



Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City

*Overcoming Tough Challenges
Commitment Makes the Difference*



Annual Report 2006

Innovative Programs

The Catalyst for Life-Altering Change



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Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City has developed programs that provide critical long-term bonding, nurturing and professional support to help at-risk youngsters trust adults, and motivate them to grow into achieving, contributing, mature individuals.

Whether the problems are school- or family-based, crime-related, or other social issues, the concept of “One Big - One Little” is the key to unlocking the potential in each child and dramatically altering the course of his or her life. *The New York Times* in a national story, called Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City “the most established of mentoring organizations.”

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This year BBBS NYC selected graduates of the Photography Department at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) to visually capture the bond that develops between “Big” and “Little.” Their images in this report capture “Bigs” and “Littles” who have overcome significant problems. SVA’s mission is to educate students who aspire to become professional artists. Its 100-plus faculty are chosen for their expertise and their accomplishments. In their senior year, photography students are assigned a mentor to critique their work. The message that Stephen Frailey, Chair, SVA Photography Department, gives his graduating students is “You are the future that we can never predict.” And for over 100 years, the mentors at BBBS NYC have helped to shape the future of NYC youth by transforming their lives.

The Results of Commitment

Drugs, violence, crime, teen pregnancy, incarcerated parents...these are very tough factors that can start young people down a road from which their lives will never be the same. A committed Big Brother or Big Sister, however, can make the difference in which path these youth travel.

Not only are Big Brothers and Big Sisters always “on call,” but so are our case managers, who supervise and support these relationships. Many of our staff carry beepers and cellphones so they can be reached 24 hours a day.

Here are some of the results of this commitment:

- Six years of surveys of our Workplace Mentoring Program found that 85% of the students improved their school attendance and performance; 86% increased their self esteem; 92% now said they expected to finish high school; and 87% improved their attitudes toward being able to make it in the business world.
- Our Juvenile Justice Program cut in half the re-arrest rate for participating boys. The re-arrest rate for girls was reduced by 85%.
- A seven-year study of our Community program showed the following improvements: staying out of trouble with the law, 73%; improved school grades, 69%; better family relationships, 68%; better relationships with friends, 72%; higher self-esteem, 91%.
- Of our “graduates,” between the ages of 18 and 30, who responded to a survey of their experiences in our programs, 75% said their mentor was a big influence on their completing high school and the desire to pursue a college education; more than 90% discussed the positive impact of mentoring on their self-esteem; and 94% would recommend the program to a friend.

This success comes out of something we all can understand: When a youngster receives long-lasting, caring support, backed by professional help, the chance of success is increased greatly. This applies to any family, including our family of New York City.

Laura Parsons
Chairman

Frank J. Petrilli
President

Allan Luks
Executive Director



*Geraldo &
Juan*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AVITAL ARONOWITZ

Evolving programs that meet growing responsibilities.

COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

The foundation of our program for a century, this program matches youth, most often from single-parent homes, between the ages of 7 and 18, with a carefully screened adult role model 21 years or older. “Bigs” meet with youngsters at least every other week for four hours and maintain regular phone contact. The “Bigs” are always on-call. Each one-to-one relationship is also supported by a social worker responsible for supervision.

In addition to BBBS NYC’s headquarters office at 223 East 30th Street in Manhattan, the agency has Community Mentoring Program offices located in Jamaica, Queens and the South Bronx.

Research has found that youth participating in these programs show a 67% improvement in school attendance, a 69% rise in grades, a 91% boost in self-esteem, a 77% increase in self-confidence, and a 64% improvement in relationships with peers.



A Brighter Future

Juan was an angry 13-year-old. His father was incarcerated and his brother was sent back to the Dominican Republic to be raised by family members. He showed his anger by acting out at school and at home. In addition, Juan’s anger and low self-esteem led to constant eating, and he had become seriously overweight. His mother was worried that his behavior would continue to grow worse, and when she found out he was at risk of not graduating, she turned to BBBS NYC for help.

He was matched with 28-year-old Geraldo, who lives in Manhattan and works as a sales specialist at Eli Lilly. Geraldo wanted to help a young boy facing many of the stresses that he had faced in childhood but had the support to overcome. He immediately identified with Juan, but building a bond took time, since the

teen was initially very closed.

