

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Inspire a Girl. Transform Our Community.

How does a Big Sister inspire a girl? She gives her the care, support, and attention she needs to recognize her own strengths. She lets her know she matters. When a girl knows that she matters, she develops the confidence to learn new skills and make healthy decisions.

As a result, there's a ripple effect within her family and her peer group. Multiply that effect by the thousands of girls Big Sister serves each year and it can transform entire communities. That is why an investment in girls is an investment in our community. By giving to Big Sister, you make this possible. Yet, we know, this has not been an easy time to give.

We have all been impacted by the global economic downturn this past year. At Big Sister, we witness its effects when our volunteers are laid off from work; when our Little Sisters no longer have phone service; when the need for our programs increases, and the list of girls waiting to be matched with a Big Sister grows beyond our capacity. With tenacity of spirit, determination and resolve, our staff worked throughout the year to put friendship in the path of risk for Greater

Boston's girls, giving them the opportunity to realize their full potential. Despite an unpaid furlough and a hiring and wage freeze, our staff never wavered from their commitment to girls. Neither did you.

“When a girl knows that she matters, she develops the confidence to learn new skills and make healthy decisions.”

You helped us expand our community by volunteering your time as a Big Sister; supporting our events, partnering with us in creative ways, riding your bike as part of Team Big Sister; or joining our Young Professional Board and our Diversity Council. You opened doors for us, and ultimately created more opportunities for girls throughout Greater Boston.

Together, we are creating ripples of positive change in the community. Thank you for being part of that community and for never giving up on the girls when they need it most.

Warm regards,



Deborah Re
Chief Executive Officer

Collateral Damage

Suffolk County Sheriff, Andrea Cabral, is the first woman in Massachusetts to hold the position. Here she discusses the role of girls in the justice system, and how mentoring can prevent them from entering it.

What trends are you seeing in relation to adolescent girls and the justice system?

The numbers of adolescent girls who become involved in the criminal justice system is growing fairly rapidly. Frequently, but not always, the adolescent girl and her parent or caretaker has had some prior involvement with the Department of Social Services through a Care and Protection action, a Child in Need of Services Petition, or investigation of an allegation of abuse. Often, there are truancy and runaway issues as well.

We are also seeing increased numbers of violent crimes involving physical assaults, use of weapons, and gang-related criminal activity.

What current threats do you see to girls in our City achieving their full potential?

The threats I'm seeing are violence and sexual assault, truancy, dropping out of school, and teen pregnancy. There not enough resources devoted to programs specifically designed for young girls

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ISSUE 11 | FALL 2009

Highlights

- ★ The Biggest Big in Boston Yet!
- ★ Big Sisters of the Year
- ★ Commitment to Service: Big Sisters in the Navy



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.

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

Big in Boston Gets Bigger!

November 12 was a very big night, full of little moments that reminded us all why inspiring a girl has the power to transform our community. Despite a year of economic uncertainty, Big Sister supporters, including co-chairs **Jack Connors, Jr.** and **Melissa M. MacDonnell**, gathered at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum for the biggest Big in Boston yet. The event raised more than \$600,000 to benefit our mentoring programs for girls.

Big in Boston celebrated every aspect of our work. In a special pre-event ceremony, we recognized seven outstanding women for their commitment to the girls we serve. You can read more about the winners on the opposite page.

During the main event, guests were treated to an array of voices representing the power of mentoring. The program opened with a video featuring the hopes of girls waiting for a Big Sister; as well as

prominent Bostonians—such as **Liz Walker**, **Paul Guzzi**, and **Lydia Shire**—reading letters written by current Little Sisters. **Former Little Sister Colleen White** then took the stage, telling her story of growing up in South Boston: “Things at home were almost always chaotic...it never felt like a real family because I was always on my own,” Colleen said. At 11 years old, Colleen was matched with **Big Sister Kristen Herlihy**. She was wary of this new woman in her life, who she described as “definitely not from Southie.” But in time Kristen became Colleen’s best friend, confidant, and biggest supporter; and she continues to fill that role to this day (read more about them on page 5).

The evening continued with a delicious sit-down dinner and live music by **17 year old jazz sensation, Grace Kelly**. Grace is already in her second year at Berklee College of Music, has recorded five CDs, and has performed around the world with some of the top performers in jazz. In between songs, Grace gave a special message of hope and determination to the Little Sisters gathered in the room. Grace is a shining example of where you can go when someone like a mentor believes in you—and allows you to

believe in yourself. She advised the Little Sisters to follow their own dreams, no matter what they may be.

Finally, we honored the **Women’s Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce** with the first-ever **Believe In Girls Award** (opposite page). **Katy O’Neil**, the **Chamber’s Executive Vice President of Member Services**, accepted the award from **Little Sister Alina** and her **Big Sister Kirsten Doyle**. Kirsten became a Big Sister after hearing about us at a Women’s Network Breakfast in 2008. On October 30, Kirsten celebrated her one year anniversary with her Little Sister.

