

Big Sister Boston BULLETIN

Fall 2015



During this year's Appreciation Breakfast, Big Sister Boston managers Ana Archibald and Emily Cutts presented Little Sister Victoria with a Colgate University sweatshirt in honor of her acceptance.

A Little Goes a Long Way

Little Sisters: Class of 2019

“Within the nine years Jessica and I have been matched, I have encountered a lot of problems with school and family,” Little Sister Victoria told a room full of Big and Little Sisters at our May 16 Appreciation Breakfast. “My parents seemed to have trouble accepting who I was, which was a girl who didn’t exactly do the best in school nor obediently listen to her mom and dad. This made it difficult for me to accept myself. My troubles lay in discovering my interests and core values and finding a balance between my happiness and my parents’.”

The story that Little Sister Victoria told was ultimately one of overcoming adversity because someone believed in her. That someone was her Big Sister Jessica Reardon. “Today, I am still learning to accept my strengths and weaknesses,” said Victoria. “And, it has been so much easier with my Big Sister by my side.”

Victoria shared her college acceptance packet with her Big Sister during a trip to the Institute of Contemporary Art. “It made me cry, right there in the ICA—how hard she

had worked, the successes she had achieved, how mature and thoughtful she is, what a joy it is to be her mentor, how much she has still ahead of her,” said Jessica. “And then it hit me, not for the first time, but in a new way: Victoria will always need a Big Sister.”

And, indeed she does. As Victoria prepared to leave for college this fall, she faced yet another hurdle: Her parents were unable to drive her to Colgate University in upstate New York. When Victoria told Jessica about her dilemma, her Big Sister had her back just as she had for the past nine years. Jessica drove Victoria and Victoria’s parents to Hamilton, New York where Victoria proudly showed off her new home.

This fall, Victoria joined the 90% of Little Sisters who enroll in college. Her fellow not-so-Little Sisters will be attending a range of institutions this year—from UMass Dartmouth to Mass Art. And, no matter where they go, they will all know they got there because a Big Sister believed they could, giving them the power to believe it too.



New & Noteworthy

The Big Move

“There’s no place like home,” said Dorothy Gale in the *Wizard of Oz*. After a thorough and thoughtful year-long search, we finally found ours at 20 Park Plaza where Big Sister Boston moved our headquarters to in July.

Our work takes place in the community and, as such, we needed to remain accessible to our volunteers, our partners, and the girls and families that we serve. A centrally-located office with access to a variety of public transportation was paramount.

Being in the heart of the city, allows us to further immerse ourselves in it. Our staff are in and out of the building all day: recruiting Big Sisters at corporations and college campuses; visiting families to facilitate meetings of Big and Little Sisters; and supporting our Sister matches on-site at partner schools, community centers, and housing developments. The office itself allows us to work more collaboratively, with a big, open floor plan, break-out areas, and a large conference room where we lead trainings and workshops.

We are proud to invite our community here, a place that truly reflects our mission and allows us to work more efficiently and effectively than ever.

Top Quality

Big Sister Boston is proud to announce that we received the 2014 Quality Award from the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) Nationwide Leadership Council. We were the only BBBSA agency out of 11 in Massachusetts to be recognized for our exemplary standards of making and supporting Big and Little Sister matches.

Join the Conversation!

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Big Sister Association
of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!
Email mjuliano@bigsister.org.

A Snapshot of Support

Big Sister Boston Close-Up



Role Models

On March 4, we held our annual fashion show, Make a Statement, at the Revere Hotel and raised \$140,000 thanks to the generosity of our 350 guests and event sponsors. (1) Big Sister Dianna Moore and Little Sister Ella strut their stuff on the runway, while (2) models Catherine Varitek (who hit the catwalk with husband Jason), Nelly Carreno of NECN, and Tonya Mezrich (who modeled alongside husband Ben) snapped a selfie. Backstage, models (3) Jeff Bellows, David Gow, former Senator Scott Brown, Jason Varitek, and Dan Koh struck a pose. Special thanks to our Haute Couture sponsors Ernst & Young and PGR Media.

