

Big Sister Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Focus On: Neighborhood-Based Mentoring

One of the challenges we face at Big Sister is engaging more women as volunteers from the neighborhoods where we serve the most girls:

Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. We wanted to deepen our impact by creating an opportunity for women from these communities to mentor girls who may be coming from similar backgrounds and life experiences.

To do this, we partnered with the Saturday Scholars program at the **Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School** in Dorchester and launched the Neighborhood-Based Mentoring pilot program in October 2009.



Neighborhood-Based Mentoring Big Sister Ingrid Henry and Little Sister Sequoia

Saturday Scholars was implemented by the Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention (AIP), which brings supportive prevention, academic, and enrichment programs into the school. Big Sister was a natural addition to the program. Neighborhood-Based Mentoring provides more girls in Dorchester with quality mentoring relationships. It also attracts women who may not be able to volunteer as Big Sisters in our other mentoring programs because of location, time, or transportation. In fact, many of the women currently volunteering as Big Sisters in this program live within

walking distance of the Frederick! "Being active in the community means that I choose to live here and that I want to further positive change where I live," said **Big Sister Heather Ivone**.

There are currently 11 Big and Little Sister matches in the Neighborhood-Based Mentoring program. They meet at the Frederick every Saturday for two hours. Sessions begin with group activities led by a Big Sister social worker and Master of Social Work intern. After that, the Big and Little Sisters enjoy one-on-one time doing an activity of their choosing, such as scrapbooking, board games, or just chatting about what's going on in the Little Sister's life.

"The fact that the Big Sisters are from the same neighborhoods as the students makes it more likely that the girls will be able to relate to and identify with them," said **Susan Lovett, AIP's director of out of school time programs & partners** at the Frederick. "The Big Sisters are more likely to understand the specific experiences of the girls growing up in Dorchester and Roxbury and to offer appropriate guidance and support."

For **Big Sister Telma Tavares**, Lovett's words ring especially true. "This experience allows me to give back to a community that gave so

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



*Daphne Griffin,
Boston Centers for Youth &
Families Executive Director*

Where the Girls Are

Daphne Griffin has dedicated her career to helping Boston's youth. Formerly the director of the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club, Griffin was appointed as Executive Director of Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) in 2007. In her role at BCYF she works with thousands of children through the services and programming provided at the 46 community centers throughout Boston.

You have a history of working with our City's youth. What changes have you seen in the needs of girls over time?

My personal observation has been that while the challenges that girls face have changed and become more difficult, their basic needs regarding health, safety, and relationships with a caring adult have remained relatively the same. What I have seen is that the access to opportunity has fluctuated over the last five to ten years. I can recall a time when many programs across the city, that served both genders, had a component to their programming that was girl-specific.

What we see now is that some of the girls' programming has been minimized and the need for strategic partnerships is more critical. BCYF does not maintain the expertise, but when we can strategically partner with organizations like Big Sister we can serve our girls' basic needs, while remaining a time-relevant organization and addressing their evolving challenges.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

ISSUE 12 | SPRING 2010

Highlights

- ★ Get Ready for Summer with BMW and UBP!
- ★ Anne & Peggy: 40 Years of Friendship
- ★ Rise & Inspire Awakens Community



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.

Issue XII of Big Sister Bulletin
Share your thoughts with us!
E-mail: mjohnson@bigsister.org

Rise & Inspire Opens Eyes, Hearts, and Minds

You rose. Our work inspired. And together we created the opportunity for more of Greater Boston's girls to benefit from the care and support of a Big Sister.

On March 10, Big Sister hosted our annual Rise & Inspire breakfast, presented by **Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation**, at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston. Nearly 300 guests were treated to breakfast and inspiration from **Sheriff Andrea Cabral** and **Cynthia Shull**, a single mother of four Little Sisters. Both women offered different perspectives, but a converging message: a Big Sister gives a girl the confidence she needs to thrive.

"If the world is going to change in the way we know it needs to, it will be because of girls and women," stated Sheriff Cabral. "It may just be a Little Sister who's going to make that change." She implored the room not to be bystanders to bullying, a topic that affects many of the girls we serve, the message was clear that a Big Sister can be that person a girl can turn to for support and a non-judgmental ear if she is the victim of bullying.

