

Big Sister

Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

Big Sister Goes Back to School

You can always feel the excitement in the air just after Labor Day, when the temperature starts to cool down and the city fills up with students of all ages. While we've been prepping for the beginning of the school year all summer long at Big Sister, there's a special note of excitement as our social workers get ready to introduce new Big and Little Sisters to each other, reunite returning Big and Little Sisters, and start leading our Group Mentoring programs.

This year, Big Sister will lead programs in 44 elementary schools, middle schools, and after-school sites in and around Boston (visit www.bigsister.org for a full list of our school and community partners). Through these Site-Based Mentoring programs we serve more than 1,500 girls annually. The programs are tailored to meet the specific social-emotional needs of elementary and middle school aged girls. Research shows mentoring programs that support social-emotional development have greater academic outcomes than those that have an educational focus (Hansen, 2004).

NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED MENTORING

New this fall, Neighborhood-Based Mentoring is designed to expand our mentoring services

to girls living in areas where there is a high need for Big Sisters, such as Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. The program, which will begin at Dorchester's **Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School** in October, matches a middle school aged girl with a Big Sister. As part of our initiative to increase the number of Big Sisters who are also women of color, we are encouraging women who live in and around Dorchester to volunteer. Our goal is

to provide more of our Little Sisters with mentors who come from similar cultural backgrounds. "We enthusiastically support the [Neighborhood-Based Mentoring] initiative," said **Debra Socia, principal at the Frederick.**

"Preventative services that provide our girls

with access to quality mentoring relationships with a diverse pool of female volunteers are needed and will surely serve our school community well."

Neighborhood-Based Mentoring Big and Little Sisters will meet at the school on Saturdays. They will spend time building relationships, having fun together, and getting to know other Big and Little Sisters at the site. They can play games, do arts and crafts, or engage in physical activities in both a group and one-to-one setting. A Big Sister social worker will also be



Mentoring programs that support social-emotional development have greater academic outcomes than those that have an educational focus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools

Getting Educated About Mentoring

Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, Dr. Carol Johnson, discusses the challenges facing girls in her 56,000-student district, and how programs like Big Sister can have a range of positive outcomes for the girls.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing girls in the public school system in Boston right now?

Over the last decade, young women in the city of Boston, as well as nationally, have made great academic progress based on state assessments, and in many cases outperformed their male peers in graduation rates. This has been true across all racial groups. However, with these positive data trends, a false assumption may be that we have done enough to create opportunities for all girls to succeed. In fact, gaps in math and science achievement still persist. In addition to some scholastic inequities, girls face challenges around developing a strong and positive self identity. Ubiquitous media images of women, particularly teenagers, can cause girls to conform to negative stereotypes. This can result in their focusing on accommodating their male peers instead of building their own sense of purpose. A lack of assuredness and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ISSUE 10 | SUMMER 2009

Highlights

- ★ Who Was the Lucky Winner of the BMW Raffle?
- ★ Big Sister Alumnae Share Their Story
- ★ Big Sister Builds Career Awareness



Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Little Sisters, Big Dreams

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

self-confidence can limit their aspirations and possibly stifle talent potential.

What types of solutions do you see for these challenges?

Young women must be connected to women leaders who can serve as mentors and role models. These women should come from a variety of fields: government, business, medicine, engineering, and finance, offering students evidence that there are many career options open to them. Conversations about healthy choices can be facilitated through gender-specific networks. Also, young women must be encouraged to participate in academic disciplines that may not be traditionally dominated by females, and to actively engage in extracurricular activities that include competition and teamwork (athletics, debates, science fairs). At the same time that girls should be encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones and look for innovative ways to demonstrate their competence, it is always beneficial to build on young women's pre-existing

strengths as well. Making available a wide array of extracurricular activities allows girls to take on leadership roles that will offer them experiences that contribute to future successes.

What role do you think a mentor can play in helping girls overcome these challenges?

The most important thing that adults can do for any young person is to listen. Young people today face many difficult decisions, as damaging behaviors are often presented as normative, rather than the exception. Listening provides the best opportunity for caring mentors to gather insights about these challenges, and to understand how young adults think about and process the problems they confront. Once mentors understand the myriad pressures on young people today, they can better assist with issues such as managing a peer environment and resisting negative influences. Our entire community benefits when we take the time to build young women's capacity to develop a resilient, determined, and hopeful spirit and when

we see them as a powerful resource to addressing our community's most difficult problems.