After an incident at school early in their match, when Juan risked suspension, Geraldo spoke to him about controlling his anger, and the importance of doing well in school. This led to more discussions, and once the dialogue began, it continued to flow. The trips by car to and from home on the days they get together provide time to discuss a variety of topics, while also listening to hip-hop, which they both enjoy. For both, the highlight of their get-togethers are not only the trips to Yankee games, bowling, ice skating or visits to a museum, but the time together “just hanging out and talking” during the car rides.

In a matter of a few months, Juan began making significant strides. His grades improved at school, and he had no further disciplinary

issues, and his behavior at home got better as well, much to his mother’s amazement. He stopped overeating as a response to anger, and started taking better care of his health. Within six months, Juan’s mother was proud to report that Juan was going to graduate on time and move on to high school, and invited Geraldo to the graduation ceremony.

In acknowledgement of his fresh outlook on life and lifestyle, Juan agreed to participate with Geraldo in the BBBS NYC annual “Race for the Kids” at Riverside Park. They completed the 2K course, during which Juan proudly told people “everyone should have a big brother.”

With Geraldo helping Juan to focus his energy, channel his anger and move in the right direction, the two “brothers” have a lot to look forward to.



Emily & Melissa



Right after 13 year-old Melissa gave birth to a baby boy, the eighth grader went through a difficult time, and was doing very poorly in school. When Emily and Melissa were introduced at BBBS, their photo was taken. Emily, a 25 year-old sales rep at Bloomberg, and Melissa were both sitting stiffly, hesitantly, but with huge smiles on their faces. Emily had asked lots of questions, and Melissa had been shy, but they had both decided that they would give the match a try.

At the time of their first meeting, Melissa had a 3-month old son and

was struggling with the responsibilities of motherhood, school, and a teenage social life. Over the next few months, Emily and Melissa slowly got to know each other during their outings, and learned that they had quite a bit in common. On a trip to the Statue of Liberty, they agreed that they're both impatient waiting in lines. At the bowling alley, they realized that they could both use some work on their aim. But most importantly, during these early months they were able to open up and talk about more than just superficial topics. Soon Melissa was

PROGRAMS

WORKPLACE MENTORING PROGRAM

Our Workplace Mentoring Program, a collaborative effort between schools, corporations and BBBS NYC, introduces students to the world of business through a one-to-one relationship. Every other week, teenagers are brought to companies in New York City where they meet with a Big Brother or Sister. By bringing students on-site, not only do youngsters bond with an adult volunteer who can focus on their needs, but they also learn they can make it in the business world.

91% of students completing the program want to go on to college, 87% report an improvement in school, and 88% believe they can pursue a business career. In addition, 89% of the adult volunteers reported an increase in self-esteem and 86% felt their work life improved.

WORKPLACE MENTORING SPONSORS: 2006-2007

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SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM

Adult volunteers visit participating schools on their lunch hour or before school begins to meet their "Littles." During the time spent together the two can have personal discussions, do homework or study together, play educational games, or use the time however needed. An on-site BBBS social worker oversees the program and provides on-going counseling and support.

Research shows significant personal and academic improvement –67% of participants showed improved school achievement, 69% have improved school attendance and 62% indicated increased trust in teachers.

Sisters for the long-term

doing most of the talking and Emily was listening intently.

Melissa was able to express some of the challenges that she faced balancing her role as a young mother and a freshman in high school. Sometimes she had to choose between missing classes and taking her baby to the doctor, and while she was a dutiful mother, her grades suffered.

They often talked about difficult obstacles and how to overcome them. One of Emily's proudest moments was during a BBBS camping trip. She and

Melissa worked together to cross a rope bridge suspended 30 feet in the air. Melissa's constant encouragement was the only thing that got Emily across to the other side. Emily couldn't help but remark on the symbolic nature of the exercise. They had both refused to let each other fall literally, but their relationship had grown so strong that they wouldn't let each other fall figuratively either. They knew they could depend on each other.

Melissa and Emily talked about Melissa's dream of becoming an

obstetrician, and how important it is to finish high school. Along with the support and encouragement of her family, Melissa is now doing well in school and proudly working on completing a program to become a nurse's assistant. Emily is constantly impressed by what a patient and loving mother she is to her now two year-old son. The pictures that they take together now show them with huge smiles on their faces, leaning toward each other, like the two close friends they've become.

