

# Big Sister

## Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

## Big Sister Gets an A+ in Helping Girls

**F**all is a busy time in the City of Boston. The temperature drops, leaves change color, college students return, and thousands of children head back to school. Returning to school is exciting for more than 600 Little Sisters who will be reuniting with their Big Sisters in our School-Based Mentoring program. Big and Little Sisters meet once a week at the Little Sister's school during her lunch period or after-school program. Jason Gallagher, Principal of Harvard/Kent School in Charlestown, recently praised Big Sister's programs for the positive impact they have on his students. "The Little Sisters at the Harvard/Kent truly love their Big Sisters," said Gallagher. "It turns their whole day around when their Big Sister arrives."

Not only can spending time with her Big Sister turn a Little Sister's day around, it can also turn her grades around. In our 2011 Youth Outcomes Survey (YOS), Little Sisters who took part in our School-Based and Community-Based Mentoring programs showed notable improvement in their academic performance. Seventy-five percent of Little Sisters reported maintaining or improving their performance in mathematics; 71% maintained or improved in reading. Moreover, 92% of respondents planned to finish high school, and 85% intended to go to college. Further research supports that most Little Sisters are able to meet these academic goals: in a 2011 survey of



**Jason Gallagher, Principal of Harvard/Kent Elementary.**

former Little Sisters, 82% were high school graduates, and 90% of those graduates went on to enroll in a college or trade school program.

By supporting Big Sister Association, you are showing your support of academic success for Boston's students. This is the busiest and best time for us to connect with women about becoming a Big Sister—this fall, we hope to match more than 250 girls with a mentor of their own. You can help! Consider setting up an information session where you work, allowing Big Sister to host a recruitment table in a lobby or cafeteria, or referring Big Sister to an employee resource group. Additionally, a financial contribution will help us recruit, train, and enroll these Big Sisters, and will fund professional support of Big and Little Sisters once they have been matched. Together, we can make the back to school season a success. With a Big Sister to guide them, girls can achieve an A+ in reaching their full potential.



**Big Sister Brianna and Little Sister Ariyana.**



## Meet Big Sister's New Board President

At our Annual Meeting on May 14, Big Sister officially welcomed Sharon McNally, Chief of Staff at The Connors Family Office, as our new Board President.

### How long have you worked in the Boston area?

I was brought up in Concord and then lived for 30 years in Sudbury, where Brian and I raised our three children; we moved into the Back Bay two years ago. I worked first as a caterer and then as a residential real estate agent in the western suburbs, and came to my current position five and a half years ago, after having worked for a few years in Development at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

### Can you describe a highlight from your time at The Connors Family Office?

There are many highlights, but perhaps the most outstanding was the day that Camp Harbor View opened in 2007. We had worked on a very tight schedule to fund, build, and staff a camp for inner-city kids—and then to figure out the programming and find 600 campers.

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### Highlights

- ★ Young Professionals Give Back at the Urban Block Party
- ★ Our 2012 BMW Raffle Winner
- ★ An Interview with Big Sister of the Year Diane Ivey



**Big Sister Association**  
of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!  
E-mail: [SMacDonald@bigsister.org](mailto:SMacDonald@bigsister.org)



## Young Professionals Get Down and Give Back at the Urban Block Party... Gone 80's!

A summer rain storm couldn't keep Boston's young professionals from coming out to support Big Sister Association on June 7. The clouds cleared just in time to set the perfect scene for the Urban Block Party... Gone 80's, hosted by Big Sister's Young Professional Board. Guests got down and gave back, to the tune of nearly \$30,000. Proceeds will benefit our mentoring programs for girls through Team Big Sister in the Rodman Ride for Kids.

Boston's waterfront and mother nature teamed up to provide the backdrop for celebrating summer in the city. More than 150 young professionals enjoyed a delicious spread by East Meets West Catering as they watched the ships sail across the harbor from the patio of the Exchange Conference Center. As the sun set, Fast Times heated up the party while guests tore it up on the dance floor. Everyone enjoyed libations provided by Sam Adams, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, and RIPE Bar Juice and cooled off with trips to the raffle and silent auction tables. Lucky winners went home with gift certificates to Boston's hottest restaurants, Aerosmith tickets, a private vineyard tour and tasting, Red Sox and BC football tickets, a Nantucket getaway, and more! To commemorate the evening, groups of friends donned 80's gear, packed into a photo booth, and took home pictures complements of Photo Fun Box.

