

# Big Sister

## Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

## Little Sisters Explore Their Dream Jobs

Several Big and Little Sisters participated in the second series of our **Building Big Dreams** career awareness initiative during the April school vacation week. From cooking in the kitchen with Lydia Shire to learning the ins and outs of being a professional fashionista with Sara Campbell, the girls got a first-hand look at a range of career opportunities available to them. We also offered this activity to the girls on our waiting list. With more than 300 girls currently waiting to be matched with a Big Sister, this was special chance for them to have a mentor for the day and enjoy the unique experience provided by Building Big Dreams.

We kicked off the week with a trip to **Scampo** in The Liberty Hotel to meet award-winning chef, **Lydia Shire**. Lydia not only treated Big and Little Sisters to a three-course lunch, but she also sat with them and talked about how she became one of Boston's most acclaimed chefs. Before the meal, the group saw Chef Lydia at her best with a pizza-making demonstration in Scampo's open kitchen.



Little Sister Haylee watches chef Lydia Shire create the perfect pizza at Scampo

Next up was a trip to **Millennium Printing Company** in Weymouth. Owner, **Denise Connors**, and her team gave the girls and their Big Sisters a tour of the print shop. They dabbled in graphic design by creating their own personalized notepads and saw professional off-set printing machinery in action. Denise also shared the challenges and rewards of being a woman business-owner.

On Thursday, a group of Big and Little Sisters enjoyed a special tour of the facilities at the award-winning **Dancing Deer Baking Company** in Readville. They got a VIP look into how a large-scale natural food bakery functions (the giant oven and walk-in freezer were a big hit!) and sampled some of the goodies along the way. Co-founder and CEO, **Trish Karter**, chatted with the group about the history of her unique company and the path that led to her current position.

The week wrapped up with a visit to **Sara Campbell**, the Boston-based woman's-wear designer and manufacturer. The girls and their Big Sisters spent the day in Sara's studio creating custom flip-flops and putting together their own designs with her accessories! One Little Sister, an aspiring

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Big Sister's new Board President, Max Bardeen, will lead us into our 60th year

## Meet Big Sister's New Board President

At Big Sister's May 10 Annual Meeting, sponsored by Grand Circle Foundation and Jules Catering, we proudly announced our Board of Directors' new slate of officers and welcomed incoming directors. Max Bardeen, Managing Director at UBS Financial Services, Inc., has taken the helm as Board President.

### How did you end up in Boston?

Well, I'm originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan. I graduated from Lafayette College, in Pennsylvania, with a degree in philosophy and decided the next logical step would be to navigate destroyers for four years in the United States Navy. I was ready for a break after that, so I planned to head out to Colorado for the winter to give myself a little respite and do some skiing. Before heading out west, I went to Boston to visit my brother and sister. The Head of the Charles was going on that weekend and I had so much fun I decided to stay. After a while my brother dropped some not-so-subtle hints about my couch surfing not paying for itself, so I started interviewing for

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### Highlights

- ★ Inspiration on the Menu at Celebrity Chef Dinner
- ★ Little Sister Wins College Scholarship
- ★ New Research on Gender and Mentoring



Big Sister Association  
of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!  
E-mail: [mjohnson@bigsister.org](mailto:mjohnson@bigsister.org)

# Schlow and Company Cook Up an Inspiring Evening

**I**t is hard to say what made Big Sister's Celebrity Chef Dinner so unforgettable—the black cod with sweet miso or the heartfelt words of Little Sister Chauntae—but one thing is for sure: it was an evening that delighted the senses and inspired the spirit. On Sunday, April 11, more than 140 guests gathered at **Radius** in Boston for the sold out **Celebrity Chef Dinner**. Now in its eleventh year, this was the most successful dinner to date, thanks to our generous sponsors and guests who helped raise nearly \$200,000.

Owner and renowned chef, **Michael Schlow**, hosted the dinner which featured dishes from six of our region's gastronomic gurus. **Seth Raynor**, of **The Pearl** on Nantucket, started off the meal with a poached shrimp ceviche served with a green chili and pickled fruit sauce. **Stella's Evan Deluty** followed with an impressive dish of seared scallops with butter potatoes and truffle vinaigrette. **Ting Yen** of **Oishii** kept with the sumptuous seafood theme by serving black cod and sweet miso sauce. **Tony Maws** of **Craigie on Main** mixed it up with delicious farro pasta and mini lamb meatballs, while **Via Matta's Mike Pagliarini** rounded out the main courses with a tender slow roasted rib eye (donated by **Savenor's**) accompanied by spring vegetables. For dessert, **Radius'** own **Matthew Audette** pulled out all the stops with a decadent chocolate chibouste complemented by fudge ice cream and a spicy cherry sauce.