PROGRAMS

JUVENILE JUSTICE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

This comprehensive citywide intervention program matches an array of “high risk” youth under the age of 18 (court involved/adjudicated youth) with specially screened and trained volunteers. The police, family and criminal courts, probation, the department of juvenile justice, and social service personnel help refer participating youth. BBBS NYC provides a full range of services to these youngsters and their families.

The program has yielded a high degree of success, with an overall recidivism rate for male participants of 23%, versus a 46% re-arrest rate for non-participants. To date, only 5% of female participants have been re-arrested, compared to a 27% rate nationally.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Youth between the ages of 7 and 18, who have a parent or sibling currently serving time in jail, are referred to these prevention programs. Youngsters are matched in a one-to-one relationship with an adult mentor who meets with them regularly. The goal is to prevent these youth from being arrested.

Without effective intervention strategies, 70% of these children will commit criminal offenses.

BUILDING FUTURES

Adolescents transitioning out of foster care are a uniquely vulnerable part of the foster care population. Many will not return home to their parents or be adopted. Rather, they will age out of the foster care system without jobs, stable homes, savings, or people they can count on. These teenagers are matched with a “Big” and receive intense professional support.

77% of participating youth improved self-confidence.

THE EAST NEW YORK FAMILY CARE AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Located in East New York, Brooklyn, this program aims to prevent foster care placement of children and adolescents from homes that are facing challenges. It provides a full range of preventive and supportive counseling, including mentoring relationships for the children. There is also significant support for the parents and guardians to help stabilize their lives.

98% of the children and families avoided foster care placement.

Kevin & Brandon



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLOTTE DAVIS

Brandon could only be described as “lost,” when Kevin met him. Shy and timid, Brandon only wore black, had dark thoughts and constant nightmares. He had been through more by the age of six than most kids will go through in their lifetimes. He was doing poorly in school, and had no interest in spending time with his peers.

Back on September 11, 2001, Brandon, then a six-year-old, lost his father, a fireman at the South Street Ladder Company.

At the same time, Kevin Nigey, a teacher, watched, along with his

students. Nigey, also a volunteer fireman and an EMT, immediately went down to Ground Zero, and later on, worked with the Red Cross. With a desire to contribute more, he decided to leave teaching and become a full-time fireman, and enlisted in the FDNY training academy.

In 2003, Kevin was selected to be a member of FDNY’s Bravest, and was assigned to the South Street Ladder Company. When asked if he wanted to participate in the BBBS FDNY Partnership Program and mentor a child of a lost fire fighter,