Young Professional Board member, Jamie Charles, rounded out the evening by sharing a friend's story. "My friend, a Big Sister, asked her Little Sister if she could do more for her than visiting and taking her out each week," he said. "Her Little explained that, though she may feel like spending time with her is not enough, it means the world to her and is exactly what she needs." He closed by explaining to the crowd the importance of giving each girl the opportunity to have a role model in her life.

Special thanks to Urban Block Party sponsors Boston.com, eSec Lending, Patrick Carney Foundation, Vistaprint, and Yozell Associates. We would also like to thank East Meets West Catering, Boston Beer Company, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, RIPE Bar Juice and Photo Fun Box. We appreciate all those who supported Urban Block Party and look forward to more fun at the next young professionals' event!



### Urban Block Party Donors

#### \$5,000

The Boston Globe

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## Big and Little Sisters Have a Blast at Our Annual Summer Picnic

Plenty of sunshine set the scene as Big Sister Association began our annual Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 14. Many excited Big and Little Sisters met at UMASS Boston where bus service, donated by Paul Revere Transportation, was waiting to provide a ride to the picnic at Camp Harbor View, located on Boston's Long Island in Quincy, MA.

Big and Little Sisters were welcomed to the camp by Big Sister staff members who had planned a fun-filled day for them. At registration, they discovered that each match was in a different group for the day. Each group had their own itinerary or "camp schedule." Activities included swimming, a clue-hunt including a physical activity at each station, a water-balloon toss, a rainy-day relay, a Suffolk Construction-themed sandcastle building station, arts and crafts, and more! Big Sister CEO Deb Re even picked up a hula hoop herself to join Little Sisters in an energetic competition. Throughout the day, DJ Ranell kept spirits high with a selection of fun tunes.

When lunchtime came, matches were greeted by a huge spread of hot dogs and hamburgers, catered by b.good. For frosty treats, the b.good shake truck "Harvey" mixed up yummy shakes, and the Mix 104.1 ice cream truck handed out free samples of Turkey Hill ice cream cups. The day concluded with a group dance to the "Cupid Shuffle." Bigs and Little Sisters had a blast at Camp Harbor View, and can't wait to come back next year! Big thanks to Summer Picnic sponsor Suffolk Construction's Red and Blue Foundation.





## Interview with Board President Sharon McNally

*Continued from page 1*

When the buses drove up to camp the first morning and 600 kids were greeted with a breakfast of Belgian waffles and bacon, there was a lot to celebrate.

### How did you first learn about Big Sister?

I knew about Big Sister peripherally, but became better informed when I was asked about five years ago to join a meeting between Big Sister CEO Deb Re and Jack Connors. Deb had come to see Jack to ask for his advice around building a board and to solicit a sponsorship for Big in Boston. Not surprisingly for anyone who knows Deb, she came away with both goals met.

### What interested you in joining Big Sister's Board of Directors?

I was attracted to the idea after witnessing Deb's passion for the work and felt that I could have some impact in terms of fundraising and creating relationships for the organization.

### Have you been influenced by any mentors in your own life?

My mother has always been my mentor—and continues in that role to this day. She



Sharon McNally with Big Sister of the Year Jessica Reardon and her Little Sister Victoria at our Big Sister Appreciation Breakfast.

has supported me with wisdom, patience, encouragement, and unconditional love and has provided me a model of strength, courage, and resourcefulness for which I am immeasurably thankful. Every girl deserves what I got from my mother.

### What are some of your interests outside of your career and your work with Big Sister?

Although I left my catering career behind many years ago, I am still an avid cook and love entertaining family and friends. I am also a runner and exercise enthusiast, a reader, and a current events and political junkie.

### How does your experience on Big Sister's board compare to your expectations?

Honestly, it takes more time than I expected it to, but anything worth doing usually falls into that category! I like my board colleagues, I like the work that we do to support the staff of Big Sister, and I love the opportunity to help bring about the relationships that are built between Big and Little Sisters. I'm proud to represent Big Sister in the Boston philanthropic community.

