



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island Celebrates the Grand Opening of their Donation Center and Mentoring Office in Islandia

On August 31, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) celebrated the grand opening of their new facility at 145 Sycamore Avenue. The 13,800-square-foot building is the new home of the agency's Donation Center as well as their Suffolk County mentoring program office.

"We are proud new residents of the Village of Islandia," remarked Bill Tymann, CEO of BBBSLI. "With our new facility, we will be able to provide more children and families here on Long Island with quality mentoring and support services." Mr. Tymann introduced Little Sister Morning, who shared her story about being a Little Sister.

"If I didn't have a mentor in my life, I wouldn't be at the level I am at today," said Morning. "I'm so glad to have Franca as a Big Sister- she helps me in school and she helps me in life."

BBBSLI has made a concerted effort to sustain and grow their services to more children and families in Long Island through entrepreneurial endeavors and fundraising events. Their Donation Center schedules free door-to-door service for residents who wish to donate clothing and household items as well as have clothing bins throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties to provide accessible drop-off locations. The donations are then sold through BBBSLI's partnership with SAVERS, a national thrift store chain with locations in West Hempstead, Holbrook and Medford, and 100% of the net proceeds support BBBSLI's mentoring program.

BBBSLI provides volunteer mentors, or 'Bigs', to children ages 7-16 who could benefit from having an additional positive adult in their life. Over 25% of all current matches have been together for five or more years, and all matches are provided professional support and guidance from a designated case manager throughout the relationship.

Mayor Allan M. Dorman of the Village of Islandia attended the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with BBBSLI Board Member Andrew Corrado, BBBSLI President's Council Member Richard Merzbacher and BBBSLI Donation Center and Facilities Management Board President, John Talotta.

BBBSLI also has offices in Levittown and Hampton Bays.

Photo Caption: Islandia's Mayor Allan M. Dorman (right) joins in a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island's new office and Donation Center on Sycamore Avenue. Also pictured (l-r): Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island Director of Operations Paul Hutter, Chief Executive Officer Bill Tymann, Board Member Richard Merzbacher, Chief Operating Officer Susan Samaroo, Chief Development Officer Mark Cox, and Board Member Andrew Corrado; 13-year-old Little Sister Morning; Donation Center and Facilities Management Board President John Talotta; and Morning's "Big Sister," Franca Floro.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island

Incorporated in 1977, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and shine. BBBSLI makes meaningful, professionally supported matches between adult volunteers ('Bigs') and children ('Littles'). Our mission is to promote the positive growth and development of Long Island's children by providing quality mentoring, education and support services.

BBBSLI provides a system of ongoing evaluation and support which is proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that "Littles" will perform better in school and avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and peers. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, please visit us at www.bbbsli.org

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