Vast Leap Forward

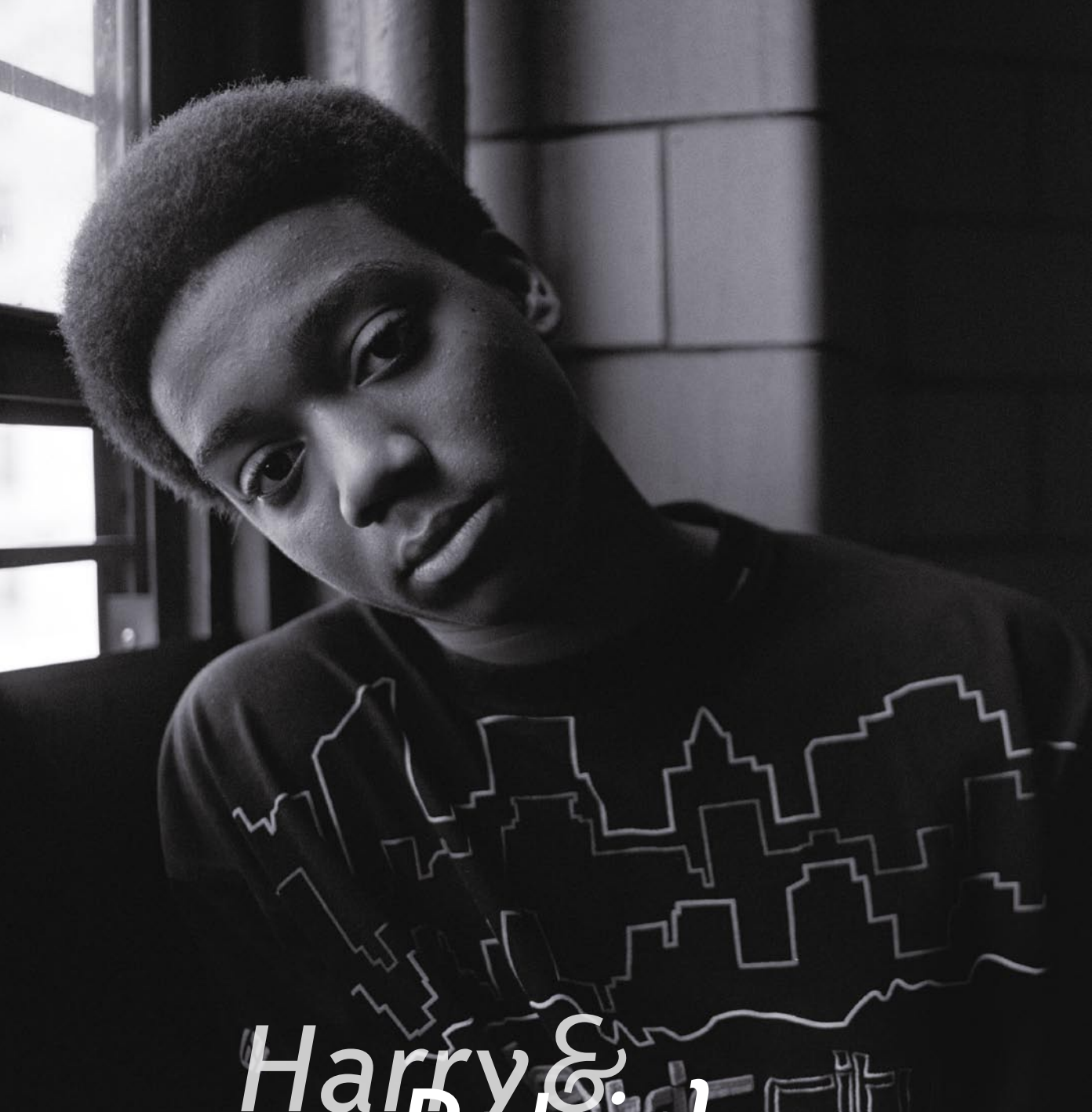
he agreed. The BBBS NYC social worker discussed his potential match and explained that he was the child of a firefighter from the same ladder company. Unbeknownst to Kevin, he was actually leaning on Brandon's father's memorial plaque at that exact moment. He immediately agreed to become Brandon's "Big."

Kevin spent time building Brandon's trust and initially focused on improving his schoolwork, taking advantage of his teaching background. Over time Brandon felt comfortable enough around Kevin to begin talking

to him about his thoughts and feelings about the loss of his father as well as other issues going on in his life. His grades began to improve, he started wearing a varied wardrobe, and he started socializing with friends. Along with the events run by FDNY and BBBS that ranged from sports, races, to outdoor programs and games, Brandon also got involved in karate and group sports, reaching a level of proficiency that excelled beyond his age's expectations.

Today, Brandon at 11 has blossomed into a confident, outgoing pre-teen.

With the support of his two sisters and incredible mother, Brandon is finding his way back into the life of a kid again. Kevin describes their relationship as that of brother and friend, and are an inseparable part of each other's lives. "My goal was to offer Brandon support without being a crutch. I will always be there for him and will give him 110 percent of my time and energy," Kevin explains. He believes that mentoring Brandon was a huge help in his own healing process, feeling a sense of peace in the progress he has seen in Brandon.



Harry & Patrick



Patrick, cutting school regularly and hanging with a tough crowd, was only 15 years old when he was arrested and spent time in a Juvenile Detention Facility. When he was released, Patrick's mother hoped that participating in BBBS NYC's Juvenile Justice Mentoring Program might give Patrick a stable male role model to redirect him towards a positive future.

When Harry met Patrick in the spring of 2006, Patrick was very shy

and withdrawn. It took several get-togethers for him to trust his new Big Brother Harry, who works for Con Ed. They bonded over sports, attending baseball and basketball games, and slowly built up a friendship. After three months, Patrick began calling Harry at home, asking to talk. He started to open up about what was happening with school, with his situation at home, and with friends. He sought advice on how to handle things.

PROGRAMS

NEW AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

The program helps immigrant youth overcome many obstacles. Adjusting to a new culture, language and customs, these youngsters often experience feelings of loneliness, isolation and prejudice. To date participants in the program represent over 50 different nations.