### What is your vision for Big Sister over the next two years?

I see Big Sister growing to serve more girls, gaining in our reputation as thought leaders on mentoring girls, and attracting the attention of the new breed of philanthropists. I want us to be bolder in our self-image and "edgier" in our presentation. We ARE reliable and tried and true, but I'd like us to be seen as a little more exciting than that—because the work that we're doing is!

## From Big Sister Staff Member to Big Sister of the Year: An Interview with Diane Ivey

**B**ig Sister of the Year Diane Ivey has been matched with her Little Sister Tiffany for nearly three years.

### You were a Big Sister staff member before you became a mentor. What made you decide that you wanted to become a Big Sister yourself?

I actually always wanted to become a Big Sister, even when I was a staff member. I was working at Big Sister and attending graduate school part-time, which required me to study on weeknights and weekends, so I did not feel that it was the right time to be a Big Sister. When I made the decision to focus full-time on my Master's degree, I decided it was time to become a mentor. It's been really important to me to be a positive role model to young adults, particularly girls, and after seeing how much work and dedication Big Sister Association actually does in the community, I knew I was ready to be a Big Sister myself. Often times as adults we are so focused on our work that taking the time to mentor really brings what's truly important to life.

### Who is one role model that you have had in your life?

I have many role models in my life and all of them have been women. I am very proud to say that. A woman who has mentored me from afar through her passion, perseverance, humanitarian efforts, and hard work is Ms. Oprah Winfrey. Many people have said Ms. Winfrey is their mentor and, yes, I can join that list. I can relate to some parts of Ms. Winfrey's childhood and adolescence, as well as the fact that I majored in Mass Communications in undergraduate school in the South in hopes of one day becoming a powerful journalist. Seeing Ms. Winfrey on television every day

gave me that extra confidence to continue on. Although my career path has taken a different route, Ms. Winfrey's life lessons gave me the courage to not only finish my degree in Mass Communications but in Political Science as well. Her way of thinking about life and what life has to offer has allowed me to learn from my mistakes and grow as a woman—a businesswoman. As I turn 33 years old in December, I realize that I am still young, but I am stronger, wiser, bolder, and more confident than I have ever been before. I have no regrets in

start young. I don't believe that at all. I believe that the teenage years are the most crucial point in a young adult's life. I know it was for me, and I wanted to make sure that I was able to mentor a teenage girl.

### What has been the most interesting activity that you and Tiffany have done together?

The most interesting activity that Tiffany and I have done was attend the Wake Up the Earth festival in Jamaica Plain. It was something new for

Tiffany, in particular exploring different ways neighborhoods celebrate as a community. We had fun. However, our favorite activities to do together are actually going to movies, plays, and art museums. As Tiffany is attending the Boston Arts Academy and I have my own fiber arts business, we naturally enjoy all mediums of art.

### Has your worldview changed since you have become a Big Sister?

My worldview has not changed, at least not in the way that I view the importance of a gender specific program. I have always believed that there needs to be an urgency to provide equal resources and opportunities to girls and women around

the world. We are at a crucial point in women's equality at all age levels, and our community leaders, politicians, and world leaders need to make this a global humanitarian effort.

### What advice would you give to a woman who is considering becoming a Big Sister?

Being a Big Sister is not only about mentoring a young girl, it's about becoming friends with a girl who will one day be a strong and confident woman like you. All she needs is guidance, friendship, and a listener.

*"Being a Big Sister is not only about mentoring a young girl, it's about becoming friends with a girl who will one day be a strong and confident woman like you."*



Big Sister Diane Ivey and Little Sister Tiffany met Representative Gloria Fox at our National Mentoring Month celebration.

my life decisions and I am more resolved about my past; Ms. Winfrey has taught me all of this as a woman who exemplifies love, compassion, commitment, and fearlessness.

### When you were matched with your Little Sister Tiffany, she was a teenager. Did you request to be matched with a teenage girl?