What kinds of mentors have you had personally or professionally that have helped you stay on a path to success?

Throughout my life, I have been fortunate to have had women leaders in my family, as teachers and administrators, and others in my community who have offered advice and encouragement. I have also had the opportunity to work with and learn from professional colleagues who have taken the time to patiently listen, to gently correct, and who continue to inspire me to do my best to serve others. I wish for all of the young women of Boston the gift of an excellent education, and the joy of working in a place you love and in a job that makes a difference in people's lives.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on site to provide guidance and support.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING

This one-to-one mentoring program matches Big Sisters with elementary school aged Little Sisters. They meet once a week at the Little Sister's school during her lunchtime or at her after-school site. The two play board games, read books, do arts and crafts, shoot hoops, or just enjoy their lunches together while talking about the Little Sister's week. Big and Little Sisters meet for the entire academic year, and may keep in touch over the summer through e-mail or letter writing. We also offer the School-Based Plus program, which allows the Big and Little Sister to meet in the community over the summer.

Additionally, Big Sister leads a mentoring program called the Big Sister Mentoring Academy, which pairs high school aged girls from **Boston Latin Academy** in Dorchester with elementary school aged girls from the nearby **William M. Trotter Elementary School**. Now in its third year, the Big Sister Mentoring Academy has proven to be a success and continues to

expand. Last year we added a Girls' Leadership component, which gives the high school Big Sisters the opportunity to learn leadership skills and discuss their relationships with their Little Sisters. This group program is led by the Big Sister social worker who facilitates the Big Sister Mentoring Academy.

“Preventative services that provide our girls with access to quality mentoring relationships with a diverse pool of female volunteers are needed and will surely serve our school community well.”

*Debra Socia, Principal
Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School*

feel comfortable expressing their ideas with adults and with each other. Our group mentoring programs involve both volunteers and Big Sister social workers and are specifically designed to meet each girl's unique, developmental needs. These programs share a structured curriculum,

which explore real world topics designed to increase girls' understanding of complex gender and social issues.

Within Big Sister's Group Mentoring programs girls are given what they are often denied: a space to accept one another, to evaluate the consequences of their actions, to understand what it is to be female, and to be themselves in the presence of caring adults who provide unconditional positive attention.

Big Sister's Site-Based Mentoring programs allow us to have a significant impact on the communities we serve. We are excited for another year of putting caring, supportive mentors in the lives of Greater Boston's girls!



Little Sisters at the King Middle School in Dorchester give new meaning to the term "diva"

Where Are They Now?

MEET FORMER BIG AND LITTLE SISTER CELESTE CASTILLO LEE AND EMILY MEDINA

I was a tough cookie," said former Little Sister Emily Medina, now 26, of her 11 year old self. "I definitely had a bit of an attitude problem." Emily's tough exterior comes as little surprise once she reveals that she grew up as the only girl in a family of eight boys, raised by a grandmother who loved them all, but lacked the time and energy to give each child the attention they needed. "It was everyone for themselves in my house. Everything we did, we shared. You did your homework if you felt like it. No one was there giving you one-on-one time," said Emily. However, when Emily's grandmother first told her that she was going to be matched with a Big Sister, Emily was resistant. She wondered who this woman was and why she needed her in her life.

On a cool, crisp New England day in October of 1994, 29 year old Big Sister Celeste Castillo drove from the house she shared with her mother in Brookline to Emily's home in Roxbury. She was picking up her new Little Sister and heading out to their first activity together: apple picking in Clinton, Massachusetts. Emily was shy and nervous upon meeting Celeste. Celeste is half Hispanic, but has light skin and blond hair; and was raised to downplay her Latin heritage while growing up in Texas. Emily, who is also Hispanic, could see no similarities between them. The two spent the day picking apples, followed by making their own ice cream with toppings of their choosing—something Emily had never done before. As the two of them enjoyed the day together, it dawned on Emily that having Celeste in her life might not be such a bad thing. For once, Emily had something that was just hers, someone whose sole attention was on her.

After that day, Emily began to open up to her Big Sister. "It felt good to talk to someone who cared," said Emily. However, Celeste could see some of Emily's anger and frustration still simmering below the surface. As a way to build trust, she and Emily began keeping a diary. Emily would ask Celeste a question in the diary or

simply write about a situation she was dealing with. She would then leave the diary somewhere in Celeste's car or apartment for her to read before the next time they met. "That was a turning point,"

said Celeste. "She was really able to be honest with me and start to trust me." Eventually they began to talk openly with each other. "I came into Emily's life right when she started to realize she didn't want to repeat the situation she was growing up in, but she didn't know what she could do to change it. She saw too much at a young age and knew that she didn't want that," said Celeste. At one point Emily told her Big Sister, "Life is so hard right now I can't imagine what it will be like when I'm 18." What Emily wanted was a life more like Celeste's. When she visited her Big Sister's home, it was an oasis. "My home was so hectic, going to Celeste's was like a vacation," Emily said. "What drew me to her was that she was so different from me. Celeste really had it together."

"Celeste actually cared if I did my homework and asked about my report card. No one had done that for me before."

Over the years, Celeste and Emily visited the circus, went ice skating, attended a safety workshop retreat with other Big and Little Sisters, baked pies (which became an annual tradition for the two) and even traveled to Washington, D.C. "Celeste opened my eyes to all the fun stuff out there I'd never done before," said Emily. In Celeste's eyes, their friendship was much more than that. "Going places was not the crux of our relationship, talking about opportunities was," said Celeste. She stressed to Emily the important role that education would play in helping her rise above the environment she was coming from. "Celeste actually cared if I did my homework and asked about my report card. No one had done that for me before," said Emily. "I thought 'Wow, she actually cares about me; she actually wants me to succeed.'"

And Emily did succeed. She graduated from Madison Park High School, and decided to continue her education as a dental hygienist at Mount Ida College. There she earned her bachelor's degree and was asked to speak at her graduation ceremony as the most improved student in her class. Celeste, who had moved to North Carolina but remained in close contact with Emily, was in the audience. However, Emily's college years were not always ideal. She faced several challenges, including the death of her

mother. Though Emily's mother had not been present for much of her life, Emily was still despondent over the loss, and knew she could share her grief with her Big Sister.



Celeste and Emily go for a hike in New Hampshire

Emily worked as a dental hygienist after college and was subsequently offered the opportunity to head the dental assistant program as a tenured teacher at her high school alma mater. She took the job and has since enjoyed being able to support and encourage her students just as Celeste did for her. "I expect so much from my students now. I tell them 'I know you can do it, even if there are other distractions,'" said Emily, who realized that this is a result of Celeste's belief in her. "Celeste really opened my eyes to the importance of education. Truthfully, I don't know where I would be if I hadn't had Celeste in my life."

Today, Emily lives in Weymouth and remains close with Celeste, who is still living in North Carolina. "All I did was show Emily that she had options and if she seized them, then she would be in control of her life," said Celeste. "Emily has always been who she is, but it was like she had sunglasses on before we met. When she took them off, things just got brighter."



A Wizard of Oz themed Halloween for Emily and Celeste



Emily and Celeste give horseback riding a try

Sisters Come in All Kinds

BIG SISTER JEANNETTE RIVERA AND LITTLE SISTER JAYDAH

The first day of high school can be a daunting experience: new school, new classmates, teachers, and subjects. When Little Sister Jaydah began orientation for her freshman year at the end of August, she had to contend not only with the unfamiliarity of her new situation, but also taking the T by herself for the first time. In order to get from her home in Dorchester to the Boston Arts Academy in the Fenway, she would have to brave public transportation on her own. As it turned out, she didn't need to go it alone after all. Jaydah's Big Sister, Jeannette Rivera, left her home in Roxbury that morning to meet Jaydah at her T stop. Together they took the train to Jaydah's new school. When Jaydah's first day of high school was over, Jeannette was there once again to help her Little Sister find her way home.

For more than five years, Jeannette has been by Jaydah's side, just as she was on her first day of high school. The two were matched when Jaydah was eight years old. As the oldest child in an ever-expanding family headed by her busy, working grandmother, Jaydah longed for someone who could be there just for her. She envied the attention given to her younger siblings. In an interesting twist, it was a youngest child that would give Jaydah the undivided attention she craved: Big Sister Jeannette was the baby in a family of ten children.

When Jeannette's only child went off to college, loneliness set in and Jeannette sought opportunities to invest herself in her community. She wanted to deeply commit herself to a cause. "It's one thing to do something once, like volunteer for a day or help out at an event, but it is so different to get to watch someone grow up," Jeannette said of her decision to become a Big Sister. Though Jaydah was shy and quiet, the two still hit it off quickly. They took advantage of Big Sister-sponsored activities every chance they could, attending sporting events, museum exhibits, plays, and outdoor activities like the annual Wachusett Mountain ski trip. "Because of the donated tickets and free activities Big Sister Association offers the volunteers, I've been able to do things with Jaydah that I could never begin to afford on my own," said Jeannette. She also uses these activities as a chance to teach Jaydah how to appreciate the kindness of others and the value of giving

back. "She understands that life is not about what you can do for her." The new experiences have also helped Jaydah expand her comfort zone. "Jaydah used to be quick to say 'I don't know, I don't think I'll like that,' but now she'll try anything!" added Jeannette.

Jaydah's friendship with Jeannette has also helped her grow closer with her family. Not only does Jeannette provide Jaydah with one-to-one attention, she is someone in whom Jaydah can confide, who offers her another perspective. Jaydah relies on her Big Sister to be honest with her and says she trusts Jeannette more than anyone. When Jaydah's father's new family had a baby, Jaydah was jealous of the latest addition. She knew it would be difficult to talk to her father or her grandmother about her feelings, so Jaydah turned to Jeannette. By simply having someone to listen to her concerns, Jaydah soon came to terms with the arrival of her new sibling. When Jaydah was having trouble getting along with her aunt, she again turned to Jeannette to talk about her feelings. Jeannette listened to Jaydah's frustrations and offered guidance on improving her family relationships. With Jeannette as her sounding board, Jaydah was able to work through some of her anger and develop a better relationship with her aunt.

"Having a Big Sister is like having a new family in your life," said Jaydah. In fact, as far as Jaydah is concerned, Jeannette is the older, wiser sister she never had. Not long after they were matched, Jaydah invited Jeannette to watch her practice for the pom pom squad. As Jeannette approached, Jaydah yelled out excitedly, "Here comes my sister!" The other girls saw Jeannette's much lighter complexion and chided Jaydah that this woman couldn't possibly be her real sister. Jaydah held firm and responded simply, "Sisters come in all kinds."

"When I heard that," said Jeannette, "I knew I had made the right decision."



Summer in the City...Big Sister Style!

Big Sister's **Young Professional Board** kicked off summer early on June 11 with our third annual Urban Beach Party! Nearly 200 guests heated things up at the Exchange Conference Center and helped our Young Professional Board hold their most successful event yet. The event raised more than \$25,000 in support of our mentoring programs for girls.

Urban Beach Party was attended by a diverse group of young professional supporters, Big Sisters, and newcomers to the Big Sister community who were eager to get more involved. "The event was a huge success," said **Lucy Campbell, Big Sister of more than a year and Young Professional Board member.** "Not only was it a fun atmosphere, but it gave people a chance to network and learn about Big Sister's mission. Many of the guests have already contacted Big Sister about ways to volunteer!"



Foods provided a spread of Asian, seafood, and even Fenway (think hot dogs and chips) inspired fare, while The Boston Beer Company and Barefoot Wine & Bubbly kept the party festive with summery libations. Smartwater was on hand too, keeping guests hydrated as they danced the night away to a sizzling soundtrack spun by Rebel the Ambassador.

Several lucky bidders took home more than just memories of a great evening. Competition was fierce for silent auction packages, including a week-long stay in a Bahamas beach house, coveted Sox/Yankees tickets, a Ray Allen autographed basketball (in Celtics green of course!), and a pampering package fit for a queen.

Big Sister would like to extend special thanks to our Urban Beach Party sponsors: **Legal Sea Foods, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, The Boston Beer Company, Smartwater, IMG (Rebel the Ambassador), GE Capital, Lawrence-Carlín Insurance, and the Ingalls family.** Of course, the party would not have been the success it was without the efforts of our Young Professional Board and Urban Beach Party Host Committee, as well as the generosity of all those who attended. We can't wait to see you again next year at the hottest young professional event of the summer!

Building Big Dreams

What did you want to be when you grew up? Over the summer, many of our Little Sisters had the chance to explore careers opportunities through our new career awareness initiative, **Building Big Dreams**. Building Big Dreams offers Little Sisters the chance to broaden their horizons by visiting workplaces throughout Greater Boston. Along with their Big Sisters, the Little Sisters engage in activities and discussions with the site hosts who give them a glimpse into the experience of having a career in a particular field.

We launched the program in July with a trip to **Healthworks Fitness Centers for Women** in Brookline. The Big and Little Sister matches participated in some physical activities with Healthworks' trainers and also met with the sales and operations team to discuss the business side of running a fitness center. Another visit took place at **Nurture Spa and Salon** in South Boston. Owner **Susan Devlin** talked to the girls about what it takes to run a successful small business and helped them put together their own mock business plans. Third in the series was a visit to **Simmons College**, where Big and Little Sisters took a campus tour; enjoyed a reading and discussion of *Graceling* with author and professor; Cathie Mercier; checked out the Simmons College Radio Station, where Little Sisters read and recorded a Public Service Announcement; and concluded with a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Simmons Library. "It was wonderful to share the best of Simmons College with the Big and Little Sisters," said **Diane Hammer, director of the Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change**. "Big Sister not only makes a difference in the lives of the women and girls who are touched by their work, it is also making a difference more broadly, in communities and families throughout the City. Just like Simmons College, Big Sister Association empowers and transforms the lives of young women, preparing them for leadership in their communities and in the world." The final workplace visit took place

at Boston-based catering company, **MAX Ultimate Food**. The aspiring chefs in the group got the lowdown on the fast-paced world of catering and had the opportunity to make pizzas, spring

rolls, and "designer" cupcakes with their Big Sisters. "Having the Little Sisters come into MAX Ultimate Food showed them a creative and fun industry that they could be a part of someday," said **Nicole Cushion, events coordinator at MAX** and a Big Sister of more than two years. "Prepping and cooking the food showed them they have the ability to do it!"

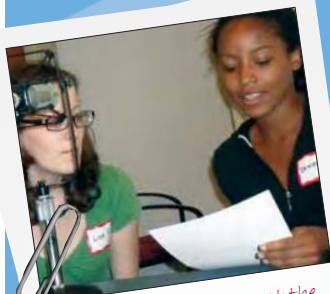


Getting a "taste" of a career in catering at MAX Ultimate Food

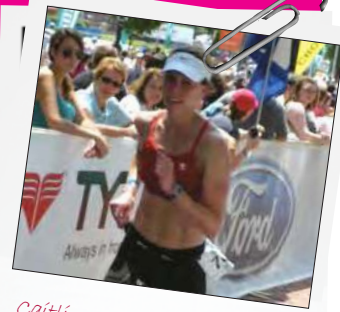
"This has been a great opportunity to give the girls we serve hands-on experience with the career options available to them," said **Diane Zipoli, Big Sister's chief program officer**. "We are really looking forward to partnering with more people in the community so that these girls can be exposed to a range of experiences."

Not only is Building Big Dreams offering new opportunities to our Little Sisters, it is also fostering relationships with the Boston community. The program gives our supporters a chance to interact with the girls Big Sister Association supports, while sharing their expertise and experience with the next generation of the city's workforce. Big Sister would like to give a big thank you to site hosts **Stephanie Nelson, Susan Devlin, Diane Hammer, and Nicole Cushion**, for generously giving their time, workspace, and career insights to inspire our Little Sisters!

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



Taking to the airwaves at the Simmons College radio station



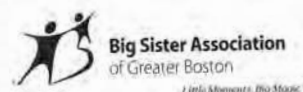
Caitlin crosses the finish line!

Going the Distance

Boston resident **Caitlin Remby** was not satisfied just swimming 1.2 miles, biking 56 miles, and running 13.1 miles all in one day; she wanted to do it for a cause. On July 12, Remby participated in the Providence, Rhode Island, Half Iron Man competition, and in doing so, raised \$1,270 in support of Big Sister's mentoring programs for girls. She is not a Big Sister, nor had she donated to us previous to her fundraising for the Half Iron Man. She simply knew that Big Sister relies on the support of individual donors to continue providing our mentoring programs to girls. "I wanted to make my participation in the Providence Half Ironman more meaningful by choosing a charity to link my efforts to. I chose Big Sister because I think it is of the utmost importance to give the future women leaders of America as much support and direction as possible in their most impressionable years, and I believe that's what the Big Sister program provides," said Caitlin.

Not only did Caitlin do an amazing job of supporting Greater Boston's girls, she also finished the race with an impressive time of 5:00:50. Out of 1,700 entrants, this put her in fifth place for her age group and 29th place overall for females. Congratulations, Caitlin!

If you are interested in finding out about alternative ways of giving such as donations from race participation or in lieu of wedding favors, please contact Alexis Bulkley at 617.375.5753 or abulkley@bigsister.org.



2009 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between June 5, 2009 and September 3, 2009, including special events. Thank you for your generous support!

Magic Maker

\$10,000-\$24,999

Maryanne & Gerry McCarthy
Jean Tempel

Inspiration Maker

\$5,000- \$9,999

Robin & Vincent Loporchio
Dan Romanow & B. Andrew Zelermyer
Abby & John Yozell

Friendship Maker

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Walter Graver
Marvin Irby
Sharon & Brian McNally

Match Maker

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Essence McGill Arzu & Aaron Arzu
Pattie & Bryan Garrahy
Karen Graves* & Gary Gilliland
Sarah Grazier
Tricia Keenan
Joan Mathews
Dolores & Marvin Mitchell
Joseph Realmuto

Laughter Maker

\$500-\$999

Denise Jefferson Casper* & Marc Casper
Susan Esper
Christopher Glynn
Edmund Ingalls

Sven Meier

William Musto
Kelly Robinson
Jacqueline Smith & John Wyman
Patricia Thomas*

Smile Maker

\$100-\$499

Matthew Adams
Mark Allen
Elizabeth Allison
Alice Batchelor*
Rebecca Babbitt
Michael Batsimm
Rachel Bishop
Jason Bramwell
Donavan Brown
Sara Campbell
Terri Campbell*
Janet Clay
Paul Decesare
Matthew Donaghey
Debra Doncov*
Kari Eagan
Suzanne Fay Glynn & Paul Glynn
Kevin Feldman
Patricia Foley
Leigh & Lisa Freudenheim
Nancy Grady
Jennifer & Daniel Green
Geoffrey Greenberg
Geoffrey Grubbs
Marion Hall* & Stephen Hall
Keith Haroutunian
Ryan Harvey
Julie Hayward

Michael Jakuba
Denise Kelly
Mark Klusza
Dana Kowalchuk*
Thomas Lena
Theresa Lopez* & Fran Corbett
Karen Lubov
Thomas McGauley
Christine McMahon
Michelle Meier
Jo Frances Meyer
Patricia Mullen
Deborah Newman
Michael Olson
Bradley Poff
Janet Porter
James Remby
Nancy Rhoads
Susan Rothenberg
Marcy Ruda*
Suzanne Shepard
Claudia Silva
Kimberly Straley
Bill Trevor
Susan Turner

Corporations, Foundations & Organizations

AMB Institutional Realty Advisors, Inc.
Bain Capital Children's Charity, Ltd.
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon
Bob's Discount Furniture
Charitable Foundation
Citizens Bank Foundation
City of Boston

Dean Welfare Trust
Delta Dental of Massachusetts
Draper Laboratory
Falcon Global Edge Inc.
Highland Street Foundation
Janey Fund Charitable Trust
Klarman Family Foundation
Liberty Mutual Group
Rodman Ford
Savers, Inc.
State Street Corporation
The Boston Foundation
The Plymouth Rock Assurance Company
Thomson Corporation
TJX Companies
Tufts Health Plan
Women's Sports Foundation

Companies Making Matching Gifts
Bank of New York Mellon
Microsoft

*Denotes Legacy Society members:
current and former Big Sisters

Thank You!!

And the Winner Is...

First-time ticket buyer and Boston resident, **William Musto!** William, who purchased ticket number 1094 in our 21st Annual BMW Raffle, took home the grand prize on July 31. Though the brand new 2009 red BMW 328i convertible was tempting, he opted for the \$38,000 cash prize. William also generously donated a portion of his winnings to Big Sister Association.

This year's BMW Raffle raised more than \$146,000 which will aid us in continuing to make and support our Big and Little Sister matches. Though some may suspect that a dreary economy and even drearier weather might have negatively impacted ticket sales, Big Sister supporters new and old proved that they still wanted to help those who are most in need. In fact, Big Sister staffers who were out on the streets selling tickets this summer encountered several acts of goodwill from ticket buyers.

Take for instance, **Jeff McCormick, chairman and general managing partner at Saturn Asset Management**, out to grab lunch by Post Office Square. He noticed a young man with a broken down car waiting for a tow truck. That young man was Hieu Nguyen of Dorchester. McCormick saw Nguyen and asked him to take a walk to see the car.

They approached the Big Sister staffer selling tickets and McCormick told her, "I want to buy a raffle ticket for this young man. He needs a new car." He dropped a crisp \$100 bill on the table and walked away. On another day, a woman approached the table at One Boston Place. She handed over her \$100 in cash for one raffle ticket. When asked for her name to write on the ticket, she simply said, "Put this raffle ticket in the name of someone in Boston who needs a new car or \$38,000."

Big Sister Association would like to thank **Herb Chambers, Marc Huaman of Herb Chambers-Foreign Motors West**, and **Melissa Steffy of Herb Chambers BMW of Boston** for their support of this year's raffle. We would also like to thank **Big Sister Elysabeth Reichman** and her **Little Sister Madisyn** as well as **Big Sister Ana Leon** and her **Little Sister Sally**, who came out in the pouring rain to help draw the winning ticket. Of course we could not have held this successful raffle without the generosity of nearly 1,500 people who purchased tickets this year. We hope we can count on your support again next year because that winning ticket might just be yours!



BMW Raffle winner William Musto accepts his prize from Deborah Re

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between July 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

10 YEARS

Shannon Jennings & Chaniqua
Dorothy Suput & Amoura

9 YEARS

Cheryl Brady & Valerie
April Cook & Staci

8 YEARS

Janet Lawrence & Ashley
Leanne Palmer & Cora
Meg Sullivan & Champagne

7 YEARS

Holly Charron & Meghan
Rebecca Hartshorn & Jennifer
Laura Luo & Connie
Jennifer Ostrosky & Ashley
Amanda Song & Mercedes

6 YEARS

Allison Cirino & Brenda
Denise DeRoeck & Alina
Allison Kegley Kilham & Keona
Janet Levatin & Dorothy
Kerri Norris & Ashley
April Nugent & Minerva

5 YEARS

Renee Corcoran & Samantha
Marcia Dobbs & Stephanie
Aimee Floyd & Keysha
Renee Jolley & Jamilah
Molly Jordan & Sharece
Melinda Koenig & Jenny
Christine Lemerise & Wandaisha
Amy Lorenzo & Dominique
Dawn Lovato & Heather
Maureen McQuinn & Yvette
Eneida Roman & Migleila

4 YEARS

Adrienne Appel & Krystal
Heather Bellwin & Iman
Michelle Cormier & Kyleigh
Kristina Crawford & Jaelene
Martha Curran & Shanica
Alice Daly & Jasmin
Leslie Eckholdt & Allison
Melissa Elmer & Lanelle
Donna Gavin & Brittany
Jill Kenney & Kendra
Dara Khan & Ashleigh
Neidine Lynch & Whitney
Melissa Medeiros & Chloe
Deirdre O'Shea & Yashira
Missy Pappas & Kalieyah
Connie Ramelli & Tatiana
Amy Rose & Molly
Jessica Roy & Janelle
Marcy Ruda & Kelly
Danielle Stein & Kashayla
Kara Sweeney & Kelina

3 YEARS

Marie Abdella & Dariquel
Roberta Allison & Belinda
Katherine Chum & Jasmine
Katie Congdon & Margaret
Beth Deveney & Jennifer
Cynthia Diminture & Joslyn
Bridget Dullea & Morgan
Sarah Hamilton & Shirley
Karla Hurtley & Haronid
Mekkin Lynch & Asalia
Kerry Metelski & Kayla
Mary O'Connor & Shanice
Emily Pappas & Elizabeth
Jessica Reardon & Victoria
Paula Shebest & Briana
Jacqueline Soroko & Eva
Kate VanZeLe & Veronica
Carolyn Vicari & Delicia

2 YEARS

Candace Bon & Dyanna
Sarah Bourgeois & Shakeyma
Susan Brady & Rickiema
Kristi Brooks & Kezya
Nicole Caruso & Britney
Sarah Coen & Cassandra
Charity Collier & Jada
Lisa Conley & Deirdre
Jennifer Danyluk & Elaine
Brittany Doran & Sihara
Michelle Duggan & Erin
Erin Fitzgerald & Ashley
Melvena Green & Cierah
Andrea Horvitz & Mercedes

Katy Keiley & Rachel
Nicole Kowalski & Giselle
Kirsten Losee & Dakaja
Jen Maitland & Shelkilya

Rebecca Manoli & Makela
Alexis Medina & Gwenhwyfar
Maria Meehan & Janell
Keneisha R. Murphy & Milan
Karen Oster & Xiomaris
Prudent Peters & Carli
Shaquanna Philip & Kiana
Anne Putnam & Donecca
Kristen Rafuse & Margaret
Laura Raisty & Janelise
Jennifer Raymond & Stephanie
Kari Russ & Ashley
Njoki Wamiti & Jalissa

1 YEAR

Meaghan Agnew & Nadira
Luisaura Alvarez & Brianna
Mary-Elizabeth Aylouche & Ricsairis
Lisbeth Balligan & Caridad
Katherine Bannon & Kelsey
Gillian Brignac & Dayanara
Francena Brooks & Khalya
Rashel Burton & Lennasia
Joanna Campbell & Egypt
Sarah Chen & Jaliyah
Heather Cloran & Briana

Jennifer Cotter & Lydia
Alexandra Dahlbeck & Adrianna
Erin Dalbec & Rania
Wadlie Dolbrus & Daeja
Kristin Erekson & Katherine
Kelsie Evans & Maliha
Leslie Feagley & Christa
Lauren Fowler & Sylviana
Suzanne Gaudrault & Ivelise
Allison Hackbarth & Miriam
Erika Haskins & Hanane
Sara Henderson & Kristina
Rebecca Houston & Jaime
Judi Jackson & Alissabeth
Ashley Jackson & Paula
Erin James & Brianna
Ashley Johnson & Sierra
Katie Kilbride & Jasmin
Rachel Lake & Tenayja
Avisha Lalla & Ebonie
Nichole Lawton & Andrea
Caitlin Lim & Reanna
Elyse Lindahl & Cheynne
Kristen Lynch & Latajah
Mariel MacNoughton & Natasha
Erica Manczuk & Moneajah
Carol McKean & Brianna
Regina McNally & Cindy
Kim Moore & Albany
Kerri Pickering & Adrianys
Kia Prescott & Mishyia
Dawn Quinlan & Denishalee
Rachel Riccardella & Ada
Jennifer Rouvina & Shakeema
Paige Schmeling & Keysy
Meghan Sharkey & Meryam
Maile Shoul & Nellyris
Jenny Silva & Eleanor
Abigail Smith & Carmen
Alyson St. Amand & Yantaya
Heather Stone & Kiana
Donelle Straughter & Andreaa
Kimberly Strovink & Deonna
Meri Trieber & Dawn
Alana Tyler & Calaya
Amy Unangst & Riley
Natalie Wampler & Staisha
Kirsten Ward & Cindy
Tatiana Zimkus & Luisa

Happy Anniversary!

Big Sister Photo Gallery



Charting a course for fun during June's Adventure Sail trip



Sittin' pretty at the Empire Beauty School match activity in July



Doing the limbo at the annual North Shore picnic in September

Mark Your Calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Big in Boston November 12, 2009

Be a part of something BIG! Big Sister Association is proud to announce that this year's Big in Boston, presented by **Liberty Mutual**, will be co-chaired by **Jack Connors, Jr.** and **Melissa M. MacDonnell**. Join us on Thursday, November 12, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the **John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum**. We will celebrate the gathering of the Big Sister community and honor one of our largest community partners, the **Women's Network of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce**.



There will be a unique performance by our Big and Little Sisters in addition to a very special musical guest, **jazz sensation Grace Kelly!** At age 15, Grace was offered a full scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music. She finished her high school requirements and entered Berklee College at age sixteen and is currently in her sophomore year.

Now just seventeen, Grace has already recorded and performed with many notable musicians including Dave Brubeck, Hank Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Harry Connick, Jr., Lee Konitz, Phil Woods, Kenny Barron, Piano Jazz with Marian

McPartland, Dianne Reeves, James Cotton, and the Boston Pops, among others. She has recorded five CDs and performed around the world.

Tickets for Big in Boston are currently available online at www.bigsister.org. If you would like more information about Big in Boston or are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jill Callahan at jcallahan@bigsister.org or 617.236.5304.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



LEADER SPONSOR

Holly McGrath & David Bruce

CHAMPION SPONSORS



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



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