96% of clients who were matched for one year showed significant improvement in psychological resiliency.

SEPTEMBER 11TH PROGRAMS

This program provides long-term help for children who lost a parent or close relative in the World Trade Center attacks. It also provides professionally supervised, caring, adult mentors for children particularly touched by the events of September 11, including children whose families suffered economic distress from the World Trade Center attack and children who have had increased difficulty at school or at home because of 9/11.

Research has shown that for this population having a stable adult in a child's life, who provides consistent friendship, reassurance, safety and security, all of which a Big Brother/ Big Sister relationship does, is the number one factor in preventing the development of serious problems, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Children in this program have demonstrated an average decrease of 51% in symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress disorder after one year of the mentoring relationship, and a decrease of 61% after two years.

FDNY PROGRAM

Developed in conjunction with the New York City Fire Department, this program matches youth who lost a firefighter parent on September 11th with a mentor who currently works in the fire department. In addition, they participate in group activities organized by the Kids Connection, a FDNY-run organization that supports bereaved fire department families. The FDNY handles recruitment of both volunteers and youth for the program, while BBBS NYC provides the social workers to oversee the matches.

Surveys indicate that 60% of participants express less fear about self and family, and 56% have improved ability to concentrate at home and school.

At the Crossroads

Now several months into their relationship, the two are very close. Patrick is no longer cutting school and has made many new friends through his participation in team sports. As he develops a higher level of self-esteem, he is starting to think about his future. Harry is helping Patrick learn about possible careers and explore various options. When Patrick became fascinated with Harry's previous military career as a Machinist Mate

3rd Class Petty Officer in the Navy, Harry explained what that job entails.

Early on in their match, Patrick spent a full night out. When he didn't come home, his panicked mother called Harry, who spoke to Patrick immediately after the incident. He explained to Patrick that he not only worried his mother by not calling, but also was violating his parole and jeopardizing his future. His talk with Patrick was effective,

and there has never been another incident like this.

Patrick is becoming much more focused on potential opportunities and he says one thing is for sure – his future will definitely include his Big Brother Harry.

Ellen & Delfina



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CASEY LEVINE



A Shared Journey

It was 1995 when Ellen, a volunteer in the Workplace Mentoring Program at Bear Stearns, met Delfina for the first time. What Ellen saw was a tough 12-year-old with little to say and hardly any interest in school. Delfina's reaction to meeting Ellen that day, was being frightened by this "white woman in a suit" with whom she had absolutely nothing in common.

Delfina, one of six children living with immigrant parents in a two-bedroom apartment in Brooklyn, planned to drop out of school—something her two older sisters had already done. The day she walked into the Bear Stearns offices she discovered that there was a whole other world beyond her neighborhood, one that offered different options beyond the jobs her parents held as a dishwasher and a factory worker. She decided she wanted to be a part of this new world, and Ellen made it clear that there was only one way to change her life, and that was getting an education.

Delfina committed to finishing high

school and go on to college, and Ellen was always there to support her. After completing the Workplace Mentoring Program, Ellen was transferred to a different office location that didn't have a mentoring program in place, so the two decided to participate in the Community Mentoring Program and continue their relationship. Shortly thereafter, Delfina's family moved to Staten Island, but she did not want to attend the local high school. Ellen encouraged her to apply to one of the city's specialty high schools, and Delfina was accepted at Jackie Onassis High School in midtown. The teen commuted every day from Staten Island for four years, with Ellen cheering her on, meeting her for lunch, providing inspiration every step of the way.

The first to graduate from high school in her family, Delfina was accepted to Brooklyn College. With a two-hour commute each way, the college course work piling up, and with no support for her dreams from her family, Delfina considered dropping

out. Ellen convinced her not to let the anxiety get the best of her. She helped her plan a strategy to lighten her course load, by taking summer classes so the burden could be spread out. Delfina graduated with a degree in accounting in 4½ years.

Today, 11 years after that fateful first meeting, Delfina works as an accountant at Deloitte & Touche. There are days she walks into her office and can't believe the life she is living. She knows it would never have happened without Ellen – to show her that there were other options, to support her through the tough times, and to believe in her when nobody else around her did. Ellen is very proud of Delfina, having overcome tremendous obstacles to achieve her dream. Delfina is like a daughter to her, and they continue to speak to each other and see each other regularly. When friends ask Delfina who Ellen is, she tells them Ellen is her godmother – "because God brought her into my life."