In between courses, **Lisa Hughes** of **WBZ-TV**, emceed and shared a very special letter written by Lucy Benitez, mother of **Little Sister Chauntae**. Thanks to the generosity of last year's Celebrity Chef Dinner guests, 14 year-old Chauntae of Roxbury was matched with **Big Sister Amy Malone**. The relationship has been nothing less than life-changing. In her letter, Lucy shared that two years ago Chauntae experienced a traumatic event that plunged her into a deep

depression. After months of unsuccessful visits to therapists and doctors, Lucy called Big Sister Association. When Chauntae was matched with Big Sister Amy in October 2009, she knew she had finally found someone she

could open up to and trust, someone who listened with an open heart and mind. By Thanksgiving, Lucy felt like she was getting her daughter back. Following Lisa's reading of the letter, Chauntae, who attended the dinner with her Big Sister, got up and thanked everyone who contributed to taking her off the wait list and giving her back her smile.

We are most grateful to **Michael Schlow** and his fellow chefs for creating a memorable evening. Special thanks are in order for our event co-chairs, **Max Bardeen** and **Sharon McNally**, who worked tirelessly to make the event the success that it was. And we would also like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors, Executive Chef Sponsor **The Connors Family**; Chef de Cuisine Sponsor **Normandy Real Estate Partners**; Sous Chef Sponsors **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**, **Partners HealthCare**, **Suffolk Construction's Red & Blue Foundation**, and **UBS Financial Services, Inc.**; and Chef de Partie Sponsors **Natixis Global Associates** and **Tufts Health Plan**. Finally, we wish to thank everyone who helped us put caring and supportive mentors in the lives of more of Greater Boston's girls. Please see below for a list of those who donated through the Celebrity Chef Dinner.

We look forward to sharing delightful dishes and inspiring stories again with you at next year's Celebrity Chef Dinner!



*Michael Schlow and Evan Deluty make the evening memorable*



*Ann and Jim Roosevelt join Rob and Elizabeth Egan for an exclusive evening at Radius*



*Lisa Hughes, Sharon McNally, and Beth Temana join Deborah Re in support of Greater Boston's girls*

**\$10,000+**

- Beth & Max Bardeen
- Denise Jefferson Casper & Marc Casper
- Kerry Nelson & Alan Milinazzo
- Beth & Anthony Terrana
- Abby & John Yozell

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

- Janet Kraus & Jim Giebutowski
- Sharon & Brian McNally
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- Brooke & Will Muggia
- Dan Romanow & B. Andrew Zelermyer

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

- Jane Deery
- Paul & Suzanne Fay Glynn
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- Kathy Kiely
- Robin & Vincent Loporchio
- Dolores & Marvin Mitchell
- Joseph Realmuto & Paul Korenberg
- Fran & Charles Rodgers
- Jan & Joe Roller

**\$1,000-\$1,999**

- Essence & Aaron Arzu
- Kristen & Jim Atwood
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- Christine Creelman
- Patricia & Gary Darman
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- Colleen Fitzpatrick

**\$100-\$999**

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- Alicia Cleary
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- Ann Marie & Richard Connolly
- Kristin Donnelly
- Amy Drucker
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- Kenneth Elgart
- Patricia Gallagher
- Julie & Todd Hamilton
- Cherylanne & Arthur Harvey
- Margaret & Rob Hillman
- Molly & David Jackson
- Dan Janis
- Aileen & Terry Keaney
- Stephanie & Greg Loeber
- Sandra & Michael Loughlin
- Elizabeth Lowrey

- Patricia McDonagh
- Allyce Najimy
- Lauren & Rob Neill
- Linda & Tim O'Brien
- Fatima Penrose
- Ryan Persac
- Deborah Re\* & Peter Reinhart
- Ann & James Roosevelt
- Mary & Woody Small
- Matthew Wilder

# Where Are They Now?

FORMER BIG SISTER ANDRÉA BRANCATO-WALKE AND FORMER LITTLE SISTER CARMAN CARDONE ESTABROOKS

I've never called Andréa anything other than my sister," said the now 27 year-old Carman. With their shared Irish-Italian heritage and spunky personalities they could very well pass for biological sisters, but their relationship actually began with a call to Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. Eight year-old Carman was an energetic, outgoing only child of a single mother living in East Boston. Though Carman was not afraid to knock on doors in her apartment building to seek out a playmate, she was often lonely. Carman's mother worked three jobs, which left little time for her daughter. "I try to spend as much time as I possibly can with Carman, but I sometimes can't fit everything in," she told Big Sister at the time. "I feel this would help her to be able to do things I can't always do with her."

Andréa Brancato was a vivacious 20 year-old, living at home with her tight-knit family and attending a community college. Her mother's community involvement shaped Andréa's own desire to give back. Andréa was matched with Carman in December 1990. Carman recalls being so excited upon meeting her Big Sister—a new friend, and a very cool one at that—that she jumped from couch to couch in her living room. After being introduced, they ventured to the local pizza parlor to split a pie and get to know each other. The two hit it off immediately, initially bonding over a love of hair and make-up, talking about boys and going to the mall. They met every week to go to the movies, play in the park, or return to the local pizza parlor that had become "their spot." They loved that they were often mistaken for real sisters.

Andréa soon transferred to UMass Lowell and decided to live on campus, but she came home every weekend to spend time with her Little Sister. She would drive to Carman's apartment in her Mustang, and the two would take off on the day's adventure. Though they were often silly and playful together, Andréa very much wanted to be a true mentor to Carman. She encouraged her Little Sister to set goals and think about the direction in which she wanted her life to go. "I wanted to instill in her the idea that it doesn't matter how bright you are, it's knowing what road you want to be on and how to get there." Neither Andréa's or Carman's family strongly encouraged college, so Andréa

decided to bring her Little Sister for a visit to UMass Lowell. Carman was captivated by the college life and to this day remembers that visit as a pivotal moment. "I wanted to be an independent person like Andréa. I wanted more than what I saw around me at home," said Carman. "I needed a positive influence, someone with their head screwed on right. Andréa has been that for me since day one."

As Carman entered her pre-teen years, she and Andréa often talked about the peer pressure that was becoming a bigger part of Carman's life. "I wanted her to know she could make her own choices," said Andréa. She did not simply tell her Little Sister not to smoke, she talked with her about why it was a negative choice. Subsequently, Carman became the leader of an anti-smoking tobacco education group at her school. Andréa encouraged her Little Sister to think about whom she spent time with and the pitfalls of just following the crowd. Carman knew both her parents had struggled with substance abuse before their divorce, and was mindful of not following the same path. "Carman came up through a lot of challenges," said Andréa. "She knew what she could be and she knew what she didn't want to be."

After five and a half years together, Andréa got married and decided to move away from Massachusetts. She and Carman remained in touch through phone calls during this time. At one point Carman even saved her own money and visited Andréa in Baltimore. Her Big Sister remained one of her closest friends and shaped many of the decisions Carman made. "I always wanted what I said to Carman to make sense to her so that she would think back and remember it someday," said Andréa. Eventually, Andréa and her husband made their way back to Massachusetts, and currently live in Danvers with their two sons. Carman, who lives with her husband in Haverill, gets together with her former Big Sister several times a year and they email frequently. She works for a medical equipment company and is earning her bachelor's degree in business management. She is proud to have stayed on the right path and gotten everything she wanted: a nice house, a yard, a dog...and a Big Sister who became a friend for life.



Former Big and Little Sister Andréa and Carman remain good friends today



Andrea and Carman in a Big and Little Sister fashion show held at Filene's in 1995

# Alumnae Explore A Girl's Life

More than 30 Big Sisters and alumnae attended our first Alumnae Movie Night on May 13, featuring *A Girl's Life*. This PBS documentary offers an intimate and honest glimpse into the lives of four girls from Greater Boston and New York. The documentary's producers, **Jackie Mow** and **Caroline Toth**, joined us for a dialogue about the issues addressed in their film.

Alumnae Association Board member and former Little Sister, **Charlotte Clark**, kicked off the evening with an activity that helped the Big Sisters and alumnae learn more about each other. After viewing the documentary and enjoying freshly-popped popcorn, participants had an interactive discussion about the issues facing the girls in the documentary: body image, cyber-bullying, high school graduation, college acceptance, immigration status, and gang violence. **Sharon Daura**, Associate Director of Programs, facilitated a robust dialogue with commentary from the producers. A recurring theme in the discussion—and in the documentary—was the importance of positive relationships in building girls' resiliency. Through relationships with mentors, parents, close friends or other caring adults, girls feel cared for and supported. When they know someone is looking out for them, they are better able to make healthy decisions, which is the basis for the thousands of mentoring relationships Big Sister makes and supports each year.

If you have an idea for an Alumnae Association Movie Night, please email Alexis Bulkley at [abulkley@bigsister.org](mailto:abulkley@bigsister.org).

**Our Alumnae Association is open to all current and former Big Sisters and former Little Sisters who are 18 years or older. To find out more, visit [www.bigsister.org/alumnae](http://www.bigsister.org/alumnae).**



Alumnae Colleen and Charlotte discuss the challenges facing girls today

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designer, even showed **Sara Campbell** some of the sketches she brought along.

Our Little Sisters, and the girls waiting to be matched with Big Sisters of their own, were inspired by these successful women who took the time to share their stories. Each woman has worked hard to achieve her dreams and is now igniting the spark for the next generation to follow their own. We would like to thank Lydia Shire, Denise Connors, Trish Karter, and Sara Campbell for making this week of career awareness possible.



*Little Sisters learn about careers in cookie making at Dancing Deer Baking Co.*

If you are interested in hosting Big and Little Sisters for a career awareness activity at your workplace, please contact **Alexis Bulkley** at 617.375.5753 or [abulkley@bigsister.org](mailto:abulkley@bigsister.org)



*Could Little Sisters Jenice and Jazmin be future fashion designers?*

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jobs. Kidder Peabody, which became UBS after a series of acquisitions, hired me, and 33 years later here I am.

**What are you most proud of in your career thus far with UBS?**

I've had many opportunities to not only grow personally and professionally, but to also significantly grow the company. During the course of my career I built two significant businesses under what is now UBS. I'm proud to have also created a culture that represents the firm well in Boston and across New England.

**When you're not behind your desk or advocating for Big Sister, where can we find you?**

I play a lot of sports. You name it, I do it: golf, tennis, skiing, etc. If I'm not hitting the links or on the slopes, you'll probably find me with my wife at the ICA, the DeCordova Museum, or a gallery. We're both very interested in contemporary art, so we love discovering new local artists.

**What attracted you to Big Sister Association and made you want to join our Board?**

To be honest, my initial motivation was to raise UBS's visibility with women in Boston. Partnering with Big Sister would provide that. This industry has traditionally been male-dominated, both from advisor standpoint and the client side. However, it didn't take long before I became inspired by their mission and commitment to girls. I also had a strong desire to give back to a city that's been very good to me. Big Sister is very much in the community, so I wanted to support that.

**In your new role as Board President, what is your vision for the organization?**

We've been providing girls in this city with positive mentoring relationships for nearly 60 years, and I'm excited about the opportunities for growth that lie ahead. Ultimately, I want us to accelerate that growth through strategic initiatives. I want us to serve more girls in the areas that are most underserved and to serve them through programs that don't yet have a mentoring component. Big Sister's staff is the best at what they do, they are really a thought leader on girls and mentoring. Funding is crucial to expanding Big Sister's services, so we need to deepen and widen our donor pool in order to achieve our programmatic goals.

*“We've been providing girls in this city with positive mentoring relationships for nearly 60 years, and I'm excited about the opportunities for growth that lie ahead.”*

**What are the main challenges facing Big Sister right now?**

We are fortunate to live in a city where there are so many non-profits supporting the community. The flip side of that is that they are often competing for the same dollars. Additionally, there's an increasing need for quality youth mentoring programs throughout Boston, but as it stands now, we don't have the capacity to fill it. Historically, only 6% of philanthropic dollars go to organizations that only serve girls, so that's an added challenge.

**What are the biggest opportunities?**

I think our staff leadership is just extraordinary and they shape a lot of opportunities for the organization. Big Sister is the expert on gender-specific mentoring and we're recognized as such in the community. To me, this is the right combination to create explosive growth.

**Where will we find you in ten years?**

Maybe if my Powerball ticket finally comes through I'll circle back to Colorado and live out that dream of being a ski bum.

In his new role, Max is joined by former Board President, **Tim O'Brien**, Senior Vice President at **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**, who will now serve as Chair. **Sharon McNally**, Chief of Staff at **The Connors Family Office**, assumed the role of Vice President. **Aileen Keaney**, Vice President of Finance at **Audax Group**, and **Essence McGill Arzu**, Partner at **Foley Hoag LLP**, will remain in their roles as Treasurer and Clerk, respectively. “With this dynamic leadership of our Board, Big Sister is strategically positioned to accelerate our financial and programmatic growth,” said **Deborah Re**, Big Sister's Chief Executive Officer. Also at the meeting, we officially welcomed to the Board **Kathy Kiely**, President of **The Ad Club, Boston**; **Kerry Nelson**, Managing Partner at **Skystone Capital Management**; **Joseph Realmuto**, Partner at **PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**; and **Kathleen C. Wallace**, Managing Director at **RINET Company, LLC**.



*Deborah Re welcomes Kathy Kiely, President of The Ad Club, Boston, onto Big Sister's Board*

## Match Highlight

BIG SISTER APRIL COOK AND LITTLE SISTER STACI

**I** was a tough little girl, kind of a punk," said Little Sister Staci, now 17, of her seven year-old self. Staci grew up as the youngest of four children, living with their parents in South Boston's Old Colony housing development. From a young age, she was determined to be a "Southie girl for life." After school she would hang out in the neighborhood with her friends and had few limits set by her family. She knew everyone in Old Colony. When she came home, she often found her brothers' friends crashing on the couch. "There were always people around," recalled Staci. She enjoyed the abundant freedom and close-knit community of her childhood, but she also witnessed another side of her neighborhood. "Looking back now, I probably saw a lot of things a little kid shouldn't have seen," said Staci. She remembered seeing people take drugs where she lived and hearing about her older sister's friends dying from overdoses.

Staci's mother struggled with health issues that limited her ability to spend time with her children and keep up with her very energetic youngest daughter. Staci's siblings had been in mentoring relationships, so her mother decided Staci might benefit from one too. She joked that Staci's Big Sister would have to be a good listener because her daughter never stopped talking. Staci was simply excited to get a new friend.

She was matched with Big Sister April Cook in August 2000. April remembers a tiny girl who was "vivacious and gregarious" from the first day they met. She also remembers worrying that the environment Staci was growing up in left her vulnerable to making unhealthy choices. "We both could have ended up in a bad place because of how we grew up," said April, who saw similarities between her childhood and her Little Sister's. April hoped she could be a resource for Staci. "Part of why I decided to become a Big Sister was because I didn't have anyone like that in my life; I had to ask for help a lot," said April.

The early years of their relationship were mostly spent enjoying kid things together—walking on the beach, doing flips on the monkey bars, jumping in piles of leaves, making

snowmen, and going ice skating on the Frog Pond. As Staci entered her teen years, she began to see her Big Sister as a confidant and relied on her more for guidance and support. At 13, Staci decided to move in with her older sister, who was married and living in Rockland. She was nervous at the thought of leaving the neighborhood she had grown up in, starting at a new school, and fitting in. Talking to April about her fears reassured Staci and gave her a boost of confidence. "There's things I talk to my friends about and things I talk to April about," said Staci. "If I went to my sister with some of the stuff that's on my mind, she'd flip out. I know April won't judge me."

On June 5, Staci became the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She will be attending Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts this summer for an enrichment program and matriculate as a full-time student in the fall. She plans to study journalism, with a focus on writing and filming stories for television. During the college application process Staci often called her Big Sister, sometimes in tears, about where to begin and the decisions that needed to be made. As she has done for the past ten years, April listened patiently, guided Staci through the process, and ultimately told her to "just do it."

In addition to being accepted to her top choice college, Staci was recently awarded the first-ever James G. Connolly Scholarship from Mass Mentoring Partnership. April nominated her Little Sister for the award. In her nomination, April wrote: "...the perspective that knowing Staci has given me is invaluable. Staci is an amazing human being. She may not even realize it fully, but Staci has had what most people I know would consider a really tough life. She's grabbed what lucky breaks have come her way and made more than anyone could hope out of them."

Staci has undoubtedly made many positive decisions for herself over the years, but she is quick to acknowledge the role her Big Sister's guidance has played in making them. "Without April, I would probably be on that show *16 and Pregnant*, a high school drop-out, and be working at a crap job," said Staci. Despite being away at college, Staci knows her Big Sister will always be just a phone call (or a text!) away. "Like my mom said, I just needed someone who would listen to me."



*April and Staci share a laugh at a local coffee shop*



*Big Sister April Cook and Little Sister Staci on the day they were introduced nearly ten years ago*

## New Research on Gender and Mentoring

**G**ender matters. Big Sister has always known the important role that gender plays in mentoring, and now we have the research to prove it. In the spring, more than 50 practitioners and funders gathered at **Bank of New York Mellon for Getting Results: Why Gender Matters in Mentoring**, which was sponsored by Bank of New York Mellon, in partnership with **The Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston**. Attendees heard from nationally known researchers, **Dr. Jean Rhodes of UMASS Boston's Donahue Institute**, and **Dr. Renée Spencer of Boston University's School of Social Work**, who shared the findings of their respective studies on the role of gender in mentoring.

Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health, **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith**, moderated and spoke openly about her own experience in a gender-specific setting, as a student at Spelman College. There, she was able to focus on building her own strengths rather than competing with, or comparing herself to, men. If she didn't win an academic prize, a Black woman still did, so she knew that it was not her race or gender standing in the way of achievement.

Rhodes and Spencer made it clear that relationships among girls, and women, drive developmental outcomes. They also explored the ways in which a mentor's influence is unique to girls. Dr. Spencer's study presented qualitative research on the impact of the mentoring relationship between girls and women. She emphasized that positive outcomes in these relationships are derived from engaged, authentic emotional support and companionship, and that new skills and confidence are built through collaboration between the Big and Little Sister during their time spent together.

Dr. Rhodes' study focused on quantitative research that showed "clear differences between girls and boys with respect to what they bring to the mentoring relationship, what they get out of the mentoring relationship, how long the matches last, and their level of satisfaction with their mentors over time." She concluded: "To the extent that mentoring programs incorporate gender-specific training and awareness, volunteers are likely to be more effective agents of change and to bring about positive outcomes not only in the youth with which they work, but in society as a whole."

**Look for more in-depth coverage of this new research in an upcoming issue of the Big Sister Bulletin!**



## 2010 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between March 9, 2010 and June 16, 2010. Please see page 2 for gifts made through the Celebrity Chef Dinner. Thank you for your generous support!

### Friendship Maker \$2,000 - \$4,999

Deborah & Michael Dionne  
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### Match Maker \$1,000 - \$1,999

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\*Denotes Legacy Society members: current and former Big Sisters

Thank You!

## Oh The Places You'll Go!

On Saturday, April 24, more than 120 Big and Little Sisters gathered at the **Royal Sonesta Hotel** in Cambridge for our annual **Community-Based Mentoring Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**. The breakfast is one of the most highly anticipated activities of the year and this year's did not disappoint! The theme of the event was "going places." It represented not only the multitude of different towns, neighborhoods, museums, parks, and other attractions our Big and Little Sisters visit each year, but also the places their special friendship will take them in life. As one Big Sister who attended said: "More important than all we've done together and the places we have been, is that we have built a bond."

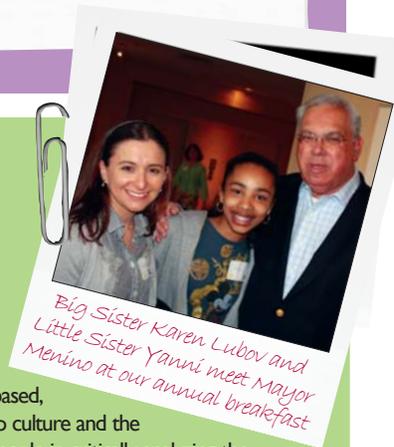
Before the bacon and eggs were served, several Little Sisters got to meet **Mayor Thomas M. Menino** and have their picture taken with him. The mayor welcomed the matches as they took their seats at tables adorned with signs and postcards dedicated to many of the towns and neighborhoods we they live. "I want to thank all the Big Sister for dedicating themselves to making sure young people have opportunities," said Mayor Menino. "It's a very complex world we live in today, and it's difficult even for adults to deal with the pressures we face. Girls have unique challenges. Sometimes they simply need a friend or mentor they can call and talk to." Following the mayor's words, Big and Little Sisters who had been matched from one year to more than ten years received certificates of recognition. More than 20 matches in attendance were celebrating at least five years together!

The excitement continued to build when **Gund Kwok** (which means "heroine" in Chinese), the only Asian women lion and dragon dance troupe in the United States, took to the stage. They explained the history behind the dances, which have traditionally been denied to women, then launched into a breath-taking performance that incorporated martial arts, endurance, flexibility, and larger-than-life costumes.

Gund Kwok was a hard act to follow, but keynote speaker **Mariama White-Hammond**, Executive Director of **Project HIP-HOP**, was up to the task. Her Roxbury-based, youth-led organization uses the study of hip hop culture and the history of social movements to engage young people in critically analyzing the past and present to create a better future. As a Roxbury native, Mariama spoke about growing up surrounded by extended "family"—blood-related and not. She saw her grandmothers as strong role models who overcame adversity to have thriving careers and families. She spoke about her support system of "cousins," and that it was not until she went to college that she realized many other children did not have the same kind of support. Her message was clear: you don't have to be related to someone to care about and support them; and when we offer that experience to a child, there's no limit to what she can achieve.

The breakfast concluded with some less experienced speakers stepping up to the microphone—our Little Sisters! Whether shy or outspoken, they each expressed a sincere appreciation for their Big Sisters. "Our favorite thing to do together is... everything!"; "Even though I'm graduating from high school, she will always be my Big Sister."; "She's helped me through so much and she always knows what to say and how to make me laugh."; "She doesn't think my trench coat is weird. She just gets it."; "I like my Big Sister because she always asks my opinion and asks me what I want to do."; "You're not only my Big Sister, you're my best friend."

We would like to extend a big thank you to **Jacqueline Sonnabend** and the Royal Sonesta Hotel for making this event possible each year and to Mayor Menino, Gund Kwok, and Mariama White-Hammond. Special thanks to **Aileen Keaney, Kathy Kiely, and Mint Julep** for donating wonderful raffle prizes for our Big and Little Sisters to enjoy. We look forward to next year's breakfast and the special moments it will bring!



Big Sister Karen Lubov and Little Sister Yanni meet Mayor Menino at our annual breakfast

**The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010.**

**Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!**

#### 10 YEARS

Julie Atwood Drake & Naquana  
Anne Cheung & Lois  
Ellen DePaul Fisher & Thelma

#### 9 YEARS

Rosemary Ford & Kristina  
Lindsay Sobel & Jessica  
Anna Vijayan & Ashly

#### 8 YEARS

Kelly Henry & Anjelica  
Katherine Potter & Angel  
Holly Wasilowski & Kiara

#### 7 YEARS

Maria Bautista & Michaela  
Laura Boyd & Victoria  
Melissa Carino & Anais  
Jodi Hullinger & Tailane  
Lelia King & Deidre  
Patti Kinzer & Antoniqua  
Danielle Mulholland & Tiara  
Sara Nadelman & Acacia  
Clarinda Spinelli & Samantha

#### 6 YEARS

Heather Adamian & Jennifer  
Darcy Babcock & Katirya  
Charmain Jackman & Tichina  
Gretchen Lane & Ladjuana  
Lisa Meldrim & Kayla-Anne

Susan Montani & Amanda  
Tammie Rivard & Laura  
Jeannette Rivera & Jaydah  
Susan Rosa & Caprice

#### 5 YEARS

Mary Cullinane & Heather  
Lindsey Lohwater & Rosemary  
Carolyn Miceli & Jazmin  
Dani Michalek & Leeanne  
Julie Plunkett & Ana  
Paula Rotenberg & Samantha  
Ellen Royalty & Alyssa

#### 4 YEARS

Karen Angrisano & Genesis  
Jane Ash & Aislinn  
Megan Belanger & Mara

Stephanie Boucher & Jennifer  
Allison Cheney & Anjahlek  
Lenora Clark Epps & Andrea  
Donna Cohen & Gabriella  
Michelle Danis & Jennifer  
Heather Ferguson & Emma  
Carine Germain & Alexis  
Angela Gomes & Ashley  
Lindsay Gosselin & Makayla  
Leah Hart Tennen & Christina  
Erin Hayes & Kiara  
Denise Ireland & Miriam  
Alexa Kontes & Chimene  
Judy Krempin & Asia  
Susan Maltz & Twonnisha  
Angela Seay & Asia  
Irene Shui & Kiara  
Laurie Smith & Lacey  
Carolyn Soohoo & Karrisha  
Pamela Woo & Anisha  
Mandy Yeung & Ashley

#### 3 YEARS

Julia Barrett & Victoria

Rimi Chakraborty & Jennifer  
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah  
Emily Culler & Amber  
Nicole Cushion & Nelise  
Marie Doehler & Jazmine  
Cassie Flanagan & Cahrina  
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari  
Dawn Leanness & Crisleydi  
Alison Little & Tatiana  
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla  
Margaret Okonkwo & Destiney  
Felicia Okonkwo & Kiara  
Stephanie O'Leary & Victoria  
Lori Perry & Melanie  
Lisa Pontes Siniawski & Ajaria  
Tania Rizzi & Sabrina  
Allison Rogers & Sierra

Karen Schoneman & Sulma  
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha  
Renee Shanahan & Virnelia  
Julie Stephenson & Lydia  
Erin Sunderland & Alexandra  
Barbara Uttaro & Tatiana  
Lisa Wagoner & Alexandra  
Jennifer Webster & Franjenika

#### 2 YEARS

Zoe Agnew & Tamauri  
Janet Appleby & Toni Marie  
Lucy Bezdek & Destiny  
Stacey Cocco & Carmen  
Esmirna Damaso & Dayanara  
Jillena Furr & Ja'Najia  
Christy Hoffman & Kaleigh Ann  
Denise Lang & Nina  
Jennifer Magnasco & Dounia  
Tina McDavitt & Teyasia  
Kristine McKinney & Fannie  
Kaitlin Minnehan & Yemisi  
Susan Morse & Shauna  
Lisa Northrup & Kaitlin

Colleen O'Connor-Wise & Serina  
Elizabeth Pfahler & Kayla  
Alethea Pieters & Arismar  
Becky Ravenelle & Joelle  
Alyson Thomas & Taneisha  
Amanda Thompson & Taquasha  
Jessica Vaverchak & Kiayra  
Victoria Walsh & Wendy  
Sarah Wood & Francesca  
Nancy Zabe & Jasmine  
Melissa Zandman & Rodas

#### 1 YEAR

Brenda Anthony & Haley  
Laurin Becker & Cassandra  
Kate Bell & Teanna

Catherine Bernard & Shelby  
Leigh Bivings & Yodelis  
Ashley Bostrom & Tanasia  
Judy Brigham & Alana  
Alyssa Campbell & Faith  
Paula Carnelli & Brittney  
Carol Carveth & Aneivah  
Melissa Cazeau & Shamari  
Manolia Charlotin & Javiera  
Katherine Chase & Anicia  
Claire Comeau & Jhlyah  
Kara Conceison & Anna  
Meagan Copithorne & Lily  
Kara DeJesus & Nieyana  
Leigh Doherty & Aoife  
Brenna Downing & Amaia  
Kathryn Eisnor & Kourtney  
Kate Ellis & Demetra  
Irene Fallon & Daniella  
Tara Flaherty & Alexis  
Kelly Foley & Tatiana  
Latoya Gamble & Quiline  
Adriana Ganos & Katlyn-Rae  
Amy Garanin & Serina  
Jessica Glynn & Connie  
Sarah Hilbolt & Briana  
Amy Hill & Kiai  
Danielle Howarth & Alexis



*Happy one year anniversary to Big Sister Taja Jewell and Little Sister Khadeejah!*

Margaret Hwang & Katrice  
Taja Jewell & Khadeejah  
Amy Kelleher & Robyn  
Adelina Keshishian & Maria Daniela  
Mary Khlgatian & Jazlynn  
Maryann Kinney & Tasia  
Michelle Kwasny & Nia  
Vanetta Levesque & Khedonna  
Natalie Locci & Erika  
Megan Lodde & Jessica  
Stefanie Magner & Mariana  
Monica Mancuso & Yaritza  
Amanda Marshall & Taina  
Erin McAleer & Alondra  
Shelley McCormick & Katrina  
Andrea Medina-Smith & Cassandra  
Alyssa Mullen & Breonna  
Michele Mulligan & Yesenia  
Joanna Murray & Brooklynn  
Theresa Neenan & Jailine  
Elmire Oriol & Maurisa  
Christina Pai & Amber  
Liz Parker & Rachel  
Laura Perdomo & Iris  
Jeanette Pollara & Jessica  
Kristin Prescott & Jazmin  
Elysbeth Reichman & Madisyn  
Anouschka Riley & Abby  
Victoria Shea & Kaleesha  
Lindsay Snyder & Destyne  
Maura Stanton & Mariah  
Kristin Stashenko & Sabrina  
Sandy Stutsman & Reina  
Fantaye Tefera & Mariah  
Angela Teixeira & Jenny  
Rana Toronto & Saraiah  
Evonne Weiner & Ciara  
Kendalle White & Jazmyyn

# Happy Anniversary!



*Congratulations on ten years together, Big Sister Julie Atwood Drake and Little Sister Naquana!*



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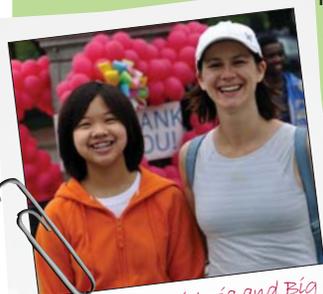
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and Merrimack Valley

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

## Big Sister in Brief..

### DOING GOOD

On Sunday, May 2, **Big Sister Jessica Reardon** and her **Little Sister Victoria** walked 7.5 miles from Boston Common to Newton Center in Project Bread's Walk for Hunger. Together they raised \$800! Jessica, a mother of two, and Victoria, 12, both live in Boston's South End and have been matched for four years. "The walk was really fun," said Victoria. "We talked the whole time and that made it less tiring. Overall, it felt good to accomplish something." They are looking forward to completing at least 10 miles together next year.



*Little Sister Victoria and Big Sister Jessica Reardon participate in the Walk for Hunger*

**Sister Shannon Robinson** was honored at the State House by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. She was one of 100 "Unsung Heroines" from across the Commonwealth who were recognized because "they don't make the news, they make the difference." Shannon, a Dorchester resident, has been matched with her **Little Sister Miranda**, 15, of Mattapan, for more than seven years. Shannon is also a member of our Diversity Council and Alumnae Association. She engages other women as Big Sisters, particularly women of color, to better reflect the diversity of the girls we serve.

### AWARD-WINNING BIG SISTERS

Two of our Big Sisters were recently recognized for their commitment to their community and to their Little Sisters! **Big**

**Big Sister Julie Atwood Drake**, also a former Big Sister of the Year, was

recognized by the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse. The organization recognizes outstanding senior citizens who dedicate their talents and time in volunteer capacities. Julie has been a dedicated friend and mentor to her **Little Sister Naquana**, 19, of Malden for ten years. She also frequently shares her experience at trainings for our new Big Sisters. Naquana and her mother attended the ceremony with Julie.

### APPRECIATION FOR BROMLEY-HEATH BIGS

**City Councilor At-Large** (and current Big Sister!), **Ayanna Pressley** addressed a group of Big Sisters and Big Brothers at the **Bromley-Heath** housing development on May 26, during an appreciation celebration. The Bigs were honored for their commitment to their Littles who are all residents of Bromley-Heath. These mentoring relationships are part of an ongoing collaboration between Big Sister Association of Greater Boston and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay, and are funded by the Highland Street Foundation.



*Ayanna Pressley celebrates with Bromley-Heath Big Sisters Chelsea Jones and Eva Woodward*

**It's not too late!**  
A hot, new **2011 BMW 328i convertible** or a cool **\$38,000 in cash** could be yours.  
**Tickets on sale until noon on July 30** in our 22nd annual BMW Raffle!  
Visit [www.bigsister.org](http://www.bigsister.org) for details and ticket sales.