

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Sister Welcomes New Board President

On Monday, May 5, a new era was ushered in at Big Sister Association of Greater Boston's Annual Meeting. After three years as president of Big Sister's Board of Directors, Dolores Mitchell, Executive Director of the Group Insurance Commission, passed the presidential torch to **Timothy J. O'Brien, Senior Vice President at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.**

Joining O'Brien as the newly elected vice president was **Maxwell Bardeen, Jr., Managing Director at UBS Financial.**

"Dolores Mitchell has served as an exemplary leader of the Big Sister Board during a critical time in our history," said Deborah Re, Chief Executive Officer of Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. "Tim and Max's experience in business, paired with their deep understanding of Big Sister's mission, will launch Big Sister further into the forefront of mentoring organizations in Greater Boston."

O'Brien realizes he has some big shoes to fill in his new role, but looks forward to the challenges that await him. "Big Sister is leading the way in gender-specific mentoring.

They are the best at what they do and I am proud to be a part of that leadership," he said.

O'Brien and Bardeen are joined by 27 fellow Board Members who are charged with fiscal and strategic oversight of the agency, and play an instrumental role in raising the funds needed to serve more than 3,000 girls in 2008.

Collectively they bring a range of professional and philanthropic experience to Big Sister. Four new Board Members were also appointed to Big Sister's Board at the Annual Meeting. They include: **Hilary Marshall**, former Director of

Development and Communications at Big Sister, who is now **Director of Annual Giving at Massachusetts General Hospital; Carol McKean, President of Carol McKean Events; Janet Porter, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; and Karen Voci, Executive Director at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation.**

The Annual Meeting also marked the election of the first officers to Big Sister's Young Professional Board. This Board was created in 2007 in order to reach out to a

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An Interview with Dr. Renée Spencer

BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S MENTORING EXPERT TALKS ABOUT HER CURRENT RESEARCH

Dr. Renée Spencer knows mentoring, but even she will admit that there is much to be learned in this burgeoning field. "Really we're at ground zero in terms of basic questions about mentoring," said Spencer. However, Spencer, as well as her own professional mentor, Dr. Jean Rhodes of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, are paving the way for youth mentoring research, particularly as it pertains to gender.

Currently, Spencer is in the middle of a study—which includes Big Sister Association—that will provide valuable information on what makes mentoring relationships work. The study, which includes community-based and school-based programs, focuses on the following questions:

1. What is the impact of closeness between mentor and mentee on the effectiveness of mentoring relationships?
2. What creates closeness in mentoring relationships?
3. How do individual factors (youth and mentor) and contextual factors (family environment and support, program type) influence the development of closeness in mentoring relationships?

Spencer is studying new matches so that she can observe the trajectory of their relationship over time. Through interviews and surveys with the mentors, mentees, and in the case of community-based matches, their families, Spencer hopes to ultimately find out what

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younger generation of philanthropists and get them involved with the integral work of Big Sister. The 14-person Young Professional Board elected **Claudia Silva, Account Manager at Argus**, as its president, and **Sven Meier, Technical Lead at IBM**, as its vice president. They also welcomed a diverse group of four new members, including: **C. Allen Bargfrede, Assistant Professor of Music Business at Berklee College of Music**; **Karen Carmody, Director of Corporate Development at Circles**; **David Howse, Director of Operations and Programs at Boston Children's Chorus**; and **Natalie King, Event Manager at Tourism Cares**.

"With this dynamic group of enthusiastic Board and Young Professional Board Members, I have no doubt that we will be able to deepen our impact in Greater Boston and create even more opportunities for the girls," said Re.



New Board Members Hilary Marshall, Carol McKean, and Karen Vooi

Match Highlight

BIG SISTER KIM SMITH AND LITTLE SISTER ANDREA

More than a decade ago, Big Sister Kim Smith and Little Sister Andrea would spend time together each week collapsing in giggles as they played hide-and-go-seek or

finding themselves covered in cake batter from an afternoon of baking at Kim's North End apartment. At age 26, Kim was a young professional looking for a meaningful

way to spend her free time. At age 9, Andrea had recently lost her mother to illness and was being raised by her father, who also had three other children to care for. Andrea's father needed someone who could be there just for his daughter, to make her feel special and relate to her as a little girl quickly becoming a young woman. He turned to Big Sister Association, where the seasoned social workers knew that Kim Smith would be the perfect match for Andrea.