PROGRAMS

YOUNG MOTHERS PROGRAM

This program provides special training for female mentors who give emotional support to pregnant teens or teenage mothers. In addition, social workers provide housing, healthcare, career, education and childcare information. Through these matches, the teenage mothers increase their feeling of self-worth and learn to become more self-sufficient. Research shows that connecting young mothers to society enables them to avoid further unwanted pregnancies and long-term dependence on welfare.

100% of the young mothers showed measurable improvement in school performance, motivation and attendance after being matched. None had an unwanted repeat pregnancy.

INCREDIBLE KIDS

This program uses one-to-one mentoring to help youth, between the ages of 7 and 18 who have physical disabilities, overcome the effects of social and educational exclusion, which they often face from an early age. Mentors must show a commitment to working with this particularly vulnerable young population, and they receive specialized training on disabilities and how to provide empowering support. The program also includes special group activities that provide fun and positive challenges. In addition, support services are provided to parents and siblings.

91% of the parents said the mentor had helped their child feel as capable as anyone else..

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Midland Loan Services, Inc.
Milberg Factors Inc.
Monterey Fund, Inc.
The NASCAR Foundation
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New York Mercantile Exchange Charitable Foundation
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The Nola Foundation
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Paul, Hastings, Janofsky, & Walker LLP
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Rector Trinity Assoc. LLC
Rosenthal & Rosenthal Inc.
Smiles Fashion Corp.
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Trizec Properties, Inc.
U.S. Trust Company of New York
United Way of Tri-State, Inc.
Ziff Brothers Investments, LLC

Mentors \$2,000-\$4,999

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Statement of Activities

for the year ended June 30, 2006

| | Unrestricted Operating | Unrestricted Board Designated | Temporarily Restricted | TOTAL |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT | | | | |
| Private grants and contributions | \$3,199,996 | | \$14,140 | \$3,214,136 |
| Special events, net | 3,240,449 | | | 3,240,449 |
| Government grants and contracts | 1,990,624 | | | 1,990,624 |
| United Way | 64,938 | | | 64,938 |
| Interest and dividends | 75,425 | \$175,094 | | 250,519 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains on investments | | \$953,752 | | 953,752 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | | | | |
| Total revenue and other support* | \$8,571,432 | \$1,128,846 | \$14,140 | \$9,714,418 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Program | \$6,892,247 | | | \$6,892,247 |
| Management and general | 640,655 | | | 640,655 |
| Development and fundraising | 675,234 | | | 675,234 |
| Total expenses | \$8,208,136 | | | \$8,208,136 |

*Does not include value of donated services of approximately \$4Million in 2006.

A full copy of the annual audit can be obtained from Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, Inc. This report is filed with the Office of New York State Attorney General Charities Bureau, located at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities.

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Managing Director

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Manager*
Ana Osoria
*Associate Program
Manager*
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*Associate Program
Manager*
Samantha Williams
Administrative Assistant
David Rice
Assistant Case Manager
Francy Henao
Assistant Case Manager

Amy Kui
Assistant Case Manager
Faith Sone
Assistant Case Manager

Special Populations Mentoring Program

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Deputy Director
Kristin Brand
Assistant Deputy Director
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Senior Case Manager
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Children of Prisoners*
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Valentine
*Program Manager-
NYCHA*
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*Associate Program
Manager*
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Case Manager
Mireille Derrien
Case Manager
Nakiyah Hayling
Case Manager
Ebony Smalls
Case Manager
Alexis Telfair
Case Manager
Isabel Lopez
Administrative Assistant
Kim Hart
Interviewer

The Workplace Mentoring Center

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Program Supervisor
Tali Schwartz
Program Supervisor

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Program Manager
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Manager*
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*Associate Program
Manager*
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*Associate Program
Manager*
Jessica Del Cid
*Associate Program
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Manager*
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Manager*
Nicole Hernandez
*Associate Program
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*Associate Program
Manager*
Emily Rackoff
*Associate Program
Manager*
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*Associate Program
Manager*
Michal Yanai
*Associate Program
Manager*
Rebecca Wong
*Senior Program
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Lori Bethea
Administrative Assistant
Katherine Mersereau
Interviewer
Linda Magnus
MSW Intern