I absolutely wanted to be matched with a teenager. I can remember when I was a teenage girl going through life's changes. There is a gap in the belief that mentoring is only successful if you

## Congrats to the Winner of our 24th Annual BMW Raffle!

Big Sister Association recently celebrated the successful completion of our 24th Annual BMW Raffle, held in partnership with Herb Chambers BMW of Boston. Boston resident Jeremy Ragus, a Managing Director at SCS Financial, was this year's lucky grand prize winner. The raffle drawing, which was held at 100 Summer Street in Boston on Monday, July 30 drew a crowd as anxious participants and Big Sister supporters gathered in anticipation of the results. Little Sister Faith of Dorchester, age 10, accompanied by her Big Sister Sharyn Clemente, pulled ticket #130, the only ticket that had been purchased by Ragus. Alexis Harvey, Big Sister Association's Vice President of Operations, called Ragus to give him the good news. "You're kidding!" was his response. Ragus was given the choice of either a brand new BMW or \$38,000 in cash; he chose the car, and selected a powder blue convertible. "When I was younger, I always dreamed of having a BMW," Ragus said as he admired his new vehicle.

Thanks to the raffle participants, we were able to sell out all 1,750 available tickets for the second year in a row. Your generosity will enable us to provide Big Sisters for more of Boston's girls in 2012. We look forward to your continued support in next year's raffle. Who knows... we could be announcing your name at next year's drawing!



Melissa Steffy, General Manager of Herb Chambers BMW of Boston; CEO Deborah Re; Jeremy Ragus, grand prize winner.



## 2012 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between April 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012. Thank you for your generous support!

## Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

The Ad Club  
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Dana Dolabany  
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Anne McLeod  
Diane McLoughlin  
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Brenda Sleeper  
Kelley Spellane  
Patricia Thomas  
Kevin Thurston  
Amanda Tino  
Marie Turley  
J. Winton  
Jodi Wolin

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between April 1, 2012 and June 30, 2012. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

**12 Years**

Ellen DePaul Fisher & Thelma

**11 Years**

Anna Vijayan & Ashly

**10 Years**

Katherine Potter & Angel  
Kelly Henry & Anjelica

**9 Years**

Lelia King & Deidre  
Clarinda Spinelli & Samantha  
Melissa Carino & Anais

**8 Years**

Susan Rosa & Caprice

**7 Years**

Julie Plunkett & Ana  
Ellen Royalty & Alyssa  
Mary Duncklee & Heather  
Lindsey Lohwater & Rosemary  
Paula Rotenberg & Samantha

**6 Years**

Pamela Woo & Anisha  
Angela Seay & Asia  
Karen Angrisano & Genesis  
Michelle Danis & Jennifer  
Mandy Yeung & Ashley  
Alexa Kontes & Chimene  
Megan Belanger & Mara  
Heather Ferguson & Emma  
Laurie Boucher & Lacey

Lenora Clark Epps & Andrea  
Erin Hayes & Kiara  
Leah Hart Tennen & Christina  
Lindsay Gosselin & Makayla  
Irene Shui & Kiara  
Angela Gomes & Ashley

**5 Years**

Emily Culler & Amber  
Barbara Uttaro & Tatiana  
Allison Rogers & Sierra  
Lisa Pontes Siniawski & Ajaria  
Dawn Leanness & Crisleydi  
Julia Barrett & Victoria  
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha  
Stephanie O'Leary & Victoria  
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla  
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah  
Nicole Cushion & Nelise  
Alison Little & Tatiana  
Renee Gallagher & Nelly  
Rimi Chakraborty & Jennifer  
Erin Sunderland & Alexandra  
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari  
Tania Rizzi & Sabrina



Big Sister Rachel Howden and Little Sister Aleahna



Big Sister Evelyn Reyes and Little Sister Blasmiry

**4 Years**

Jessica Vaverchak & Kiayra  
Jillena Furr & Ja'Najia  
Becky Ravenelle & Joelle  
Christy Dole & Kaleigh Ann  
Nancy Zabe & Jasmine  
Colleen O'Connor-Wise & Serina  
Tina McDavitt & Teyasia  
Zoe Agnew & Tamauri  
Kristine McKinney & Fannie  
Lisa Northrup & Kaitlin  
Amanda Thompson & Taquasha  
Lucy Bezdek & Destiny  
Melissa Zandman & Rodas  
Sarah Wood & Edna