Cynthia Shull then made the power of mentoring more personal when she shared her story as a single mother of four. She described wanting a better childhood for her girls than the one she experienced. She believes she is a role model for her children by going back to college, working full time, and moving her family out of the Everett housing development in which they were living.

Having accomplished these goals, but still wanting to give her daughters more life experiences and individual attention than she could provide, Cynthia made the call to Big Sister Association.

Cynthia shared the impact that each Big Sister has had on her girls. She remembered how important it was to **Serina**, 15, to have her **Big Sister Robyn** there to prepare for her first high school dance, and how much it touched Serina when Robyn created a photo album to commemorate the occasion. Cynthia then pointed out how getting ice cream at the end of each of their outings might be small to most people, but to 14 year old **Tiara**, this gesture from her **Big Sister Amanda** is priceless. For Cynthia's 8 year old twins, **Faith** and **Saraiah**, **Big Sisters Alyssa** and **Rana** treat the girls as individuals, which makes them feel unique and valued.

"Everything the Big Sisters have done is what I wanted for my girls, and it could not have worked out better," said Cynthia. "I will continue to provide the best life I can for my girls. Making that call to Big Sister Association was part of that plan. My girls' Big Sisters have made them feel valued and supported. These women's life experiences and the goals they have set in their own lives have shown my girls what is possible for them in their future."

Big Sister would like to extend a big thank you to Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for sponsoring the breakfast. We would also like to thank our table captains and those who generously donated for helping us raise more than \$40,000 in support of our mentoring programs for thousands of girls throughout Boston. We look forward to your continued support next year when we once again Rise & Inspire!

Big Sister's COO, Mia Roberts, with members of our Diversity Council

Sheriff Cabral and Cynthia Shull with her daughters and their Big Sisters

BIG THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE TO RISE & INSPIRE!

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much to me," said Tavares, who was born and raised in Dorchester. "People say a lot of negative things about Dorchester, but there's a lot of positive things going on here too." Tavares and her **Little Sister Marlena**, 13, also bond over their shared Cape Verdean heritage. "She's awesome," said Marlena of her Big Sister. "I think it's cool that we speak the same language."

Big Sister Ingrid Henry hopes to be an inspiration to her **Little Sister Sequoia**. Henry moved to Dorchester from Jamaica with her family when she was 17. She has remained in Dorchester and now works as a fund accountant at State Street Corporation. "Girls need to see that there's someone who lives in the same neighborhood and is in a similar situation as them, but someone who also has goals and achieves them," said Henry. "Life doesn't end just because you're in a bad situation." Henry's outlook has certainly rubbed off on her Little Sister in just a few short months. "Ingrid's a businessperson and I

think I want to be a businessperson because it's cool," said 12 year-old Sequoia.

With the success of Neighborhood-Based Mentoring, Big Sister hopes to replicate the program in more of Boston's neighborhoods and further our relationship with the Frederick. "The Big Sisters make the girls feel important and special, and provide them with additional adult support during what can be a challenging time in their lives," said Lovett. "This has been a successful partnership in its pilot year and we look forward to continuing to collaborate with Big Sister in support of our female students and their families!"



Big Sister Natasha Link and Little Sister Vanice enjoy a card game at the Frederick

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What do you think the most urgent need is for girls in Boston currently?

There isn't one urgent need that stands out over another. While girls need greater access to programs and opportunities that minimize high-risk behaviors, they also need exposure to a diverse range of positive experiences. They need more leadership opportunities and more involvement in community and civic engagement roles that focus on the success of the neighborhoods in which they reside.

Big Sister social workers lead Group Mentoring programs for middle school-aged girls throughout the year at BCYF sites. How do these programs meet the needs of the girls in our community?

Through this effort, we are able to provide the mentoring experience and serve more girls in certain neighborhoods where we lack mentors. What we have found is that gender-specific programming that focuses on team-building and project-based learning with a caring female mentor is conducive to positive youth development outcomes.

BCYF offers several programs geared specifically toward girls. Why do you think it's important to have a gender-specific focus?

Research shows us the obvious: that girls and boys develop differently. While we may have common youth development outcomes for both,

we achieve those by using different techniques. In general, most programming tends to lean towards one particular gender and if there are girls involved it may be minimally geared toward them. Big Sister's gender-specific programs help us to engage girls in the hope that they will also explore other opportunities. In many cases girl-focused programming is the entry point for many opportunities throughout BCYF that may not have been previously explored.