East New York Family Care and Mentoring Center

Beverly Houston
Director
James McFarlane
*Case Management
Supervisor*

Jamie Bliss
Case Planner
Danielle May
Case Planner
Adrian Miller
Case Planner
Andrea Mitchell
Case Planner
Eric Ortiz
Case Planner
Anacaona Vazquez
Administrative Assistant
Melissa Monroe
Family Aide

The Center for Training and Professional Development

Danielle Brown Fuller
Senior Director
Kate Nammacher
*Training and Technical
Assistance Manager*
Julia Schwartz
*Education and Legislation
Manager*
Ruben Trammell
*Borough Networks
Manager*
Patrice C. Gerideau
*Training and Special
Projects Manager*

Development Department

Maryanne Greenfield
Senior Director
Sharon Kessler
*Associate Director,
Development*
Sabrina Valvo
Director of Marketing
Estella Pate
*Manager of Foundation
Giving*
Jessica Moreira
Special Events Manager
Lisha McCormick
Special Events Coordinator
Megan Brown
*Foundation Giving
Coordinator*

Gerry DiCicco
Development Associate
Caroline Dube
Individual Giving Associate

Center for Excellence

Barbara Wald
Director
Janine Eng
Deputy Director
Michael Coughlin
*Supervisor, Volunteer Care
& Distribution*
Lisette Hernandez
Intake Manager
Patrick McCullough
Inquiry Manager
Lydia Aldana
Intake Specialist
Kathleen Johnson
Administrative Assistant
Maurice Oelbaum
Volunteer Liaison

Janet Adkins
Interviewer
Fran Elliott
Interviewer
Jane Bender
Interviewer
Eileen Butler
Interviewer
Jennifer Larke
Interviewer
David Lenihan
Interviewer
Veronica Powell
Interviewer
Ashandra Tarry
Interviewer
Chandra Yoder
Interviewer

Technology

Deepa Goyal
Director
Damon Cocklin
Technology Assistant

Fiscal Department

Rosalia Aquino
Controller
Susan Loeb
Payables Coordinator
Carlos Velazquez
Special Projects Manager
Kimitra Wideman
*Contracts Manager/Staff
Accountant*

Volunteer Recruitment

Linda Meany
Director
Ines Nobles
Intern

Administrative Services Department

Frank Scott
*Director of Operations
and Human Resources*
Racquel K. Sullivan
*Associate Director,
Human Resources*
Geraldine B. Goodman
*Assistant to the Executive
Director*
Mary Ann Mackiewicz
*Assistant to the Executive
Director*
Jorge Feliciano
Building Manager
Maureen Baynes
Receptionist
Gloria Clowes
Receptionist
Kevin Mulcahy
Systems Analyst
Lakimma Robinson-
Jordan
*Receptionist/
Administrative Assistant*
David Castellano
Operations Assistant

CENTER FOR TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since 1992, the Center has trained more than 900 youth agencies on how to establish their own mentoring programs. Conducted in partnership with Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, the Center provides a semester-long, 32-hour intensive course on running a mentoring program. It is the only graduate level mentoring training center in the country. The Center also provides hundreds of youth agencies each year onsite technical assistance, borough network coalitions, and a database to monitor matches, so they can establish mentoring programs in their communities with the highest standards. The Center coordinates the 140-agency statewide coalition that in 2006 succeeded in obtaining passage in Albany of the Safe Mentoring Act, to better protect children being mentored, through volunteer background checks. Bringing together the experiences from all BBBS NYC programs, the Center has made the agency a "teaching hospital" for the mentoring field.

Tough Challenges: The Role of the Case Manager

Every youth/volunteer relationship is supervised by highly trained case managers, most of whom have graduate degrees in social work, education, or psychology. In addition to interviewing all volunteers and families, and supervising the matches made, the case managers are constantly involved in providing supervision, counseling, and referral services when needed, to our children as well as their parents and guardians, for a range of social and health needs. Many case managers are on-call 24 hours.

The photos below and on the back cover of many of our case managers are in recognition of the important role that they play in the success of our organization. All of them provide the necessary and invaluable professional support to the thousands of our "Big" and "Little" match relationships.



Case managers photos continue on back cover

Our case managers - continued from page 17



CASE MANAGER PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSE CESARIO



Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City

223 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016 • 212-686-2042 • www.bigsny.org

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