Recently, Big Sister Kim and Little Sister Andrea once again found themselves in the North End, giggling and sharing confidences in a quiet corner of a coffee shop. Approaching their 11-year anniversary as Big and Little Sister, they talk about how much has changed. Kim now lives in Arlington with her husband and two children. Andrea is nearing the end of her sophomore year at the University of New Hampshire. But one thing has not changed: their friendship. "Kim filled a void in my life at that time," said

Andrea. "She gave so much of herself to someone she didn't even know." When they were first matched, Kim worried that she wouldn't really be making a difference in her Little Sister's life. "Her dad clearly loved her so much I felt like Andrea might not even need me!" said Kim. However, Andrea felt differently. Though she could count on support from her family to deal with the loss of her mother, "Kim was there for me in a different way. She took care of me in ways that no one else did," Andrea said.

“Kim has had an enormous impact on who Andrea has become today—a bright, caring young lady. I am very grateful for Kim.”

In 2005, Little Sister Andrea's father nominated Kim for Big Sister of the Year. In his nomination he wrote: "Kim has had an enormous impact on who Andrea has become today—a bright, caring young lady. I am very grateful for Kim. I believe this [Big Sister of the Year] award belongs to Kim and is long overdue." Andrea herself credits Kim with giving her more confidence, especially when it comes to trying new things, and encouraging her to take more risks and "think outside the box."

Though Andrea is attending college out of state and Kim has a growing family of her own, they are still matched as Big and Little Sister. Andrea admits that she relies on Kim for support now more than ever. She looks to her Big Sister when facing decisions such as whether or not she should transfer to another college or to find ways to branch out and enhance her current college experience. "She knows more than my friends; she has been through more than they have," said Andrea. "She's also the most honest person in my life."

Andrea and Kim see each other monthly and talk on the phone often. "There's not a lot of people out there that I can talk to about *anything*," said Andrea. Kim is even there to support Andrea in spirit, if not physically. During a particularly trying time recently, Kim sent her Little Sister a book of inspirational thoughts to comfort her. Andrea now reads them every day and feels secure knowing that no matter what challenges she faces, she will always have a true, caring friend in her life. "When I met her I felt that she had something others didn't have—something special and mature," said Kim. "I think she is headed for great things."



Big Sister Kim and Little Sister Andrea today!

Focus On: Partnership With Mother Caroline Academy

It was the perfect match: a school designed to nurture the academic success of underserved middle school aged girls and a mentoring program designed to address the social-emotional needs of middle school aged girls. This past May, Big Sister partnered with Mother Caroline Academy to run a four-week *Life Choices* Group Mentoring workshop for the fifth grade class. The workshop served as a preview of the full 15-week *Life Choices* program that the same class of 16 girls will take part in beginning this fall.

"As soon as we heard about it, we were like 'Wow, this would be perfect!'" said Mother Caroline's Director of After-School Programs, Melinda Carr, about Big Sister's *Life Choices* program. Both Big Sister and Mother Caroline have a history of helping girls reach their full potential, so the partnership came as a natural fit. In 1993, Mother Caroline Academy began as a small middle school in Dorchester exclusively serving financially limited girls. In the past 15 years the school has not only relocated to the heart of Roxbury, it has grown to become a resource for the girls' families as well. They offer after-school programming for boys and girls in third and fourth grade (with many of the girls entering Mother Caroline for their fifth grade year) and adult education classes for the parents—the majority of whom either speak no English or speak English as a second language. However, their main focus is to help middle school girls in Boston's underserved neighborhoods succeed academically, with many of their graduates

going on to attend high school at such prestigious institutions as Boston Latin School and Buckingham Browne & Nichols.



The Little Sisters of Mother Caroline Academy

Carr was excited to partner with Big Sister's *Life Choices* program because "there's not many programs like this geared toward girls, there are many more for the boys," she said. "Girls and boys learn differently, so they need to have programs that recognize the different topics that are important to them and their different learning styles," added Carr.

Since the initial *Life Choices* program at Mother Caroline was intended to run for only four sessions, Big Sister's group facilitators tailored the curriculum to fit the needs of fifth grade girls in a single-sex learning environment. The group, which was led by a licensed Big Sister social worker and a Masters of Social Work intern, discussed topics such as friendship, peer

pressure, and self-esteem. "The girls loved the topics they discussed in *Life Choices*," said Carr. "You would always hear the buzz about them in class the next day."

"Being able to get along with your peers is so important to academic success, feeling like you have a place where you fit in, and are liked and supported," said Elise Block Gottesman, LICSV, one of the group's facilitators. "Even though these girls are together all day, *Life Choices* is a space for them to figure out how to navigate friendships, manage conflict, and get along with each other," said Gottesman. In that respect, the success of the group is already evident. "Things can break between the bestest friends, but [then] they come together," wrote one of the Little Sisters in response to what she learned about friendship in the group. "I learned how to keep problems to only you and the person you have the problem with," added another; a refreshing sentiment in a time when girls often use rumors as a form of aggression against each other.

As the school-year at Mother Caroline comes to a close, the girls are already anticipating the return of *Life Choices* in October. "I wouldn't change anything [about the group]. It was all perfect and fun—I can't wait for the fall!" wrote one of the Little Sisters. It is evident that with a gender-specific lens and a mission of helping girls succeed, the partnership between Mother Caroline Academy and Big Sister is creating new possibilities for Greater Boston's girls.

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factors make mentoring relationships last and if it is possible to tell from the outset how successful that relationship will be.

Spencer's interest in researching how mentoring relationships work was originally sparked at Harvard, when she was earning her Doctorate of Education in Human Development and Psychology. A professor specializing in risk and resilience told Spencer's class that children with at least one adult they can confide in demonstrate better psychological outcomes than those who do not. Curious, Spencer simply asked "Why?" To which the professor replied "We don't know." At the urging of Jean Rhodes to frame her question within the context of youth mentoring, Spencer set out to write her doctoral thesis on why and how programs like Big Sister work.

Having now already done one study of long-term mentoring relationships with matches from Big Sister Association, Spencer commented on the high level of support she felt the matches received. "The social workers at Big Sister get to know a match and can be a part of its growth and development," Spencer said. "There's good follow-up, there's close attention to the matches, and there's a commitment

from the social workers to following relationships over time. Big Sister pays very close attention to relationships." When asked why she thinks Big Sister has seen such positive results from our gender-specific approach, Spencer

“The social workers at Big Sister get to know a match and can be a part of its growth and development. There's good follow-up, there's close attention to the matches, and there's a commitment from the social workers to following relationships over time.”

responded, "When you tailor things to the specific population you tend to get a better effect. One of the principles of prevention is to really think about whom it is you're serving and tailoring what you do to meet the needs of that population."

Though Spencer is still in the data collection stage of her research and looks forward to her results furthering the conversation about the effectiveness of mentoring, she admits that much of the reward is in the stories she hears. One such story that has stuck with her came from a mentor who told her "I don't think I've done much except just be around." The mentor then proceeded to tell Spencer about the mentoring relationship that was now in its sixth year: a relationship that had thrived mostly on the mentor

simply just *being* in the child's life. Of the hundreds of matches she has met over the years, Spencer can plainly say, "I have been awed by some of these relationships."

Where Are They Now?

Big Sister Annemarie Thomas, a Hyde Park resident, has been a dedicated volunteer for nearly a decade. In March, she celebrated her two year anniversary with her second Little Sister, 12 year old Maimouna. However, Annemarie previously enjoyed a four year match with Little Sister Lisa. Though their match closed when Lisa was in 10th grade, the two remain close to this day, with Annemarie continuing to offer support to Lisa as she navigates her early 20s. The following recollection of their match was written by Annemarie in 2007; it is an honest and heartfelt look at the challenges and rewards of being a mentor. In June of 2008, Annemarie reported that Lisa is doing very well in college, studying pre-med, and working for a senator in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Eight years ago I was matched with my first Little Sister. I was told that the match was based on the fact that we liked to read, I graduated from Boston Latin, she was just beginning there, and she wanted to go to Harvard where I was a Director. I was nervous. This was my first match, so I set out to make a difference. I wanted to show Lisa things she might not experience in her Roxbury/Dorchester neighborhood, broaden her horizons, and introduce her to things I knew about.

Our first outing was a bust. She didn't like the Arnold Arboretum; what was I thinking, it was boring to a 12 year old! Great ideas got pushed aside and we quickly settled into movies and pizza. I continually asked her about school and got monosyllabic answers. To fill the silence, I would launch into a running dialogue about my days at Latin School. Maybe she would pick up something from my trials and tribulations.

When school started in the fall of our second year together, Lisa complained about how hard Boston Latin was (yes, it is terribly hard), and how her friends were having an easier time at other schools. Maybe she would quit at the end of eighth grade and go to a Boston high school, a typical pattern for many kids at Latin School.

Before we were matched, I was told that a one year commitment was all I needed to give Lisa; that became my timeframe. But, as I saw her waiver about staying at Latin, I decided that I would see her through the crucial ninth, and then tenth, grade.

To make a long story short, Lisa graduated from Latin School in June of 2006, won more than \$10,000 on Prize Night, and is happily ensconced at Middlebury College in Vermont. I will not forget the day she called and asked me if I would go to Prize Night with her. I acted like a proud parent.

During our four years as Big and Little Sister we had many new experiences. Early in the match I took her to Legal Sea Foods...where she promptly informed me she didn't like seafood. However, today, she will try anything and she eats seafood. We visited the DeCordova Museum, which can be a bit quirky, but when she told me she liked a certain object and the reason why, I saw her developing her own opinions. At a photographic exhibit, she made an insightful comment about one of the works and I was blown away. We read Harry Potter together and I scoured amazon.com to find good Young Adult books to read with her. We would talk about the books afterwards-the give and take was wonderful. When it came to school, I helped her with algebra, coached her on extra-curriculars that would look good on her college application, and pushed her hard to study and keep her marks up.

We ended our match at the close of the 10th grade, but we kept in touch. The summer of her junior year of high school I met her at the train station, and was astounded by this beautiful and poised young lady who was working at the State House for the summer. She spent the entire dinner telling me about the bills her representative was sponsoring and she was aghast at the inequities people suffer in the system. I was working on a Deval Patrick campaign and I took her to a "Women for Deval" event. She met Deval Patrick there and held her own in a conversation with him-again, I was beaming like a proud parent.

She calls me weekly now from Middlebury College. Her parents have moved to Florida, so she spent her Thanksgiving break with me. It was like having a girlfriend at my house for four days! I always laugh at those crazy people who shop Friday after Thanksgiving, but Lisa and I were downtown at 6 a.m. Who would have thought!

I think Lisa would have been fine without me, but I do like to think that she stretched a bit more because I was there, and that she knows she is just as good as anyone else.

Imparting a bit of what we know as women to these girls cannot be underestimated. They may give monosyllabic answers, if they answer at all, but somewhere within their being, you are reaching them. They may not want to go outside their comfort zone, but if you're standing beside them when they're in that uncomfortable place, they realize that they can do it. Maybe next time they will venture outside themselves because you showed them it was safe.



Big Sister Annemarie and Little Sister Lisa pay a visit to Santa in their first year together!

Are you a former Little Sister or do you know someone who is?

Write to mjohnson@bigsister.org to find out how you can join our Alumnae Association!

Celebrity Chef Dinner a Five-Star Success

Big Sister's Celebrity Chef Event at Radius, held on April 13, was nothing short of five stars. Guests are still "radiating" from the exciting evening, which **raised more than \$130,000**—the most money ever donated through this event—to support Big Sister's acclaimed mentoring programs for girls.

Radius owners **Christopher Myers, Michael Schlow, and Esti Parsons** generously opened their doors and hosted 130 guests. Event attendees enjoyed a sophisticated cocktail hour featuring live jazz and amuse bouche, prepared by Radius' award-winning chefs. Afterwards, guests were treated to an elegant seven-course meal prepared by Boston's best chefs.

Special thanks to our gastronomical gurus:

Ting San, Oishii Boston
Adam Fuller, Great Bay
Jamie Bissonette, KO Prime
Mike Pagliarini, Via Matta
Marc Orfaly, Pigalle and Marco
Patrick Connolly, Radius
PJ Waters, Radius

However, the night was not just about the delectable dishes; it was also about giving guests a glimpse at the importance of our services to girls. Big Sister Charmain Jackman, 12 year old Little Sister Tichina, and her mother Tira, spoke to attendees about their positive experience. Beaming at Charmain, Tichina told her Big Sister how important she is to her. Tichina also read from a letter that she had recently written about Charmain and sent to Big Sister Association earlier this year:

"My Big Sister is so important to me because she is a leader in my life. I love my mother and she is the best leader that I know, but my Big Sister leads me in a different way. My life might be different if I didn't have my Big Sister because I found a new positive friend in my life. I will not say I have a lot of friends but I can say that my Big Sister is a true friend. I do not always see positive people in the news and I don't hear a lot of positive things in my community. My Big Sister is a positive light in my life and in our community."

Tichina's mother added that in the four years Big Sister Charmain has been matched with her daughter, she has come to realize how essential her presence has been. She spoke of how Charmain has taught her daughter about everything from self-esteem to baking. She makes time to help Tichina with her homework and talk about "real issues, girl issues." Tira talked about how important it is that Charmain's relationship with Tichina complements her own, recognizing that Tichina "is young and needed to see and hear a different perspective besides my own."

Big Sister would like to extend a special thank you to Charmain, Tichina, and Tira, for sharing their stories. We would also like to thank our event co-chairs, Janet Kraus and Kathy Sherbrooke, and event sponsors, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Spire, and Circles. And of course, a BIG thank you to all those who contributed to the event. We look forward to breaking bread with you once again at our Celebrity Chef Dinner in 2009!



Support for Greater Boston's girls was on the menu at the Celebrity Chef Dinner



Big Sister Charmain and Little Sister Tichina share their friendship with guests

Celebrating the Magic of Sisterhood

"I've never told her this, but I love her, and I wouldn't ask for another Big Sister," revealed a Little Sister from the stage of the Royal Sonesta Ballroom. She was there to proudly recognize her Big Sister as part of our annual Community-Based Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast held on April 26, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge. This year's theme celebrated "The Magic of Sisterhood," and the Little Sister "open mic" illustrated that magic between the girls and their Big

Sisters. "I appreciate my Big Sister because even if she is busy she always has time for me," added another brave Little Sister who stepped up to the microphone.

Big and Little Sisters in our Community-Based Mentoring program join together each year during the spring to honor the significant bond they share and the commitment of our Big Sisters. Though we only ask for a 12 month commitment in the Community-Based Mentoring program, our average length of match is 27 months (surpassing the national average of 21 months); many matches at the breakfast were celebrating multi-year anniversaries. A handful of

challenging. "While the impact of being a Big Sister is not always immediately obvious it is powerful," assured Re. "The power of deciding to be in another person's life, the power of caring and commitment, the power of love, is stronger than anything else."

Keynote speaker Saun Green, program director of Teen Voices, agreed with Re's message. "Big Sisters," she urged, "never underestimate the powerful impact that your actions, your words, and your genuine care and concern can have on your Little Sisters."

Between speakers, Big and Little Sisters enjoyed an enchanting performance by the talented young dancers of Originations Dance Troupe. One dancer also recited poems by Originations' founding artistic director that emphasized self-love and self-respect, sentiments that Big Sisters foster in their Little Sisters.

We would like to thank all our Community-Based Big Sisters for the friendship and commitment they share with their Little Sisters. We would also like to thank Jacqueline Sonnabend, the Royal Sonesta Hotels, and the Sonnabend Foundation, who have generously underwritten this Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for more than a decade.



Big Sister Colleen and Little Sister Katilin—more than three years of friendship!



Big Sister Hyacinth and Little Sister Taniushka celebrate sisterhood

matches even celebrated their ten-year anniversaries, a tremendous accomplishment. In welcoming all the Big and Little Sisters, Big Sister's Chief Executive Officer, Deborah Re, acknowledged that the role of Big Sister can be



2008 MATCHMAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts or pledge payments of \$100 or more to Big Sister's Annual Fund between March 14, 2008 and June 3, 2008. This list also includes those who donated through our Celebrity Chef Dinner. Thank you to our generous supporters!

Magic Maker

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anita Bagloneas (Jules Catering)
Beth & Max Bardeen

Inspiration Maker

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Laura & James Cafferty
Jane & Brian Crowley
Eileen & Hal Kraus
Regina Pisa
Dan Romanow & B. Andrew Zelermyer
Abby & John Yozell
Jeanne & Peter Yozell

Friendship Maker

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Gordon Burnes
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Kathleen Elliott & Ann Beard
Gerry McCarthy (Mortgage Master, Inc.)
Dolores & Marvin Mitchell
Lisa Scannell

Match Maker

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Smile Maker

\$100 - \$999

Unyi Agba
Sonia Anderson
Anonymous
Susan & George Bergmann
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Carole Bodio
Laura Boyd
Bill Bridgen
Donavan Brown
Andrea Burke
Frances Cleveland
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State Street Global Advisors

Thank You!!

The following Big and Little Sisters have celebrated match anniversaries between April 1, 2008 and June 31, 2008. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

14 YEARS

Donna Fridgen & Courtney

10 YEARS

Mona Goldthwaite & Marisol
Deenie Pacik & Shanena

9 YEARS

Lindsey Schrader & Nia

8 YEARS

Julie Atwood & Naquana
Anne Cheung & Lois
Ellen DePaul & Thelma
Claudia Dupre & Taja
Isabelle Eckelhofe & Samantha
Brenda Krafft & Katherine

7 YEARS

Cyndi Bonani & Courtney
Rosemary Ford & Kristina
Anna Heineman-Vijayan & Ashly
Angela Johnson & Mariah
Zoe Sherman & Taylor
Lindsay Sobel & Jessica

6 YEARS

Edith Gardner & Amanda
Kelly Henry & Anjelica
Emily Kao & Nykkia
Jillana Novich & Jessica
Katherine Potter & Angel
Holly Wasilowski & Kiara

5 YEARS

Maria Bautista & Michaela
Laura Boyd & Victoria
Melissa Carino & Anais

Lynne Crawford & Stephanie
Amy Fabino & Lanishia
Jodi Hullinger & Tailane
Danielle Jezak & Tiara
Lelia King & Deidre
Patti Kinzer & Antoniqua
Emily Littlefield & Judith
Erica Merrill & Janessa
Margo Muhl Davis & Vivian
Sara Nadelman & Acacia
Karen Rider & Veronica
Judy Schotland & Stephanie
Clarinda Spinelli & Samantha

4 YEARS

Heather
Adamian &
Jennifer
Darcy Babcock
& Katiria
Kelly Brilliant &
April
Lownello
Brown & Ariel
Barbara
Corbett & Mandy
Helen Cullity & Kyianna
Rosa Del Rosario & Jailene
Charmain Jackman & Tichina
Colleen Kenney & Charlotte
Gretchen Lane & Ladjuana
Lisa Marotz & Kayla-Anne
Susan Montani & Amanda
Tammie Rivard & Laura
Jeannette Rivera & Jaydah
Susan Rosa & Caprice
Erin Sehnal & Nandy
Linda Wu & Elaine

3 YEARS

Mary Burke & Yesenia
Susan Campbell & Glorimar
Tacy Corson & Genesis
Mary Cullinane & Heather
Marney Cumming & May
Suzanne Donahue & Kelsey
Kimberly Frederick & Haley
Rosalie Gannon & Ashli

Laurie Grant & Adiense
Lindsey Heller & Rosemary
Teri Kayne & Brittany
Charmaine Lastimoso & Michon
Patty Mazzola & Arianna
Carrie Miceli & Jazmin
Dani Michalek & Leeanne
Lia Moore & Nicole
Kate Nettles & Hannah
Bernadine Perham & Angelika
Julie Plunkett & Ana
Paula Rotenberg & Samantha
Ellen Royalty & Alyssa

Karen Haskins & Anicia
Erin Hayes & Kiara
Megan Herald & Tereasa
Denise Ireland & Mimi
Joan Kearns & Uniquek
Natalie King & DeAnna
Alexa Kontes & Chimene
Judy Krempin & Asia
Eve Lawlor & Crystal
Kellee Lee & DeOnnah
Allison Lehane & Selena
Erin Linsky & Lucy
Susan Maltz & Twonnisha

Erica Murrell
& Destanee
Lisa Peterson
& Shanice
Angela Seay &
Asia
Irene Shui &
Kiara
Jemina Simon
& Whanellely
Laurie Smith &
Lacey

Carolyn Soohoo & Karrisona
Michelle Stevens & Amanda
Kara Wong & Nadja
Pamela Woo & Anisha
Sherri Woodlock & Tracey
Mandy Yeung & Ashley

1 YEAR

Rebecca Albee & Kaitlyn
Christen Ardus & Tanasia
Dellarie Barbour & Shaneice
Elyse Carlin & Deja
Monica Cassagnol & Ativia
RimiChakraborty & Jennifer
Julia Cleary & Victoria
Jennifer Cray & Mariysa
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah
Emily Culler & Amber
Nicole Cushion & Nelise
Charlotte Cutler & Trisha
Tina Davis & Gabriela
Marie Doehler & Jazmine
Tara Ettinger & Tiffany

Cassie Flanagan & Cahrina
Deirdre Hatfield & Nashaiyaa
Kristen Hennessy & Clarissa
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari
Erin Hoodlet & Lindsey
Kathleen Landry & Monique
Dawn Leanness & Crisleydi
Nadine LeBranti & Sequana
Alison Little & Tatiana
Tiffany Martinez & Reina
Dawn Matchett & Abigail
Jessica Matthew & Leysha
Katherine McDonald & Larie
Sarah Mumm & Lydia
Laura Nicholson & Emily
Alba Nunez & Jeanaliz
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla
Margaret Okonkwo & Destiney
Felicia Okonkwo & Kiara
Stephanie O'Leary & Victoria
Margaret Parsons & Haley
Lori Perry & Melanie
Reesa Phillips & Felorah
Lisa Pontes & Ajaria
Tania Rizzi & Sabrina
Jennifer Robitaille & Destiney
Allison Rogers & Sierra
Julia Rowe & Tara
Stephanie Rueter & Carla
Karen Schoneman & Sulma
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha
Renée Shanahan & Nelly
Alex Sieja & Destiny
Jillian Sommer & Christina
Nakia Souffront & Noryel
Julie Stephenson & Lydia
Jessica Steward & Sonia
Erin Sunderland & Alex
Barbara Uttaro & Tatiana
Emily Van Metre & Maya
Lisa Wagoner & Alexandra
Nicole Waters & Melissa
Jennifer Webster & J.J.
Amanda Wells & Hayleigh
Laura Zoll & Irene
Betsy Zuik & Brittany

Happy Anniversary!

Big Sister Board Member Named 'Unsung Heroine'

On Wednesday, May 14, Big Sister Board Member, **Jennifer Waldner**, was honored as an "Unsung Heroine" by The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. The award was given to women across the state who perform unheralded acts of kindness on a daily basis that make Massachusetts' neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. Big Sister nominated Jennifer for the honor in recognition of her tireless commitment to our mission of helping Greater Boston's girls reach their full potential by providing them with positive mentoring relationships with women.

Though 287 women throughout the Commonwealth were recognized (one from nearly every town or neighborhood), Waldner was one of a handful from Boston. Keynote speaker, Attorney General Martha Coakley highlighted Waldner and the necessity of our work from the podium by saying, "Jennifer Waldner is not only a Big Sister, but she also encourages State Street employees to become Big Sisters. We must support organizations like Big Sister who are committed to mentoring girls. It's so important!"

Jennifer has played an integral role at Big Sister in many ways. In 2000, she became a Big Sister at Blackstone Elementary School through our School-

Based Mentoring program. She eventually transitioned into our Community-Based Mentoring program with her Little Sister Angie, who lives in Dorchester. In 2003, Jennifer joined Big Sister's Board of Directors, helping to raise money and awareness for our organization. Last year, Jennifer played a major role in forming the Young Professional Board at Big Sister, to engage philanthropic men and women with our work.

Congratulations and big thanks to Jennifer for all your contributions to Big Sister over the years. You are truly our Unsung Heroine!

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th Annual BMW Raffle Drawing July 18, 2008

There's still time to enter Big Sister's BMW Raffle! Will you take the hot brand new red BMW 328i convertible or the cool \$38,000 in cash? If your name is drawn on July 18, 2008, the choice is yours! You can purchase tickets up until the drawing at 2 p.m. that day, unless we sell out before then. Visit www.bigsister.org to purchase

your tickets now and view the list of five other fabulous prizes up for grabs.



Urban Beach Party August 14, 2008

It's a little bit beachy, a little bit city, and a lot of sizzling summer fun—it's Big Sister's 2nd Annual Urban Beach Party, brought to you by our Young Professional Board!

Join us at the Exchange Conference Center on Boston's waterfront from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. for an evening of clambake fare provided by Legal Sea Foods, beverages by Harpoon Brewery and Barefoot Wines, and dance tunes spun by Rebel the Ambassador (back this year by popular demand!). Tickets for this event go on sale Tuesday, July 1, at www.bigsister.org.



Big in Boston November 13, 2008

Save the date for the most *dramatic* Big in Boston yet! We've moved our signature event to the Boston Opera House this year for a star-studded evening featuring our Big and Little Sisters, and surprise guests! This one of a kind event is being produced by Jack Connors and Karen Kaplan, so it's sure to be a hit. Tickets will go on sale in September, but be sure to visit www.bigsister.org for updates. Corporate sponsorships are still available for Big in Boston; if you are interested please contact Lauren Joyce at 617.236.5304 or ljoyce@bigsister.org.



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Little Moments. Big Magic.

Big Sister Association
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