Here](#) to make your tax deductible contribution now.



**"Mentoring means to give someone advice. But BBBSOS is different. My mentor gives more than just advice. He has shaped me into the person I am. Without him I don't know where I would be or what I'd want to do." ~BBBSOS Little**

*Support us when you shop this holiday*

Amazon donates when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**amazon smile**



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### **Big & Little Dipper Charm Bangles**

Want to thank someone who has served as a mentor to you? Need a special holiday gift for someone who has supported or guided you in your life?

Consider the Big & Little Dipper set of two charm bangles from Alex & Ani.

Alex & Ani will donate 20% of each set sold to Big Brothers Big Sisters. **Get yours [here](#).**

## Give the Gift of Time

New and Old Friends...Little Sister Sophia and Big Sister Hrsanthi just had their first visit, while Little Sister Jess and Big Sister Jess just celebrated a year of being matched!

We need mentors just like you! It takes just 6-8 hours a month to make a BIG difference! Call us at 401-921-2434 ext 101 for more information on how you can become involved!



STAY CONNECTED:

