Big Sister Boston BULLETIN

Fall 2017

Head of the Class

Back to School for Big Sister



Little Sister Mirlynda and Big Sister Suzy Hong were matched last October at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, where we have made and supported one-to-one mentoring relationships for more than a decade.

As thousands of children in and around Boston headed back to school earlier this month, there was excitement in the air at Big Sister Boston. Why? Because back-to-school

The best aspect of our partnership is the impact the organization has on my scholars.

MONICA HALDIMAN, PRINCIPAL SACRED HEART SCHOOL, ROSLINDALE

means a new year of making and supporting our Big and Little Sister relationships! Big Sister Boston partners with 36 schools in the Boston, Cambridge, and Quincy Public School systems, where Little Sisters meet with their Big Sisters during lunch-time or their after-school program.

The significance of Big and Little Sisters meeting during the school day cannot be understated. The one-to-one mentoring relationships we make and support in schools

I love seeing the girls build positive relationships with young women.

VICTORIA EELLS, SITE COORDINATOR
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL, JAMAICA PLAIN

We appreciate the number of matches made at the school and the communication between the school and the Big Sister Boston staff:

VALIA MARKAKI, STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR
JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY, CHINATOWN

foster healthy social-emotional development, a key factor in academic success. Among our Little Sisters in schools, 96% feel more socially accepted and 92% maintain or improve their grades.



Little Sister Ajahnee found her match in Big Sister Tia Walker

Workplace Mentoring

In Good Company

Pringing Big Sisters into the schools isn't the only way we are supporting girls in Greater Boston. Our Workplace Mentoring Program, a partnership between Charlestown's Harvard-Kent Elementary School and Boston marketing powerhouse, Allen & Gerritsen, launched in January.

Every other week, the Little Sisters are transported to A&G's office in the Seaport, thanks to our partners at Paul Revere Transportation, where they meet with their Big Sisters for one-on-one fun and learning. Not only do the 4th grade girls benefit from the mentoring relationships, they also gain valuable exposure to a positive work environment and career options. Harvard-Kent principal, Jason Gallagher, cites "the support our girls have received from their Big Sisters at A&G," as the most important outcome of the program.

And, it's not just the Little Sisters who benefit! A&G's Vice President of Talent & Operations, Julianna Akuamoah, said of the first Big and Little Sister visit: "The energy was like nothing I've ever seen here."

In October, we are excited to launch a second Workplace Mentoring partnership with the women of Fidelity Investments and 7th grade girls from Boston Latin Academy.

Join the Conversation!











Share your thoughts with us! Email mjuliano@bigsister.org.

@bigsisterboston #Girls2Great

Fundraising in Focus

Snapshots of Support

From the runway to Fenway, the Big Sister Boston community spent the first half of 2017 showing their support for Greater Boston's girls and the power of mentoring. Big thanks are in order to all who generously bought tickets, bid on auction items, and made donations to our organization. Here's a snapshot of the people who are helping get #Girls2Great.

THIS PAGE: (1) Our events season launched in style with our annual Project Role Model Fashion Show in March at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. First Lady of Massachusetts Lauren Baker opened the runway show that featured fashions and accessories from Alice Walk, Sara Campbell, Eileen Fisher, Gamuchian, the shops at The Street, and couture from Michael DePaulo. Boston notables rocked the runway alongside some of our Big and Little Sisters including: Big Sister Karthikevini Subramanian, Big Sister Chelsi Defoe, Little Sister Mariah, Little Sister Taryn, Little Sister Anwesha, Big Sister Leah Reis-Dennis, Little Sister Navaeh and Big Sister Isabella. (2) Reena Thadhani, Big Sister Board Chair Deb Daccord, Tom Daccord, and Jennifer Karnakis brought their fashion A-game, (3) while event planner extraordinaire Bryan Rafanelli, who accompanied model Marie Wu on the catwalk, brought the party. (4) Kelly McDermott, who chaired the event with Mariann Youniss, struck a pose with PGR Media CEO Jane Deery. (5) The runway turned into an impromptu dance floor at the end of the evening as former New England Patriot Jerod Mayo and WBZ-TV Sports Anchor Steve Burton got down to the music with guests. (6) Designer Michael DePaulo joined fashionistas Big Sister Chelsi Defoe, Little Sister Taryn, Big Sister Isabella, and our President and CEO Deb Re.

OPPOSITE PAGE: If April showers bring May flowers, then June brought the fun at three Big Sister Boston events. First up was our annual Celebrity Chef Dinner, hosted at Porto by Chef Jody Adams, and chaired by Carolyn Clancy and David Bruce. (7) Celebrity Chef Dinner stalwarts Abby and John Yozell were joined by John's mother and former Big Sister Boston Executive Director Jeanne Yozell. (8) Before sitting down to a delightful fivecourse meal, Bill Heiden, Andy Youniss, Debbie Krieg, Big Sister Boston's Board Vice President Mariann Youniss, Pat Clark, and Cristina Heiden enjoyed cocktails on Porto's patio, while (9) Chef Jody Adams (middle) and her crew were in the kitchen prepping for an unforgettable evening. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3















To see more event photos visit: www.bigsister.org/news-and-events/news















When it came time to raise critical funds that allow us to match more girls with a Big Sister. Mariann Youniss and (10) former Board Chair Max Bardeen ran the show. The generous support of guests, including (11) Eve Lewandowski, Board member Christina Lewis, and Sucharita and Kishore Varanasi, made the evening a success for Greater Boston's girls. Next up, it was our Young Professional Board's turn to show their support with their annual Summer Soirée, held this year at Tapestry. Mission-driven Millennials, (12) like Young Professional Board President and Big Sister Christina Fish, and YPB member and former Big Sister Genevieve Gilroy, enjoyed the summerthemed festivities. Wrapping up the June activities was the latest installment in our Conversations Among Women panel discussion series, hosted by Big Sister Boston's Diversity Council. "Women of Color at Work: Selling Out to Fit In?" was held at Simmons College and attended by an energetic group of women including (13) Dr. Charmain Jackman, Big Sister and Diversity Council President Evelyn Reyes Beato, Iyleen Summer, Erica Warner, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships Mia Roberts, Atiya Martin, Nahal Patel, Ana Giraldo-Kerr, Marcela Aldaz-Matos, Tervne Alexander, Fabiola Jean-Felix, Olga Perez and Diversity Council Vice President Lesley White.



Kathleen (middle) received her prize at a gathering with our staff.

Luck Be a Lady

Meet the 29th Annual Car Raffle Winner

Kathleen Mitchell, of Milton, was the big winner in our 29th Annual Car Raffle. She received a voicemail about some "big news" from raffle drawing emcee, Eric Fisher, Chief Meteorologist at CBS Boston's WBZTV. While she said her "heart was with the car," a 2017 Audi A3 convertible from Prime Motor Group, she wanted to take the cash to do "some nice things" for others—including making a generous donation to Big Sister!

Kathleen accepted the check with her sister Anne, who also lives in Milton. The two were born and raised in Dorchester. Kathleen began her career as a teacher in the Boston Public School system, holding positions at the David A. Ellis and the Lewis K-8 School for a decade. Eventually she went back to school herself to become a lawyer. While working in downtown Boston in the mid-1990s, Kathleen first saw the car, learned about our raffle, and purchased a ticket. She continued to buy a ticket nearly every year following that, hoping that she would be the winner. "'Never give up hope," Kathleen said.

No strangers to the impact of supporting women and girls, Kathleen and her sister were the product of an all-girls' school. Later, they were trailblazers in their careers - Kathleen was originally the only female lawyer at her company. Anne worked as a computer programmer for the federal government, and was one of the first women to earn a degree in the Simmons College master's in business management program. Kathleen said she made it a priority to nurture the careers of the female attorneys on her team. She wants girls today to know that there are people out there who want the best for them, and those people are there to support them in working hard to achieve their goals.

Congratulations, Kathleen!

What Your Giving Supports

Summer Scrapbook

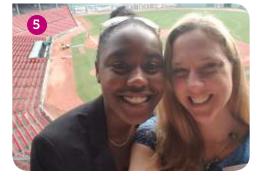
Scholarships, camperships, and friendships: our Big and Little Sisters worked hard and played hard over the past several months, and none of it would have been possible without your generosity. Seventy-six percent of charitable giving to our organization directly supports our mentoring and enrichment programs for girls. More than simply a positive relationship or fun activity, their experiences together build the skills and confidence a girl needs to achieve her individual goals. Here we offer a look at some of the ways in which you have helped get #Girls2Great.















obstacles to attaining their educational goals and have overcome those obstacles. (5) Little Sister Shelby, a sophomore at Wentworth Institute of Technology who has been matched with Big Sister Kathy Schaefer for eight years, received the \$20,000 KELLY Award scholarship from the Kelly Family Foundation, Liberty Mutual Insurance, and Mass Mentoring Partnership. The award provides educational assistance to young people who have persevered through adversity with the guidance of a caring adult. "This award is more than money to me," said Shelby during her remarks at the award ceremony. "It gives me the opportunity to reach my career goals."

Summer vacation means time for camp, and thanks to our "campership" program, we sent 63 Little Sisters to camps from Massachusetts to Maine. (6) Big Sister Jessica Bailey and her Little Sister Anahari have been matched for more than a year and have enjoyed many new experiences together. They had a great time exploring the outdoors at New Hampshire's Fleur de Lis. (7) And, Little Sister Tiara and her Big Sister Jessica Young, who also attended Fleur de Lis, hit the mark enjoying a week of archery, swimming, and sleeping in a tent.

PHOTOS: Our Little Sisters were making the grade during graduation season, with a little help from their friends at Big Sister Boston (1) Little Sister Khalifa was matched with Big Sister and long-time Board member Terri Campbell, for nearly seven years. The two maintained their friendship after graduating from our program, and Terri proudly attended Khalifa's graduation from Hunter College in New York in June. Khalifa is now in DC working in the stem cell research field with the National Institutes of Health. (2) Meanwhile, another Sister pair who have been matched for nearly a decade had reason to celebrate as well! Little Sister Azhane graduated from Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in Roxbury with her Big Sister Julie D'Alessandro by her side. The two were founding members of our Little Sister Board, planning and participating in many of its activities. Azhane is now working at Urban Edge and pursuing a career in dentistry. (3) You may recognize former Big Sister of the Year, Anouska Bhattacharyya, and Little Sister D'Vine from Big in Boston 2015, where they shared their powerful story of friendship and support. D'Vine is now a graduate of the Boston Arts Academy and on her way to college where she plans to study medicine. Our Sister Scholars program, which connects our Little Sisters with scholarship opportunities and other resources for pursuing post-secondary education, helped out several of our Little Sisters recently, including (4) Little Sister Makayla (with Big Sister Lisa O'Connell) who not only celebrated 10 years of being matched with Lisa in May, she also received the Christian Herter Scholarship, awarded to students who have faced socio-economic or environmental











THIS PAGE: What's more fun than a picnic in summertime? Enjoying it with more than 130 of your fellow Big and Little Sisters! On July 29, our Big and Little Sister matches tie-dyed, bounced, ran, splashed, and relaxed with some yoga at our annual Summer Sister Picnic held at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. Big thanks to our donors and partners who made it all possible: Dana Hall School, FleishmanHillard, Cool Cow Ice Cream, Fun Enterprises, Inc., Anna's Taqueria, Busy Bee Jumpers, Paul Revere Transportation, and DJ Renell. (8) Big Sister Sarah Campungcol and

Little Sister Libbah namasted together on the mat, while (9) Big Sister Courtney Greenburg and Little Sister Gabby channelled their inner Earth mother with some tye-dye. (10) Big Sister Christina Fleming provided moral support while Little Sister Leana worked on her hoops, and Little Sisters explored new heights on the (11) rock-climbing wall and (12) in the bouncy house with Big Sister Boston President and CEO Deb Re!



Big Sister Beth Ryder-Kenna with Little Sister Diana, whom she was matched with in 2013.

IN MEMORIAM:

Big Sister Beth Ryder-Kenna

n August 21, Big Sister Beth Ryder-Kenna lost her fight with cancer at the age of 31. Beth was known to be both a fierce fashionista and feminist. She was passionate about social justice and lifting up women and girls. She was committed to youth: from founding a youth empowerment group in high school to her work at City Year, and especially as a Big Sister of four years to Little Sister Diana, 12, who lives in South Boston. Beth's generous, caring spirit had an influence on Diana as well. During a Big Sister-led workshop on goal-setting, Diana was asked what achievement she would want to be known for. She replied that she wanted to be famous for helping build homes in economically disadvantaged countries like Haiti. Beth also supported her Little Sister around her educational goals, such as attending college in the future.

While Beth and Diana primarily enjoyed activities that involved just the two of them, they attended our Real Choices Strong Voices workshop and annual Halloween party. Diana was enamoured with her Big Sister and the time she spent with her. When the pair's Match Support Specialist asked Diana what was special in her life, Diana replied: "Everything I do with Beth is special!"



To see more Sister activities and photos, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram: @bigsisterboston

Match Maker Club

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association of Greater Boston between January 1 - July 31, 2017 (excluding ticket purchases). Thank you for your generous support.

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In Honor of

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In Memory of

Dyanna Caribe* William Harvey (4) Annette Monachelli



Big Sister Lauren Mottley and Little Sister Janile share a laugh outside JP Licks in Dedham.

Sister Spotlight

Being Present, **Not Perfect**

n 2007, Little Sister Janile was seven years old Land attending Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Boston. At the time, Janile's world revolved around home and family in the South End and going to school, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Yet something was missing for Janile. An only child living with her mom and cousin, Janile longed for a cool, older girl to spend time with. One day, in class, Janile's teacher told the students about Big Sister and asked if any of the girls were interested in having an adult friend who would come visit them during lunch-time. Janile went home and immediately told her mother she wanted a Big Sister. Having had a Big Sister herself when she was a girl, Janile's mom thought it was a great idea and gave permission for her daughter to be matched.

At the same time, Big Sister Lauren Mottley had just moved to Boston from Seattle. New to the city and looking for an opportunity to get more involved in her community, she attended a Big Sister info session at her workplace, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Soon after, she was matched with Janile. "I knew out of the gate that it was a great match," said Lauren. She immediately saw the quirky, funny side of her Little Sister, who offered Lauren half her granola bar on their first visit, then challenged her to see which of them could eat it faster. "I didn't even think about it, I just shoved it in my mouth when she handed it to me," laughed Lauren. Her weekly lunch visits with Janile "rejuvenated" Lauren, allowing her time

and space to be fully present, and a little bit silly. Lauren said that there were days when she wasn't sure she could leave the office and worried that she would have to cancel. But, she was committed to the relationship and would make the time no matter how busy her day got. "I would go and spend time with Janile and the rest of my day would be fantastic," said Lauren. "I felt refreshed."

They continued to meet at the Josiah Quincy for the next five years. Their visits were often activity-based: Lauren taught Janile how to sew, and they worked on craft projects or wrote stories. They authored a book together about a superhero named Awesome Sauce who saved breakfast from being boring. For her Little Sister's graduation from fifth grade, Lauren sewed a superhero cape into the book and gave it to Janile. No longer able to meet at the Josiah Quincy after Janile graduated from elementary school, the two transitioned into our Community-Based Mentoring program, allowing them to meet on their own time.

For both Lauren and Janile, their time together was, and continues to be, a break from the world. "I try to give Janile my undivided attention," said Lauren. "We live in a world of distractions. With Janile it's my time with her. I make it just about us. I don't do that a lot otherwise, where I'm really just focused on one thing; where I disconnect from distractions." Janile is now 17, and while their conversations and activities have changed, their bond remains stronger than ever. "With my friends, we talk about things that happen in

With my friends, we talk about things that happen in school or people our age, with Lauren I can talk about whatever. I can talk about college.

school or people our age, with Lauren I can talk about whatever, I can talk about college." The two talk often about the future: Janile's desire to go to college and become a neuroscientist. Janile plays softball and is on the debate team. She loves to discuss the debate team topics with her Big Sister as much as Lauren enjoys learning about them. "It's peaceful being with Lauren," said Janile.

When Janile does head off to college next fall she may make new friends, but she will also take comfort in knowing that she has a life-long friend and champion in her Big Sister Lauren.

^{*} Current or former Big or Little Sister



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