How does the health and safety of our girls contribute overall to the positive growth of our community?

Overall it builds equity. We realize that there continues to be inequity in this area and it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we are continuously building the strength and capacity of our young women.

What opportunities do you see for improving and expanding programs that support girls?

Considering the current economy, the opportunity exists within partnerships. These partnerships would not only collaborate on grants, but also have a primary focus on opportunities and experiences for girls. Our partnership with Big Sister is a reflection of that and has built our capacity to do more.

Mark Your Calendar

BMW Raffle May 5-July 30, 2010

Are you ready for summer's most exciting chance to give back and win big? It's almost



time for Big Sister's 22nd Annual BMW Raffle! The choice is yours—hot, new **BMW convertible** or a cool **\$38,000 in cash**. The drawing will be held on July 30. Look for us with the red BMW in downtown Boston from June through July!

You may purchase tickets in person, through the mail, or online at www.bigsister.org beginning May 5.

Urban Beach Party to benefit the Rodman Ride for Kids June 24, 2010

Kick off summer with the hottest young professional party in Beantown! Get in the mood for sun, fun, and summer in the city with **Big Sister's Young Professional Board** from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the **Exchange Conference Center** on the waterfront in Boston. Feast on a delicious spread from **Legal Sea Foods**, cool off with summer libations, and dance the night away to a sizzling soundtrack spun by DJ Deja.

Enter our exciting raffle or bid on amazing auction items to help us raise money for Team Big Sister in the **Rodman Ride for Kids**. You'll also have the chance to learn about the Ride and sign up to join Team Big Sister!

Tickets go on sale April 29 at www.bigsister.org.

Where Are They Now?

FORMER LITTLE SISTER ANNE RHEAULT AND FORMER BIG SISTER PEGGY NOVOTNY DONNELLAN

In 1970, **Anne Marie Rheault** was 11 years old. She lived in South Boston's Old Harbor Village housing development with her mother and three sisters. Anne was the oldest of four daughters, though eventually her mother would remarry and the family would grow to six children in all. Anne's parents were divorced, and while her father was in and out of her life, she remained surrounded by her Irish Catholic family, with grandparents, aunts, and uncles all living in the same building with Anne. "We were poor, but everyone in Southie was poor, so you didn't know it," said Anne.

A self-described "black sheep" of the family, Anne often complained that no one liked her. She felt as though her mother didn't have enough time for her, and her mother felt Anne was a difficult child to reach. Anne had seen a girl living in her building go out with a woman each week who she came to find out was the girl's Big Sister. She asked her mother if she too could have a Big Sister. Since Anne's mother was already concerned about her daughter's poor self-image and thought that some extra one-on-one attention from an adult might help, she decided to call Big Sister Association.

In August 1971, a Big Sister social worker matched Anne with **Peggy Novotny**. Peggy had moved to Boston from St. Louis just three years earlier and worked as a personnel trainee at Gilchrist's department store in Downtown Crossing. The Big Sister social worker described Peggy as "an articulate woman of twenty-six." Anne's mother simply described her as "wicked tall" when Peggy first went to South Boston to meet her Little Sister Anne. "I was a wreck," Peggy remembers of that first meeting. Having almost no experience with children, she was nervous about how her first outing with Anne would go and if she would even make a good impression on this little girl.

Both Peggy and Anne recall being a bit standoffish toward each other at first. Anne was a shy child to begin with; Peggy was more talkative, but still tentative. The two took a tour of Boston on the Freedom Trail as their first activity together, which Anne had never done before. Anne was so excited after their first outing that she told her Big Sister she would call her that same night.

The next Saturday, and many Saturdays after that, Anne waited on the steps of her building for Peggy to pick her up. "I couldn't wait for Saturdays, even if it was just for a few hours, even if it was just McDonald's," recalled Anne. The two explored the city together, going to the Boston Common, the Museum of Science, and even to Gilchrist's where Peggy showed Anne how to use the cash register. They went on the swan boats, carved pumpkins, and on special occasions would go to dinner at Vallee's Steak House

on Route 9. Peggy often took Anne to her fourth floor walk-up in Brighton that she shared with a roommate. "That apartment was so cool," remembered Anne. "I had never been in a place like it." They loved attending Big Sister-sponsored picnics and parties where Anne met girls from the different neighborhoods of Boston. "Boston's small, but Southie's even smaller," said Anne. "With Peggy I

got exposed to a lot more than a regular kid might. I learned there was life outside of South Boston."

Peggy and Anne's friendship had its ups and downs. Peggy's marriage and subsequent pregnancy left Anne feeling insecure about her place in her Big Sister's life. During these times Peggy reached out to her Big Sister social worker, **Pearl Lodgen**, for guidance. Ultimately, through these rough patches, Anne never doubted the special friendship she shared with her Big Sister. "I've always loved Peggy. She's always been there when I needed her," said Anne. "She taught me how to be a stronger person, a stronger woman."

In the fall of 1973, Peggy and her husband moved to Connecticut, but she and Anne remained in touch. Anne had become a more confident, outgoing young woman. She had lots of friends and was even attending modeling school on the weekends. But Anne's world soon got turned upside down. When the public schools integrated during Anne's eighth grade year she attended a new school; that isolated, "black sheep" feeling returned. She felt like she did not fit in at her school, and when she returned to Southie at the end of the day she was ostracized by the kids in her neighborhood, too. Eventually, the stress got to Anne and she dropped out of high school. She later attended hairdressing school and also became a certified nursing assistant through the Westover Job Corps. Though her Big Sister was still living in Connecticut at the time, Anne feels Peggy's influence kept her on the right path. "Without Peggy I probably would have ended up like the other girls I saw in Southie—just not in the right frame of mind."

In the mid-80s Peggy moved back to Massachusetts with her husband and settled in Milford. Though it had been 15 years since they had seen each other, Peggy and Anne continued to share a meaningful connection. "Peggy's the only person I've consistently had in my life, especially since my mom died when I was 23," said Anne, who still lives in South Boston. "It's the longest friendship I've had. We've never left each other's life really." The two feel they've grown closer with age, helping each other through family and personal illness, and the death of Peggy's husband two years ago. "Anne has shown me a lot of love and compassion over the past few years," said Peggy of her former Little Sister.

"I thought the Big Sister program was great because you weren't expected to change lives, you were just expected to show up," said Peggy. Nearly forty years later, both she and Anne have realized that just showing up actually can change lives.



Peggy and Anne nearly 40 years after they were matched as Big and Little Sister



Anne around the time she met Big Sister Peggy

Match Highlight

BIG SISTER ENEIDA ROMAN AND LITTLE SISTER MIGLEILA

When **Big Sister Eneida Roman** showed up at **Migleila's** house more than five years ago, she was met by a nervous but excited seven year-old who presented her with a gift. Migleila had made two key chains using alphabet beads—one read “Big Sis,” the other read “Little Sis.” Eneida knew right away that this was going to be a special friendship.

Migleila is the youngest of three children who live with their mom in South Boston. Her brother is disabled, which requires Migleila's mom to dedicate much of her time and attention to his needs. Her older sister was already matched with a Big Sister, and Migleila's mom decided her youngest could also benefit from some extra care and attention. Migleila was not only excited to now have her own Big Sister, but also to find out that Eneida was Puerto Rican just like her!

Eneida takes great pride in her Latina heritage and strives to instill a similar sense of pride in her Little Sister. When Eneida first moved from Puerto Rico to the United States to attend law school, she was surprised by the educational, social, and economic disparities she witnessed. “Puerto Rico was very homogenous. It was different here,” said Eneida. By becoming a Big Sister, Eneida saw an opportunity to be a role model to a girl whom she could relate to on a cultural level. “I am privileged to have a wonderful family that provided endless support and positive role models, and where education was always a priority,” said Eneida. “It was my intention to provide the same type of guidance and support to a Latina girl that shared my same background and heritage.”

As their friendship has progressed, the two have enjoyed speaking Spanish together and cooking traditional Spanish food in Eneida's kitchen. On many occasions, they go to Merengue, a restaurant in Roxbury, where they try different foods from the authentic Latin American menu which is written entirely in Spanish. “I like that I can read the menu with Eneida,” said Migleila. She and her Big Sister have such similar taste in food that they often order the same dish! They also make a point of doing something special on each other's

birthdays because celebrating the occasion was an important tradition for Eneida when she was growing up.

Migleila, who is now 12 years-old, said she looks up to her Big Sister

because she has a good job as a lawyer and encourages Migleila to pursue her own career aspirations. When Migleila points out something nice that Eneida owns, Eneida makes sure to emphasize to her Little Sister that she is able to have it because of education and hard work. “Latina girls need role models, ones who are similar to them,” said Eneida. “We need to get involved.” In addition to being a Big Sister, Eneida is also on Big Sister's Diversity Council. This allows her to reach out to her own networks and Latina women throughout Boston to encourage them to become Big Sisters.

In order to keep Migleila engaged in education, Eneida nurtures her Little Sister's strengths and interests. “I always remind her that she's smart, she can do anything she wants to, and to never let anyone tell her otherwise,” said Eneida. One summer, the two attended Camp Fleur de Lis together; an overnight camp that fosters leadership skills, citizenship, and self-confidence in girls. When Migleila struggled with reading, Eneida found a book about Coco Chanel that she and her fashion-loving Little Sister read together. To nurture Migleila's writing skills and emphasize her natural creativity, she bought journals for Migleila so she could write about the things they do together; her private thoughts, or simply ideas she comes up with.

The relationship has been a learning experience for Eneida as well. “It's opened my eyes a lot on how to be a child again,” said Eneida. “You become so serious with your life and career. It's refreshing to see how creative a child can be.” Eneida loves letting loose when she's with her Little Sister, doing things she wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to do. They recently had a sleepover at Eneida's and watched the movie *Mama Mia*. They jumped around, danced, and sang along to all the songs in the movie.

Eneida has especially enjoyed being a part of Migleila's life as she's made the transition from little girl into pre-teen. “She's developing into an amazing young woman,” said Eneida. “But I still remember when she was so tiny and gave me that ‘Big Sis’ keychain!” Today the keychain is part of a scrapbook the two created over the course of their relationship. As Migleila continues to grow into her teenage years, she and Eneida plan to add many more pages to that scrapbook. Eneida is confident she will always be a part of her Little Sister's life. As for Migleila: “I think of her as my family and my friend.”

Big Sister Eneida and Little Sister Migleila play around at Jamaica Pond



Little Sister Migleila meets her Big Sister Eneida

Alumnae Celebrate Mentoring Month

More than 100 current and former Big Sisters, former Little Sisters, Big Sister staff, and board members filled the room at Downtown Crossing's Ivy Restaurant on January 21, for our annual **National Mentoring Month celebration**. The event was hosted by **Big Sister's Alumnae Association**.

The evening provided a great opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones. **Big Sister Keneisha Murphy** reunited with **Big Sister Carmen Davis** who she met through our volunteer orientation more than three years ago. “It was so good to see her!” exclaimed Murphy. “She and I hope to get together with our Little Sisters at some point.” Current and former Big Sisters shared stories and advice with one another; too. “I loved getting to meet two new—and much younger—Big Sisters, and to connect with some women who are my age and are just now beginning their Big Sister opportunity,” said **former Big Sister Meg McMillen**. “It always pleases me to tell folks connected to Big Sister that my Little Sister was in my wedding and that we remain good friends today.”

The celebration culminated with some inspiring words from Big Sister supporter, **Trish Karter, chief executive officer of Dancing Deer Baking Co.** Karter shared her story of following her dreams from artist to businesswoman, and finally marrying the two as cofounder of Dancing Deer. As the head of one of the nation's most innovative natural food companies, Karter spoke about leadership, believing in yourself, and the importance of having others support you. “It just takes that one person to believe in you and show you how to be a leader,” Karter told the group.

Throughout the night there was an unquestionable sense of community in the room. “I love this concept. Here I am 22 years after having met my Little Sister Sandra and I'm still a part of Big Sister,” said Meg McMillen. All who attended were energized by the gathering. We look forward to providing more workshops, networking, and social gatherings throughout the year for our Alumnae!

Visit
www.bigsister.org/alumnae
to join our Alumnae Association!



Trish Karter shows her Big Sister pride during our National Mentoring Month celebration



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

2009-2010 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between November 21, 2009 and March 8, 2010. Thank you for your generous support!

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Margot & Chris Phelps

Lia & William Poorvu

Claudia Pouravelis

Joan & Robert Powilatis

Irving Rabb

Richard Re

June & David Rokoff

Lori Rutter & Jeff Behrens

Jessie Saacke & Freeman Deutsch

Loring & Andy Schwarz

Hal Shear

Susan Shevitz & Lawrence Bailis

Jennifer Shulman*

Norine & Peter Shults

Penny Shultz & Joel Wolff

Kelley Small

Barbara Smith

Becca Sniderman

Jacqueline Sonnabend

Leah* & Eric Tennen

Kimberly* & Christopher Trainor

Ingeborg Uhrir

Gretchen Underwood*

Elaine & Philip Valley

Kate Walsh

Roslyn Watson

Gail Weber

David Welch

Christopher Wheeler

Jean & William Whitney

Patricia Willott

Jamie Wong

Marilyn Wright

Lisa Zarikian

Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation

Anna B. Stearns Foundation

Arbella Insurance

Blue Cross Blue Shield

of Massachusetts

Brookwood Financial Partners, LP

Cambridge Community Foundation

Cogan Family Foundation

The Connors Family Office

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Franklin W. Olin College

of Engineering

GoGirlGo!

Harvard Allston Fund

Jacobson Family Foundation

Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust

Linde Family Foundation

The Little Family Foundation

Macy's East

The New England Patriots

Charitable Foundation

Normandy Real Estate Partners, LLC

Orville W. Forte Charitable

Foundation, Inc.

Reit Management & Research LLC

Sawyer Charitable Foundation

Seaward Management

Suffolk Construction Co., Inc.

UBS Financial Services, Inc.

West Ridge Insurance Agency

Yawkey Foundation II

Yozell Associates

Companies Making Matching Gifts

Abrams Capital Management

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Eaton Vance Management

Goldman Sachs & Co.

John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.

Liberty Mutual Group

State Street Corporation

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

Thank You!

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2010. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

11 YEARS

Kathleen McDougall & Cara
Sarah Meeks & Cassandra
Sandra Smith & Amanda

10 YEARS

Adrienne Armstrong & Briana
Ruth Hagearty & Racheal
Marisa Jones & Susanne
Kati Livingston & Felicia

9 YEARS

Jessica Sandland & Rachel

8 YEARS

Donnaleigh Coolidge-Miller & Stephanie
Ellen Daley & Lisette
Megan Flynn & Camille
Erica Greany & Sherly
Elizabeth Harris & Tachauna

7 YEARS

Nancy Christiansen & Angelique
Judy Dombrowski & Ashlyn
Rebecca Gilding & Aprile
Leslie Greenfield & Tanissa
Audrey Paek & Samantha
Elena Proakis Ellis & Kaitlyn
Julie Sahlins & Samantha

6 YEARS

Suzanne Alston & Dyshawna
Cindy Arens & Helen
Terri Campbell & Khalifa
Cynthia Dantas & Tayla
Michelle Dolan & Mabel
Jamie Doyle & Jalisa
Linda Hughes & Emily
Evangelia Lambidoni & Jacqueline
Megan Lipman & Ilcia
Johannah Morgen & Meagan
Jenn Reale & Angel
Jessica Ziady Healy & Kimberly

5 YEARS

Andrea Bernard & Myeisha
Jennifer Brams & Kimberly
Erica Delery & Aiesha
Tamara Johnson & Jazmyne
Katheryn Kemp & Sparkle
Andrea Motta & Erika
Dina Pradel & Shanice
Jane Unaeze & Tiesha
Meagan Walker & Ashley

4 YEARS

Fahmida Bashar & Jesenia
Katie Basilotto & Jessica
Margaret Bradford & Nivicka
Kayla Celani & Javienne
Ekaette Dunel & Ronique
Beth Favaloro & Cindy
Karen Gallagher & Meghan
Meredith Hubbell & Jovanna
Marissa Jesson & Leonor
Heidi Katz & Latikia
Nilofer Khalifa & Mailene
Vanessa Loeblich & Britney
Kelly Morgan & Joyce
Stacy Pyron & Nicole
Logan Seward & Nazadeen
Laura Sprauer & Ashley
Angelica Vargas & Paola
Nicole Watkins & Shadajiah

3 YEARS

Kathleen Barry & Joanna
Katlyn Beaver & Heaven
Nicole Benson & Jami-Lyn
Anne Bost & Ranajia
Alisha Bouzahr & Erin

Lisa Cavallo & Vivian
Sara Conrad & Melissa
Kathleen Cross & Stephanie
Jessica Crotty & Mindy
Jennie Dubitsky & Keyana
Patricia Fallon & Laura
Aine Friend & Khadija
Susan Jones & Elizabeth
Sondra Korman & Samantha
Sabrena Maldonado & Shayla
Kristen Murawski & Victoria
Laurie Ortiz & Kayla
Leslee Parker & Aleysia
Meredith Patin & Haley
Vanpat Pensuwan & Camille
Michelle Probert & Cassandra
Diana Quecano & Elisa
Annika Rafkind & Chloe
Kelly Richburg & Stephanie
Evelyn Robertson & Idalis
Andrea Santilli & Sarita
Stefanie Smith & Cheyenne
Laurie Speranzo & Selena
Caitriona Taylor & Samantha
Sally Vail & Julyanna
Jocelyn Vara & Cheniya

2 YEARS

Courtney Boen & Mayisel
Rebecca Bradshaw & Virginia
Lisa Brazil & Rebecca
Elizabeth Chernus & Carolyn
Sarah Clark & Tacora
Maureen Connelly & Laree

Catie Connolly & Genesis
Carmen Davis & Nataly
Amanda Degregoria & Makenna
Brandi Derr & Maurina
Katherine Dykes & Keila
Melissa Ferguson & Kimberlie
Lisa Florenzano & Juliana
Juliana Gamble & Jaedah
Monica Garlick & Sherrelle
Paula Gentile & Kassandra
Hyacinth John & Taniushka
Kristen Keating & Stacia
Marissa Keegan & Miraya
Kristy Kirby & Jenna
Patricia Layne & Brittney
Suzanne Lieb & Keylani
Veronica Marciniak & Regat
Shelly Meier & Samantha

Micquella Gwendolyn
Bradford & Sealeah
Dawn Bregoli & Victoria
Melissa Brown & Tristan
Jessica Burke & Melina
Alyssa Campbell & Meron
Cindy Carter & Brandee
Lian Chen & Yadielis
Betty Chu & Melissa
Katie Coleman & Kathy
Jennifer Coners & Tiana
Kristen Conley & Patricia
Andrea Constantino & Jarisellis
Roseann Cooke & Brielle
Tacy Corson & Annette
Lauren Crowne & Wilmaury
Alisyn Daniel & Kayla

Katherine Daoust & Randai
Keli Davis & Selena
Kristin Davis & Ilene
Zarni de Wet & Areana
Michelle DuBow & Britney

Jessica Dunner & Natalia
Caroline Ettman & Mercedes
Rachel Finkelstein & Venneth
Christine Florio & Janielis
Kara Foley & Shakyla
Alexa Goins & Taenari
Karin Goodfellow & Shaniqua

Francesca Gordon & Carol
Melissa Graves & Amira
Marissa Green & Annie
Jeanine Hall & Deylisa
Amanda Harten & Catherine
Sia Herr & Kevonna
Muriel Herrera & Shiann
Kellie Hoverter & An Qi
Courtney Hovsespian & Jaily
Melissa Howell & Ashley
Joyce Huang & Jan
Jennifer Hudon & Tinisha
Diane Ivey & Tiffany
Jasmine Jean Jacques & Lisbeth

Farah Juma & Tamia
Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy & DeJalei Ernestine
Valerie Kesaris & Jade
Julia King & Marilexy
Maria Kolbe & Kevonah
Jennifer Kral & Toni
Hannah Krulewitsch & Tracy
Joelle Lamberton & Yazelly
Sarah Legendre & Tamira
Monique Lynnes & Jayleen
Megan Maloney & Dalila
Ashley Martin & Shanelle
Danielle McDonough & Heizy

Anna Maria Melachrinou & Ginely
Molly Monaco & Angelica
Andreina Morales & Evelyn
Jenee Morgan & Sabrena
Lauren Nasella & Vitianna
Jennifer Nestor & Rebecca
Bridget O'Donnell & Vanessa
Thu Ong & Kianna
Kimberly Padgett & Loryana
Layne Petrie & Alejandra
Haley Pfeifer & Joyce
Kelli Pointer & Vashanti
Nicole Poirier & Doria
Lisa Pollack & Victoria
Melissa Powell & Cora
Kari Price & Eldana
Heather Priestly & Jhyjia
Claudia Rodriguez & Selena
Kondeleye Ross & Alshun
Alice Savage & Jayanna
Sandra Seals & Margarita
Janean Shepard & Haley
Carol Sisson & Wendy
Milcah Ssebawa & Greg'ryka
Brittany Swartz & Amy
Meg Talewsky & Taylah
Brooke Thomas & Casandra
Jessica Thomas & Yvellsisse
Tishayla Vanalstyne & Ilina
Lindsay Vozar & Cynthia
Caitlin Walsh & Feline
Catherine Ward & Leana
Audrina Warren & Celixia
Rachael White & Leylah
Rachel Zyrek & Jaylean

Happy Anniversary!

Katherine Mickley & Natalya
Gisland Montour & Regine
Judith Moses & Rocio
Alyssa Moskos & Kimberly
Gulia Muca & Destinee
Marina Nasman & Tanisha
Katherine Nguyen & Soteary
Laura O'Keefe & Christine
Kristen Paonessa & Brittney
Audra Peek & Adonia
Elizabeth Quigley & Mary
Mindy Reiser & Ashly
Amber Servi & Taylor
Diane Souza & Brittany
Lauren Stephenson & Jaliyah
Angela Tamzen & Justine
Colleen Taylor & Aaliyah
Valerie Wencis & Alecia
Pamela Zapata & Chavonna
Jennifer Zeisler & Jasmine
Caroline Zoltowski & Leydi

1 YEAR

Jenna Adler & Alexandria
Fatimah Al Namlah & Kianna
Linda Antonucci & Elaine
Arbnora Azizi & Gabriela
Anne Baker & Carmelita
Lindsay Barus & Caroline
Shekeria Beale & Melodie
Kelly Beatty & Jazzelle
Nicole Belanger & Ashley
Jill Benham & Tanya
Vaneta Bernard & Victoria
Emma Boswell & Stefanie



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

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BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Sister in Brief..

GRANT AWARDED

On February 26, Big Sister Association was awarded a \$9,000 grant by the **Harvard Allston Partnership Fund**. The check was presented by **Mayor Menino** and **Harvard University President, Drew Faust**, during a ceremony at the Harvard Allston Skating Rink. The Fund is endowed by the University, which is working in conjunction with the **Boston Redevelopment Authority** and the Allston community to address local needs and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. The grant will enable Big Sister to continue providing our professionally supported mentoring programs to girls in the Allston community.



*Mayor Menino and Drew Faust
award the Harvard Allston
grant to Big Sister*

A FINAL FAREWELL

Former Executive Director of Big Sister, **Gloria Oldsman**, passed away on February 28. In the last issue of the *Big Sister Bulletin*, we highlighted Oldsman's generosity in asking that donations be made to Big Sister Association in lieu of gifts for her 80th birthday. Oldsman began her career at Big Sister as a case worker, then led the organization from 1968 to 1973.

Her career was dedicated to improving the social and economic conditions of girls, women, and the elderly. As we stand on the shoulders of the women who come before us, we are proud to include Oldsman among those ranks. We wish to express our condolences and thank her family for asking that donations be made to Big Sister in her name. Her legacy will live on through our continued work with women and girls.

COLLABORATION

On March 14, Big Sister co-hosted a special activity at **Bella Luna** in Jamaica Plain for Little Sisters from the **Bromley-Heath** housing development and their Big Sisters. The Big and Little Sister matches were joined by Little Brothers also living in Bromley-Heath and their Big Brothers. These mentoring relationships are part of a collaboration between both agencies, funded by the **Highland Street Foundation**, aimed at specifically providing services for children in Bromley-Heath. The Bigs and Littles enjoyed a day of making pizza, playing a giant game of Connect Four and Wii, and celebrating one Little Sister's 13th birthday! Special thanks to Bella Luna and **Ula Café** for a fun-filled day in the community.



*Big Sister Stacey Salomon and
Little Sister Makeda make their
own pizza at Bella Luna*