We could not have hosted such a successful event without the commitment of our co-chairs Jack Connors, Jr. and Melissa M. MacDonnell, the Big in Boston Host Committee, and our dedicated Board of Directors. We would like to extend a big thank you to our Big in Boston sponsors for their role in helping us surpass our goal:

PRESENTING SPONSOR



LEADER SPONSOR

Holly McGrath & David Bruce

CHAMPION SPONSORS

Bank of America
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
The Connors Family Office
Hill Holliday
Denise Jefferson Casper & Marc Casper
Normandy Real Estate Partners, LLC
Suffolk Construction Red & Blue Foundation
Tufts Health Plan

CONNECTOR SPONSORS

Covidien
John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
Partners Healthcare, Massachusetts General Hospital & Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Turner

ORGANIZER SPONSORS

Ann Marie & Richard Connolly
Goodwin Procter LLP
Pitney Bowes Management Services
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP & Joseph Realmuto
Raytheon Company
State Street Corporation

Jean Tempel &
Peter Wilson
Yozell Associates

ACTIVIST SPONSORS

Andrews International Inc. & Surveillance Specialists
Avaya
BJ’s Wholesale Club
The Boston Foundation
Children’s Hospital Boston
Citi
Citizens Bank Foundation
Colliers, Meredith & Grew
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Delta Dental of Massachusetts
Dyer Brown Architects & E. G. Sawyer Co. Inc.
EMC Corporation
Ernst & Young LLP
Foundation To Be Named Later
Gourmet Caterers
Lippincott
Mercer
PGR Media, Inc.
Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications
Right Management
Rodman Ford
Savers, Inc.
Sovereign Bank New England & John Hamill
Thorbahn
A. Raymond Tye
UGL Unico
Wells Fargo Securities

We also wish to thank all of you who attended Big in Boston. We are proud to have you as members of the Big Sister community and look forward to your continued support in the coming year!



17 year old jazz musician Grace Kelly treated guests to a special performance



Big Sister's CEO, Deborah Re, joins co-chairs Jack Connors, Jr. and Melissa M. MacDonnell on stage



Katy O'Neil accepts the Believe In Girls award on behalf of the Chamber's Women's Network

Meet Our Big Sisters of the Year

Big Sister wishes to congratulate the seven remarkable women who were honored on November 12, 2009, as our Big Sisters and Community Partner of the Year. Each woman has gone above and beyond in her commitment to girls and mentoring.

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING



Joy Falk

Joy, who lives in Brighton and works at the Harvard School of Public Health, has been matched with her Little Sister Roseanne, 15, of

Allston, since October 2005. Roseanne said she likes her Big Sister because "She's smart, funny, easy to get along with, and always has good ideas for what to do...not to mention she understands that there is no such thing as too much frosting." Their match is supported by Big Sister social worker Jessica Mendenhall.



Susan Magocsi

Susan, who lives in Milton and works at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, has been matched with her Little

Sister Tiarra, 16, of Stoughton, since October 2002. "Since Tiarra has been matched with Susan, her self-esteem has improved, her academic abilities have improved and she has a better understanding about life and people," said Tiarra's mother. Their match is supported by Big Sister social worker Emily Goldstein.



Shannon Robinson

Shannon, who lives in Dorchester and works at Hemenway & Barnes, has been matched with her Little Sister Miranda, 14, of Mattapan, since

November 2002. "I have seen Miranda grow up to be a fine teenager with the help of Shannon," said Miranda's grandmother. Their match is supported by Big Sister social worker Jessica Mendenhall.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING



Kathleen Hewitt

Kathleen, who lives in Scituate, was matched with Kari, 11, at the Parker Elementary School in Quincy in April 2007. When Kari made

the transition to Quincy's Atlantic Middle

School this year, she and Kathleen continued to meet weekly during Kari's lunch time. "She always listens to me when I have problems and makes me laugh a lot," said Kari. Their match is supported by Big Sister social worker Meaghan Quinlan.



Kelly Morgan

Kelly, who lives in Boston and works at Seaward Management, was matched with Joyce, 12, at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School in

March 2006. Joyce is now in seventh grade at the Josiah Quincy Upper School and continues to meet with Kelly weekly. "Kelly always comes up with activities to support Joyce's needs, from more structured projects at when they first started meeting, to more conversation-based interactions now that they have built a comfortable friendship," said Ashley Jackson, the Big Sister social worker who supports the match.

GROUP MENTORING



Rose Seyfried

Rose, a student at Berklee College of Music, is currently in her second year as a Group Mentoring Big Sister. In 2008, Rose volunteered

in the group held at the Central Middle School in Quincy. This year, Rose is a Big Sister at the Renaissance Charter School in Boston. "When I was 13 I didn't have someone in this kind of role," says Rose. "It's an amazing experience to be that person for a girl now."

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR



**Linda Clarke,
Vice Principal at the
William Blackstone
Elementary School
South End, Boston**

Linda has supported and fostered the growth of

Big Sister's School-Based Mentoring program at the Blackstone since 2002. She serves as a liaison between the school and our social workers who make and support the Big and Little Sister matches. She considers the Big Sister program to be an important part of the student support services available at the Blackstone, and takes time to refer girls to the program in addition to her other responsibilities as vice principal. Additionally, Linda secured a designated classroom space for Big and Little Sisters to meet in during their weekly visits, which allows for quality one-on-one time together.

Women's Network Honored

The **Believe In Girls** award honors those who support Big Sister's mission to help girls reach their full potential. On November 12, Big Sister Association presented the award to the **Women's Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**. We chose the Women's Network because they promote the importance of mentoring at their monthly leadership breakfasts. Since they chose us as their partner in 2007, they have encouraged businesswomen to get involved with Big Sister through board participation, by becoming volunteers, and by contributing financially. "Big Sister develops and mentors girls. The Women's Network develops and mentors women. The two organizations are not only partners; they share a mission and a soul," said **Paul Guzzi, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**.

As a result of this partnership, we have matched Big Sister Kirsten Doyle with Little Sister Alina, elected **Maria Fernandes** to serve on our Young Professional Board, benefited from increased financial support and exposure to the robust network of Boston businesswomen, and extended the Big Sister community to include countless new members.

The Women's Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce connects women of all career levels, strengthens their professional networks, and engages them in the Greater Boston business community. The Women's Network has achieved this vision through offering prominent speaker programs, unique receptions and roundtables, and annual awards ceremonies that foster development, spotlight women leaders, and promote the positive impact women have made on the Greater Boston region.

"This is our chance to pay it forward. The women involved in the Women's Network have all benefited from mentors in some way. There are many girls out there who might not. This partnership has created that opportunity," said **Linda Conny, chair of the Women's Network and vice president, strategic alliance, at EMC Corporation**.

We applaud the Women's Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce for giving more girls in this City the chance they deserve to reach their potential.

Match Highlight

Approximately 70 members of the United States Navy are stationed on the USS Constitution in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Four of them are not only taking the time to serve their country in the military, but are also serving their local community as Big Sisters. Below, you will read about **First Class Petty Officer, Suzi Dangler**, and **Second Class Petty Officer, Laura Jo Doolittle**. They have been volunteering as Big Sisters at the Harvard Kent Elementary School in Charlestown since last fall. "The Big Sisters are really involved with what the students are doing," said school nurse, **Kathleen Vinciguerra**, who works with the Big Sister social workers on-site to facilitate the program. "You can see when they are together that it's really working; they are really happy together."

BIG SISTER SUZI DANGLER & LITTLE SISTER COURTNEY

"Eeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!" This is the word—actually more of an excited squeal delivered with a giant smile—Little Sister Courtney uses to describe how she feels about her Big Sister Suzi. Courtney is a petite (the self-proclaimed smallest in her class), energetic fifth grader who loves gym class, math, reading chapter books, and of course, her Big Sister. Courtney comes from a large family of step and half siblings as well as a biological sister. She said it can be hard sometimes to get attention at home with so many people around, but every Wednesday at school she has someone whose attention is solely on her: Big Sister Suzi Dangler.

Suzi also comes from a large blended family, and knows all about being a big sister; she was the oldest of eight growing up in Maryland. Despite her family experience, the real reason Suzi became a Big Sister was to have fun and to be a kid again, even if for only one hour a week. "I spend too much time around adults," said Suzi. "It's not fun. Coming here is like an escape for me." However, Suzi realizes that being a mentor isn't just about fun and games. "A mentor gives a child someone to interact with outside her regular routine, someone who can give her a different perspective." The fact that Suzi is a woman in the military helps to give her Little Sister a different perspective. "Courtney sees me as someone who doesn't fit the typical girly stereotype."

According to her teacher, Courtney has shown improvement in her academic performance, her attitude toward school, her classroom behavior, and her relationships with other adults, since being matched with her Big Sister. Suzi has supported Courtney's growth at school with a mix of learning and fun. During their visits, the two like to find a quiet corner to play Mad Libs together. Courtney is still wrapping her head around what constitutes an adjective, but she enjoys the word games with her Big Sister. "They're fun...and secretly educational," Suzi whispered. And when it comes to finding adjectives to describe how Suzi has made her life different, Courtney has no problem: "Happy and exciting."



Courtney and Suzi enjoy a game of Mad Libs together

Denise-Ann and Laura Jo spend time together on the playground

BIG SISTER LAURA JO DOOLITTLE & LITTLE SISTER DENISE-ANN

Little Sister Denise-Ann is a quiet, thoughtful third grader whose expressive face makes her appear wise beyond her years. Her older sister, who attends the Harvard Kent as well, was matched with a Big Sister in third grade and Denise-Ann wanted one too. Though she was looking forward to having a Big Sister, it took her time to open up to Laura Jo when they were first matched. "I used to be quiet when I was a kid too," said Laura Jo. "I would have liked to have had a Big Sister at her age."

Now that they have been meeting each week for nearly a year, Laura Jo said Denise-Ann has really come out of her shell. "She talks a lot more now," said Laura Jo. "She's really matured." Denise-Ann's teacher agrees, noting that she is better able to express her feelings since being matched with Laura Jo.

The two enjoy a variety of activities during their visits, from word games, tic tac toe, and Trouble, to arts and crafts and drawing. They also love spending time out on the playground where Denise-Ann is trying to break her personal record of crossing the monkey bars in less than six seconds. Laura Jo plays timekeeper and offers encouragement, while Denise-Ann aims for a new record of four seconds.

Laura Jo said that being in the Navy allows her to have many mentors of her own. "You always have someone to go to when you don't know what to do. You get a different perspective instead of just being one-minded." When she is with her Little Sister, Laura Jo helps to expose Denise-Ann to different perspectives as well. During one of Laura Jo's visits with her Little Sister, a boy told Denise-Ann she shouldn't have short hair like a boy. Laura Jo quickly pointed out that many boys have long hair and many girls have short hair, and that there's no right or wrong hairstyle for boys and girls. "It's so important for girls to have someone who lets them know that it doesn't matter; that there's no such thing as 'Oh you can't do that because you're a girl,'" said Laura Jo. With Laura Jo's words still ringing in her ears, Denise-Ann and her Big Sister headed out to the playground, where Denise-Ann crossed the monkey bars faster than anyone else.

Former BSA Director Continues Support

On October 4, former **Big Sister Association of Greater Boston Executive Director, Gloria Oldsman**, celebrated her 80th birthday. What did she ask for? She requested that friends and family donate to the organization that she led from 1968-1975. "I don't need anything material at my age," said Gloria. "I wanted to do something good." To date, her request has raised more than \$450 for Big Sister.

Gloria began her career at Big Sister as a case worker, making and supporting Big and Little Sister matches. When she took the helm in 1968, at the height of the women's movement, we were serving 350 girls annually through our Community-Based Mentoring program. School-Based Mentoring and Group Mentoring did not yet exist. Today we serve 3,000 girls annually through all three programs as

well as our new program, Neighborhood-Based Mentoring.

How does Gloria feel about Big Sister's significant growth in the past few decades? "My hope has always been that Big Sister remains a viable agency that serves girls in the way they need to be served," she said. We are proud to be carrying on that legacy by continuing to develop our programs to meet the unique needs of today's girls. Thank you to Gloria for her support and we wish you many more birthdays to come!



Former Big Sister Executive Director, Gloria Oldsman

Where Are They Now?

FORMER LITTLE SISTER COLLEEN WHITE AND FORMER BIG SISTER KRISTEN HERLIHY

Former Little Sister Colleen White grew up in South Boston. She called Southie home, but her definition of home did not extend much beyond that. Colleen was often on the move. She lived down by the beach and in the D street housing development with her mom, her dad, or her grandmother. Despite having an older brother and, later, two younger sisters, Colleen said it never seemed like a real family because she always felt alone.

To combat her loneliness and frustration with her home life, Colleen would escape to the local community center everyday after school. "It kept me off the streets, which was good, because for all

the good things in my neighborhood, there was a lot of negative too," she said. "I saw drug and alcohol abuse and constant fights, no matter where I went. It seemed like it would be really easy to slip into that world." But when

Colleen's grandmother—with whom she had always been the closest—died, Colleen's world collapsed and she slipped into a period of depression. Colleen's mother didn't know how to help her daughter. She signed up Colleen for a Big Sister and according to Colleen, "It's probably the smartest thing she ever did."

Ten year old Colleen told our staff social worker responsible for finding her a Big Sister, that she wished for a pony, a Jeep that she could drive herself, and to be a millionaire. Her ideal Big Sister would like to do the same things that she liked to do: rollerblade, play games, eat junk food, and go to Castle Island. She would be pretty, and would be the perfect mix of serious and silly, quiet and talkative. Looking back, Colleen realized it was a tall order.

On January 16, 2001, Colleen met her new Big Sister, Kristen Herlihy of Cambridge. Aside from being Irish Catholic and sharing the red line on the T, Colleen did not think that she would have anything in common with this woman. "She definitely wasn't from Southie," said Colleen. She noticed that Kristen did not look or sound like the people she knew. When they left the house, Kristen was concerned with things like looking both ways before crossing the street. "That was

not something anyone had ever taught me before," said Colleen.

Already slow to trust people, Colleen took her time warming up to Kristen. They tried new activities each week, visiting just about every museum Boston has to offer. "Truthfully they were kind of boring," admitted Colleen. "But the best part about Kristen is that she made it fun. She pointed out things I wouldn't have noticed on my own and she asked me what I thought about a photograph or a painting or a sculpture. She actually cared about what I had to say. I felt important for once." The two began to bond over other activities as well. Kristen took Colleen horseback riding, which she loved despite Kristen's insistence that she wear a bike helmet for extra protection. Kristen, who grew up in Winchester, said "I must have seemed like such a country girl compared to Colleen." However, one of Colleen's favorite pastimes was tending to a garden that she and her Big Sister planted at Kristen's house. "Colleen loved gardening," said Kristen. "She would always want to come over and take care of the garden. She really nurtured it and cared for it." Colleen also took up residence on Kristen's refrigerator. She claimed some real estate as "Colleen's side" and covered it with drawings and photos of the two of them. Kristen began to realize just how important they had become to each other.

As Colleen entered her teenage years, her interests started to shift to boys and cars. At 16, Colleen was desperate to learn how to drive. Neither of her parents would teach her, so Colleen informed Kristen that she would be the one to do it. Kristen was terrified, but agreed to let Colleen learn how to drive in her car. It wasn't the Jeep Colleen had hoped for, but it had four wheels and an engine, and Colleen was more than ready. However, Kristen made a deal with her Little Sister. For every driving lesson she gave Colleen, she would also give her a lesson in car maintenance. Colleen agreed to the stipulation and to this day she thanks her Big Sister for teaching her how to change her oil and check her tire pressure.

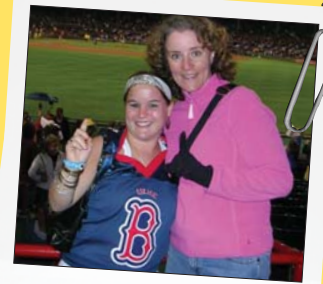
They had also made another deal as Colleen navigated her teens. Colleen's friends started to get pregnant and drop out of high school. Kristen worried that her Little Sister would do the same, especially when Colleen began talking about how cute the babies were. Kristen asked her Little Sister to promise her two things: 1. Colleen would not get pregnant before Kristen did, and 2. Colleen would graduate from high school.

Kristen assumed Colleen forgot their bargain, but she did not.

Today Colleen is 20 years old. She graduated from high school and also joined the United States Army National Guard. Kristen was hesitant at first to support Colleen's decision to enter the military, but she was there by her side the day Colleen was sworn in, and she sent care packages to Colleen while she was at boot camp. In March of next year, Colleen will marry one of her fellow soldiers with Kristen will be there to celebrate. Colleen is still waiting to have her first child.

"At first I saw Kristen as someone who wasn't like me, who wasn't from Southie," said Colleen. "Today, I see my best friend. I see someone who I can trust and who has always been there for me. I see someone I admire and someone who cared enough to stick with me for the past nine years. I also see someone who helped me fulfill my wishes. That one pony ride, that first driving lesson, and of course everyday spent with her will always be a memory that I can tell my first child. Even though I never became a millionaire, having a Big Sister like Kristen felt like a million bucks to me." Colleen hopes she will soon have that kind of impact on a girl in waiting to be matched with her own Big Sister. She is currently in the process of becoming a Big Sister herself!

Are you one of our former Big or Little Sisters? Are you currently a Big or Little Sister over the age of 18? You can connect with the Big Sister community through our Alumnae Association! Join us for networking, workshops, and more. Find out how to join at www.bigsister.org/alumnae.



Colleen and Kristen root for the Sox at Fenway



Colleen learns to ride a pony with Big Sister Kristen



Kristen joins Colleen as she is sworn into the U.S. Army National Guard



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston
Little Moments. Big Magic.™

2009 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between September 4, 2009 and November, 20 2009, excluding Big in Boston sponsors (see page 2). Thank you for your generous support!

Inspiration Maker \$5,000 - \$9,999

Robin & Vincent Loporchio

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

Beth & Max Bardeen
Suzanne Fay Glynn &
Paul Glynn
Annette & Robert Leckie
Sharon & Brian McNally
Dolores & Marvin Mitchell
Sabrina & Bob Nicholson
Mary Ann Pesce Choate
& Toby Choate
Deborah Re &
Peter Reinhart
Kathleen C. Wallace

Match Maker \$1,000 - \$1,999

Kristen & Jim Atwood
Elaine & Michael Coyne
Christine Creelman
Diane Davidson
Kathleen & Kevin Driscoll
Patricia Fallon*
Marcia & Phil Giudice
Karen Graves* &
Gary Gilliland
Eileen & Hal Kraus
Susan & David Lawrence
Melissa M. MacDonnell
Erin McCormick*
Brooke & Will Muggia
Kerry Nelson
Nell & John Nies
Kathy & Patrick
Sherbrooke
Wendy Thurmond

Laughter Maker \$500-\$999

Ellen & Lindsay Cook
Nancy Korman &
Kenneth Elgart
Megan Gadd &
Nathan Wilson
Lynne & Marvin Irby
Trish Karter
Stephen Kraus
Janet Kraus &
Jim Giebutowski
Janet & Dennis Kunian
Lee Hecht Harrison
Suzanne Lieb*
Pamela & Terry McDermott
Carol McKean*
William Schlag
Penny Shultz & Joel Wolff
Jacqueline Smith &
John Wyman
Karen & J. Brooks Watt
Gary Welsh

Smile Maker \$100-\$499

Martha Acworth
Essence McGill Arzu
& Aaron Arzu
Leon Atamian
Charles Brown
Polly & Chuck Bryson
Joanne Callahan
Terri Campbell*
Karen Carmody
Elizabeth Bennett Carroll
& John Carroll
Mary Joe Clark
Heidi Crim
James D'Adamo

Chris Daly
Jennifer & Matthew Daniels
Peter DiVincenzo
Debra Doncov*
Peggy & Dick Dray
Janice & Richard Feffer
Carol & Mitchell Fischman
Daphne Griffin
Marion* & Stephen Hall
Angela Hucles
Joanna Jackson
Mary Kakas
Kendra & James Kannally
Judy Keefe-Modelane
& Daniel Modelane
Lisa Keegan
AnnMarie & Bill Kennedy
Kathy Kiely
Alan Johnson
Nancy & George Kostakos
Tad Lee
Theresa Lopez* &
Fran Corbett
Sondra Madison
Paula & Paul McManus
Sven Meier
Ann Merrifield &
Wayne Clifford Davis
Lynne Montesanto
Kelly Morgan*
Carol & John Moriarty
Stephen Morris
Patricia Mullen
Megan O'Block
Anne O'Connor &
Robert Re
Laura Ogonowski
Stephanie O'Leary*
Kristen O'Neil
Valerie Paric

Terri Partridge
Bethany Ritchey
Patrice & John Ryan
Lisa Scannell* &
David Carlon
Samuel Sheldon
Claudia Silva
Phyllis Simpkins
Barbara Stern &
Jack Burke
Alison Tankard
Marie A. Turley
Karen Voci
Bianca Whitworth
Paula Witkin
Lisa Wohlleb &
Seth Hoogasian
Elizabeth Zuik*

Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

Adelaide Breed Bayrd
Foundation
Amelia Peabody
Foundation
The Boston Foundation
Boston Red Sox
The Bostonian Group
Brookline Booksmith
causemedia, inc.
Charlotte Foundation
City of Boston
Clif Bar and Company
Covidien
Dental Maintenance
Services, Inc.
Denise Hajjar
Eaton Vance Management
Emerson Investment
Management, Inc.

Fairmont Copley Plaza
Falcon Global Edge Inc.
Foodie's Urban Market
Fusion Alliance Inc.
General Catalyst Partners
Greater Boston Chamber
of Commerce
Harvard Pilgrim Health
Care Foundation
Hemenway & Barnes
Hire Partnership
Inchworm Shoes
Jules Catering
Lewis Family Charitable
Foundation
Mabel Louise Riley
Foundation
The Martin Fund
MC Communications
The MENTOR Network
Moors & Cabot
MPG
Mullen
Natalie Zinn Harr
Foundation
National Association of
Women Business
Owners
New Balance Foundation
NSTAR
The Plymouth Rock
Assurance Company
Printex, Inc.
Responsible Media
Richard A. & Helene H.
Monaghan Family
Foundation
RSM McGladrey, Inc.
Salem Five Cents
Savings Bank

Simmons College
Smolak Farms
State Cleaning Service, Inc.
Sun Life Financial U.S.
TeenLife Boston
TJX Companies
VPNE Parking Solutions
W.S. Badger Company, Inc
WBZ TV
WCVB-TV
Wilmington Middle School

Companies Making Matching Gifts

American International
Group Inc.
Baupost Group
GE Foundation
State Street Corporation

Special Thanks To

Bob's Discount Furniture
for providing Big Sister's
offices with new chairs for
our reception area and
interview rooms!

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

Thank
You!!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that encourage them, build their self-esteem and support them as they struggle with the myriad issues and choices that are part of adolescence.

Big Sister's programs are preventative. How do you view mentoring as a tool in crime and violence prevention?

Among many other things, mentors offer support and guidance. They open mentees up to positive experiences and often steer them toward making good choices. Young people want to feel good about themselves and the direction their lives are taking, but in the absence of encouragement from a caring adult, they can and will make very negative choices; ones that may involve or may lead to both crime and violence.

It has been said that girls are "collateral damage" in relation to gang violence in

the City—they are often the girlfriends or family members of victims, but little more has been studied about their actual involvement. How do you see violence affecting girls in our area?

In war, "collateral damage" is a level of harm, not directly intended, but accepted as part of the battle or conflict. We should never view any type of harm to young girls or women, as acceptable, regardless of their connection to the actual perpetrators of the violence. Violence is a learned behavior and a public health issue and we should treat it as such. It causes substantial and sometimes irreparable harm to the physical and mental health of everyone it touches, but especially our young girls, who often respond to the trauma with self-destructive, anti-social and sometimes criminal behaviors.

You have the top job in a male-dominated

field, and in fact, you are the first female Sheriff Suffolk County has ever had. What role did mentors play in helping you achieve this success?

My greatest mentor was my mother. She was a strong, smart, elegant woman who deeply valued education and saw nearly every interaction as an opportunity to teach me how to best negotiate the world. Through her, I learned to never give up, to have the courage of my convictions, and that my achievements could only be limited by me.

What would you tell girls who might want to follow in your footsteps by pursuing a career in a field not traditionally open to women?

I would tell them that a "man's job" is just one a woman has not yet done. Then I would tell them to be that woman.

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between October 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

11 YEARS

Vanessa Bhang & Ka Man
Jill Hallisey & Carlotta

10 YEARS

Lisa Riordan & Alicia Lynn

9 YEARS

Tamara Le & Benita

8 YEARS

Sarah Alcorn & Kayla
Courtney Genovese & Henrietta
Jacqueline Ostrow & Aliyah
Betsy Sanderson & Shanika
Kelly Welch & Christina

7 YEARS

Laura Cafferty & Joseline
Laureen Hyde & Tashawna
Susan Magocsi & Tiarra
Tula Mahl & Brenda
Donna McCabe & Jarelis
Shannon Robinson & Miranda
Melissa York & Danielle

6 YEARS

Sarah Aliberti & Victoria
Jessica Goldberg & Joannie
Jennifer McGue & Nicolette
Sarah Short & Alexandra
Jennifer Tawiah & Tanashe

5 YEARS

Jessica Broady & Natavia
Mary Canigiani & Celeste
Barbara Holland & Kalyn
Betty Ly & Annie
Erin Mooney & Jannah
Colleen Nobles & Katilin
Claudia Pouravelis & Aryana
Jessica Quint & Frances

4 YEARS

Simenta Amsterdam & Chakea
Karen Barbarisi & Sara
Diane Brodsky & Amina
Nicole Cerimeli & Munah
Mia Dellanini & Julysia
Tania Diachisin & Kelsey
Joy Falk & Roseanne
Sabrina Heisey & Cassandra
Andrea Jackson & Ashley
Gail West Jones & Breyanna
Renee LeBlanc & Taryn
Rebekka Lee & Tanaja
Valerie Linson & Jenice
Danielle Meuse & Alexus
Erin Rodliff & Briannally
Helen Stefan & Ann
Nora Sullivan & Alyona
Lesley White & Chaquita

3 YEARS

Kayleen Aardema & Felicia
Rosemary Aylward & Joeanna
Melanie Baird & Ashley
April Barton & Akira
Nadia Beane & Chaimae
Kali Borrowman & Tatiana
Mary Buttarazzi & Kaneisha
Kristin Canney & Gisselle
Rolanda Chance & Rosalyn
Monika Chas & Janieka
Angela Chow & Elisabeth
Marie Cresswell & Courtney
Amanda Dumont & Kanei
Molly Estabrook & Roxanne
Erin Hines & Krystal
Rose Jolicoeur & Kimberly
Elizabeth Kassab & Olasha
Peri Kurshan & Shaneil
Ana Leon & Sally
Cindy Ma & Anne
Megan Mix & Kelly
Claire

Napoleon & Sophie
Mia Phillips & Shaniqua
Laura Quilty & Ishaya
Melanie
Robinson & Latishia
Caryn
Silverman & Ghiana

Abria Smith & Brianna
Jessica Tooley & Angelica
Amy Trutor & Chianne
Lindsey Waldron & Nashaly

2 YEARS

Maura Anderson & Wendy
Hillary Anderson & Franchesca
Kathryn Ankner & Shelby
Jennifer Baltz & Kayla
Cara Barouch & Jakyrh
Elizabeth Blank & Celine
Lauren Bonneau & Nyasha
Jasmine Boshyan & Kaitlyn
Jane Bourquin & Carmen
Irene Ceisel & Coraima
Emily Cellana & Karynn
Sarah Cleveland & Isabella
Susan Collins & Zarriah
Kendra Cook & Sarah
Allison Corey & Thalia
Leslie Cramer & Kenisha
Erica Crossland & Daejia
Lisa Dalton & Emmanuella
Beth Danesco & Elizabeth
Alice Dembner & Georgina
Elizabeth Earle & Malia
Riley Eggers & Senait
Abbey Eisenhower & Helen
Millicent Gaskell & Gianna
Ayan Gedi & Te'yah
Kate Gunnerly & Nicole
Nancy Harrison & Brianna
Annaliese Heussler & Mia
Alisa Iantosca & Zane
Beth Kaphammer & Malyfel
Mary Kohak & Autumn

Shuk Kung & Kyasia
Sophie Lehar & Crystal
Diane Li & Wei Xin
Joyce Lindesey & Yesinia
Tricia Luong & Sharlice
Kaitlin MacKenzie & Alicia
Kimberly Marasca & Larechia
Meg Matthews & Shahera
Meredith McCormack & Elexis
Colleen McMahon & Catherine
Ryan McMahon & Tairih
Lauren Mottley & Janile
Julie Mumford & Caitlin
Karen Murphy & Shaylynne
Jamie Newman & Visceria
Melissa Oquendo & Rashonda
Tierre Parker & Myesha
Kim Parkinson & Jasmine
Emily Patch & Jaqueline
Meredith Pfaff & Rita
Jessica Pinkham & Sarah
Courtney Pittenger & Tamanna

Liz Rostedt & Ieshah
Donna Scarlett & Dwonya
Elizabeth Schaubert & Bonnie
Nadia Schwartz & Coco
Francie Shafer & Angellize
Lauren Skogsholm & Sarah
Kelley Spellane & Keyomi
Edwina Stewart & Francheska
Jaclyn Strycharz & Jennylee
Cynthia Tarbell & Jailene
Kathy Tater & Ziara
Jennifer Tenczar & Liliana
Amy Tetreault & Cassie
Carolyn Thomson & Chakara
Emily Thurston & Eliany
Karen Todd & Kyla
Jessica Walsh & Abbie
Megan Watzke & Jacquelyn
Anne Whittaker & Selena
Caitlin Wilson & Sammi
Mollie Worcester-Worrell & Gina

1 YEAR

Olako Agburu & Sunseaa
Regbe Ambaye & Nashely
Jennifer Ayala & Dayanora
Robyn Barros & Serina
Jennifer Bellizia & Lucy
Sara Bezanson & Caring
Elizabeth Bishop & Wendi-Lynn
Afia Boaky & Tessily
Aimee Bois & Abyan
Amanda Bradstreet & Tiara
Heather Burrows & Hayley
Megan Butler & Jada
Molly Byrne & Leilani
Theresa Callahan & Bryana

Claire Callahan & Makiyah
Pamela Callaway & Shannon
Anne Canfield & Deja
Amy Carlson & Amy
Barbara Castro & Ellisya
Katie Christ & Jasselle
Kerri Cleghorn & Ismah
Donna Connolly & Zoe
Lucy Costa & Geidy
Bette Creighton & Linda
Lacy Crews & Sofia
Lisa Curtin & De'Nisha
Emily Dahl & Becky
Julie D'Alessandro & Azhane
Suzanne Dangler & Courtney
Stephanie Davis & Kaleey
Jessica Decosta & Capucine
Samantha Delgizzi & Leana
Marie Delloiacono & Stephanie
Maureen Demer & Natania
Sarah DiGiAIMO & Tarina
Amy Dippolito & Ariana
Gemma Doherty & Chanai
Veronica Domenchello & Destiny

Laura Jo Doolittle & Denise-Ann
Kirsten Doyle & Alina
Jacqueline Drinkwater & Bonnie
Debbie Drouin & Cassandra
Emily Drude & Mya
Emily Edgerly & Thalia
Courtney Ellard & Alma
Kelsea Ertsgard & Tia
Alison Fair & Amina
Annette Ferrari & Sabrina
Samantha Ford & Jamie
Rhonda Frederick & Raeonah
Kerri Furbush & Samantha
Michelle Gelinas & Alyssa
Mary Hargraves & Dayanna
Catherine Harvey & Eman
Kerri Haynes & Patricia
Megan Hoffman & Mary Kate
Laura Toni Holsinger & Antoinette
Christine Horgan & Summer
Amy Houghtaling & Aleisha
Rebecca Hourihan & Valerie
Margo Hudson & Samantha
Melissa Ireland & Amaya
Kristin Jackson & Suryanka
Nakia Johnson & Ebony
Gwen Johnson & Ivy
Jessye Joyce & Genasia
Carrie Kabat & Halley
Lisa Karcich & Octavia
Caitlin Keenan & Cindy
Jai Keller & Mekhi-La
Colette King & Ameille
Bethany Knight & Gianni
Amanda Konkel & Serena
Valerie Koufidakis & Jjaxin
Julie Kuo & Kenjaya
Sara LaBella & Kayla
Marcy Lamonica & Jennifer
Erika Lawson & Nehemiah

Jacqueline Le Blanc & Thalia
Megan MacDonald & Zhane
Antonette Macione & Ashley
Julia Madrigan & Deyanira
Priscilla Mark & Cheyenne
Magdalene Mazol & Kendrea
Elizabeth Mazzilli & Zhasmeen
Elizabeth McCarthy & Madeline
Kate McGrail & Leslie
Mary McLaughlin & Alanka
Jessica McNeill & Destiny
Kimberly Mello & Marly
Marta Lynne Milan & Olivia
Alison Miller & Liani
Elizabeth Misero & Mezki
Beth Mooney & Echo
Samantha Moore & Amy
Diane Moulton & Kylee
Constance Nehila & Jaily
Nicole Newman & Zanyah
Hannah Newton & Selina
Apurva Padhye & Marki
Katherine Parker & Jade
Linda Platt & Jesenia
Amanda Pope & Jessica
Karla Proano & Tiffani
Erin Quinlan & Mykala
Christina Reale & Jahmiya
Michele Reinhart & D'vine
Elizabeth Ringler & Rachel
Esther Ro & Alexie Jiselle
Allie Rottkamp & Dionna
Paulomi Roy & Naylin
Darby S anders & Madeline
Franchesca Sanquintin & Irisneida
Samantha Scarf & Jasmin
Brittany Schermerhorn & Gabriella
Annie Schneidman & Janet
Pi-Ping Shao & Eva
Claire Sheldon & Nevaada
Rebecca Shortle & Rayza
Mahawa Sidibay & Tayla
Emily Silberstein & Amber
Sasha Singh & Monet
Anne Stanton & Kalise
Chelsey Stevens & Tia
Holly Stewart & Sydney
Samantha Sundermeyer & Sadeya
Marlene Sutisna & Brenda
Yee Szeto & Brenda
Vanessa Tabuteau & Maya
Jennifer Truong & Emani-Jakye
Simona Vareikaite & Tatiana
Henlue Wang & Samantha
Peninnah Wanjeri & Corina
Sarah Weatherbee & Ashley
Julie Wilson & Selena
Clara Zverina & Ingrid

Happy Anniversary!

Team Big Sister Rides for the Girls!

There was no stopping Team Big Sister at this year's Rodman Ride for Kids! On Saturday, September 26, thirty-four riders gathered at the starting line in Foxboro, to take on a 25, 50, or 100 mile route. This year's team was our largest to date and included the 34 riders plus 12 "virtual riders" (fundraising only) who helped us raise nearly \$50,000!

The Rodman Ride for Kids is an umbrella matching gift charity raising funds for youth-focused social service agencies in Massachusetts. This year's Team Big Sister was made up of a diverse group of riders that included Board Members, Young Professional Board Members,

Big Sister volunteers, staff, and many others involved with the Big Sister community! Riders and friends joined us for several events in support of Team Big Sister leading up to the big day: a kick-off party, a fundraising social for young

professionals, team spinning classes, and boot camp.

On Ride day, participants cycled a scenic route around southeastern Massachusetts and ended with a celebratory barbeque at the finish line. "I'm fortunate to have the experience of not only raising crucial funds for Big Sister as a rider, but also seeing the benefits of those funds through the amazing friendship I share with my Little Sister Toni," said **Laura Toni Holsinger**, who in addition to being a Team Big Sister rider and Big Sister to 13 year old Little Sister Toni, is also a staff member. "There are so many girls in Boston that could benefit from the care and attention of a Big Sister, and I'm proud to have ridden 25 miles in support of that!"

We would like to thank Team Big Sister sponsors, **Shawmut Design & Construction** and **Gerry McCarthy of Mortgage Masters, Inc.** We also want to thank our fantastic **team captains, Andie Morales** and **Lisa Scannell**, in addition to all those who rode, raised money, and the generous folks who donated to them. A special thank you goes to our top three fundraisers: **Tim O'Brien**, **Janet Kraus**, and **Aileen Keaney**, who raised a total of \$8,960. We're already tuning our bikes up for next year's Ride and hope that you will join us!

TEAM BIG SISTER

100 Milers

Elizabeth Carten
Tamara Grubbs
Amy Ross

50 Milers

Alissa Greif
Monica Mancuso
Sven Meier
Dan Ovadia
Elizabeth Pfahler
Caroline Townsend

Ted Juliano
Amy Kelleher
Michelle Kwasny
Lynnette Nolan
Timothy O'Brien
Charles Phillips
Meaghan Quinlan
Peter Reinhart
Mia Roberts
Allison Rogers
Lisa Scannell

Virtual Riders

Essence McGill Arzu
Jill Callahan
Terri Campbell
Lucy Campbell
Jennifer Coners
Danene Cronin
Aileen Keaney
Janet Kraus
Robin Loporchio
Andrea Medina-Smith
Andreina Morales
Sabrina Nicholson

25 Milers

Serena Allen
Elizabeth Allison
Maxwell Bardeen
Alexis Bulkley
Laura Cafferty
Loretta Crist
Jane Deery
Andrea Farrell
Colleen Fitzpatrick
Ryan Harvey
Dennis Healy
Laura Toni Holsinger
Diane Ivey
Maren Johnson



50 mile riders Alissa Greif and Dan Ovadia get ready to ride!



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Moments. Big Magic.™

161 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Tel: 617.236.8060
Fax: 617.236.8075
bigsister@bigsister.org
www.bigsister.org

Board President
Timothy J. O'Brien

Chief Executive Officer
Deborah Re

Big Sister Bulletin Editor
Maren Johnson

PRINTED BY



A CERTIFIED
WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

SUPPORTED BY



**NONPROFIT
EXCELLENCE
AWARD
WINNER**

awarded by the
massachusetts nonprofit network

NON-PROFIT
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOSTON-----MA
PERMIT NO. 53202