**3 Years**

Kristin Prescott & Jazmin  
Kendalle White & Jazmyne  
Megan Lodde & Jessica  
Stefanie Wagner & Mariana  
Michelle Kwasny & Nia  
Amy Garanin & Serina  
Brenna Downing & Amaia  
Maura Stanton & Mariah  
Monica Mancuso & Yaritza  
Kate Ellis & Demetra  
Victoria Shea & Kaleesha  
Amanda Marshall & Taina  
Kristin Stashenko & Sabrina  
Sandy Stutsman & Reina  
Kate Bell & Teanna  
Latoya Gamble & Quiline  
Leigh Doherty & Aoife  
Angela Teixeira & Jenny  
Laurin Becker & Kassandra  
Paula Carnelli & Brittney  
Anoushka Riley & Abby  
Kara Conceison & Anna  
Brenda Anthony & Haley  
Catherine Schaefer & Shelby  
Kathryn Eisnor & Kourtney  
Elmire Oriol & Maurisa  
Amy Cho & Robyn

**2 Years**

Jill Merna & Jacquelyn  
Shantell Smith & Abreah  
Andrea Contreras & Yanializ  
Ishasemnay Allen & Celena  
Jessica Lee Menendez & Lesley  
Caitlin MacNeil & Brianna  
Jill Bradley & Catherine  
Phally Eth & Patricia  
Kathleen Langlois & Liany  
Sara Cooney & Labria  
Kathleen Flynn & Midori  
Rachel Vorkink & Lauren  
Emily Osgood & Katelynn  
Karen Lincoln & Riley  
Sofia Lingos & Jennifer  
Kimberly Palladino & Brande  
Kelli Carroll & Sabrina  
Katrina Holmstedt & Damoni  
Jaime Steele & Yandreimy  
Julia Geisman & Mariah  
Marybeth Nolan & Savannah

**1 Year**

Therese Claxton & Selena  
Karen Thibault & Jazmin  
Clara Smith & Lydia  
Angela Coton & Janalys  
Magi Lindeman & Teala  
Lara Trevino & Khadeejah  
Jessie Savage & Ashley  
Chinonso Azuakolam & Jahniece  
Hannah Hernandez & Jahnaiza  
Carlene Roberts & Jahlissa  
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Sylvia Ng & Emily  
Beverly Herr & Ariana  
Adrienne Pereira & Catherine  
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Laurel Macey & Barbara Aubreya  
Briana Pendleton & Steniolla  
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Morgan Vokey & Venus Arianna  
Katie Jimenez & Tyanah  
Kimberly Angelovich & Aishely  
Kerri Drinkwater & Karuna  
Megan Higgins & Amani  
Jamie Lee Martin & Christina  
Angela Chow & Emely  
Annemarie Ryu & Julieta  
LaTasha Cooper & Yanairis  
Peggy Leung & Sylvia

## Two Ways to Support Big Sister on September 29



On Saturday, September 29, Big Sister Association will participate in the annual Rodman Ride for Kids, an umbrella charity event that raises funds for various children's social service agencies in Massachusetts, including Big Sister. The Rodman Ride is a 25, 50, or 100-mile non-competitive bike ride through scenic southeastern Massachusetts. After riding, participants enjoy an all day barbecue, with great food and the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes. If you would like to join Team Big Sister, visit: <http://bit.ly/TeamBigSister2012>

September 29 is also the first Boston.com's Running with the Bridesmaids, a one-mile fun run through Boston Common that benefits Big Sister Association. Post-race, runners clad in old bridesmaid dresses will kick up their heels at the brunch reception in Downtown Crossing, where they will enjoy great food and drinks, and find out if they placed in the "best dressed" prize ceremony. One lucky winner and five friends will receive a trip to Las Vegas! More information on reception location and dress categories may be found here: <http://bit.ly/BSABridesmaids>.





**Big Sister Association**  
of Greater Boston

**NONPROFIT  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARD  
WINNER**

awarded by the  
massachusetts nonprofit network

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Save the Date for Big Sister's

**Big in Boston**

When:

Saturday, November 10, 2012

Honoring:

Dr. Paula Johnson

Where:

Museum of Fine Arts

*Every Girl, a Masterpiece*

