



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Long Island

Press Release

Jamessina Hille / Manager of Marketing and Public Relations
The E. David Woycik Jr., Building 70 Acorn Lane Levittown, NY 11756
tel 516.731.7880 x222 fax 516.731.0486

For Immediate Release

Volunteer Mentors Celebrated and Bigs of the Year Announced at BBBSLI Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Levittown, NY (April 12, 2011)- Big Brothers, Big Sisters and supporters of Big Brothers Big Sister of Long Island (BBBSLI) gathered at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on Tuesday night to celebrate over 25,000 cumulative hours of time and energy spent annually to positively impact the lives of children on Long Island. This celebratory dinner was held during National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

"I am inspired by each and every one of you here tonight, for your commitment and dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of our Littles," remarked Susan Samaroo, COO of BBBSLI. "We thank you for your hearts of gold."

During the program, volunteer mentors ('Bigs') who have been matched for five or more years were recognized. BBBSLI also proudly announced the Bigs of the Year:

College Big of the Year, Hofstra University Mentoring Program
Ashley Gray, Hofstra University Student
Matched since 2009 with Little Sister Katherine

Big Sister of the Year
Judy Faraone of Wading River, NY
Matched 4 years with Little Sister Sarah

Big Brother of the Year
Gbenga Olowoyeye of Central Islip, NY
Matched 5 years with Little Brother DeVaunte

Ashley Gray's Little Sister Katherine said in her speech, "Ashley listens to me and makes me feel special and important. Thank you for taking the time out of your life to be my Big Sister."

Big Sister of the Year **Judy Faraone** was touched by her Little Sister Sarah's speech. "Judy is a miracle worker. She makes me work harder in school and think about what I want to be when I grow up. If I had a second home, it would be Judy's."

Little Brother DeVaunte shared about his Big Brother of the Year **Gbenga Olowoyeye**, "Gbenga, you are always on me about my grades and my soccer. You are not even a Big to me anymore, you are not just a guy I met 5 years ago. You are my actual brother, and I appreciate you more and more each day."

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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