The Dish on Celebrity Chef

Six of Boston's gastronomic luminaries prepared an unforgettable meal for an intimate gathering of 85 guests at this year's Celebrity Chef Dinner hosted by chef/owner (4) Evan Deluty and Stella Restaurant. The June 14 event raised nearly \$150,000, as diners stepped up to take girls off our list of more than 350 who are waiting to be matched with a Big Sister. (5) Joining Chef Deluty (third from right) in the kitchen were Big Sister Talia Doucette and Little Sister Leila who got a taste of a chef's life before speaking at the event; Colin Lynch formerly of BL Gruppo; Marc Orfaly of The Beehive; *Top Chef* finalist, Tiffani Faison of Sweet Cheeks and Tiger Mama; Dante de Magistris of il Casale and Restaurant dante (not pictured); and Louis DiBicari of Tavern Road (not pictured). (6) The Honorable Denise Jefferson Casper and her son enjoyed the six-course gourmet meal with our Board president, Tom Barrette, while (7) Talia and Leila struck a post-meal pose with emcee Lisa Hughes of WBZ-TV, Tiffani Faison, Holly Bruce, Barbara Lynch, CEO Deborah Re, and event chair Maryann Youniss. Big thanks to Chef de Cuisine sponsors Hinckley Allen and Suffolk Construction's Red & Blue Foundation.



And the Winner Is...

Mackenzie Mango! (8) VP of Development, Wes Enicks (left) presented the recent law school graduate with her prize. Mackenzie opted for the cash over the car in our 27th Annual Car Raffle. She plans to put her winnings toward student loans. At the ticket drawing on July 30, (9) Big Sisters of the Year Lisa O'Connell and Anouska Bhattacharyya were sitting pretty with Little Sisters D'Vine and Makayla at the wheel. Thanks to our generous ticket buyers, we raised more than \$160,000 through this year's raffle. We are also grateful to our raffle partner Prime Motor Group.



Summer Sensation

June 21 may have been the official first day of summer, but the season really got started on June 24 at our Young Professional Board's Summer Soiree. The party with a purpose attended by 200 guests was held at Alibi at The Liberty Hotel and raised nearly \$25,000. (10) Enjoying the festivities was the crew from our PR partner, FleishmanHillard, including Big Sister Carrie Pennewell (center), Boston office GM Danielle Wuschke, SVP Randi Tanguay, and Young Professional Board member Sam Howe. (11) Ting Ting Liu, Lalu Abebe Beré, and Michael Hogan enjoyed some fun in the sun on the patio alongside (12) newcomers to the Big Sister Boston community. Big thanks to sponsors the Carney Family Foundation, Doble Lebranti Financial Group, LLP, and Eaton Vance Management.



Tour de Force

September 26 dawned sunny and mild – the perfect day for a 25, 50, or 100 mile bike ride around Southeastern Massachusetts in support of Greater Boston's girls at the 25th annual Rodman Ride for Kids! (13) Chiquita Rice made her mission clear: Getting #Girls2Great, while (14) Don Rodman himself (center) stopped by to cheer on Team Big Sister. (15) Riders Peter Reinhart, Kathryn Trautwein, Erika Young, and Chiquita Rice got pumped up at the starting line. Together, Team Big Sister rode nearly 1,000 combined miles and so far have raised \$90,000 in support of Big Sister Boston. Donations will be accepted at www.bigsister.org until November 15, and if we meet our \$100,000 goal the Rodman Ride for Kids will match the funds raised by 6%! Big thanks to team sponsors Mortgage Masters, Rocket Software, Crane & Lion, and The Boston Globe.



John with fellow Board member, Dolores Mitchell (left), and his wife, Abby (right).

Board Member Spotlight

Behind the Scenes with John Yozell

What drew you to joining our Board of Directors?

My mother, Jeanne Yozell, was Big Sister Boston's executive director when I was a kid. My family has had a lifelong association with the organization.

Who are the women who have inspired you?

One is my mother because she went to work at a time when women were not typically working in a career while raising four children. She was criticized by her social network a lot for that, but she went on to grad school at Simmons College and earned her Masters of Social Work. In addition to being the ED at Big Sister Boston, she was a professor at Boston College, the director of social services at Mass Mental Health, and eventually started a private practice where she still works today at age 87. Second is my wife Abby, who inspires me to be aware of people's feelings and conditions and reminds me that there are different ways to look at the same situation.

What is your favorite Big Sister Boston memory?

When I was a child we used to host the annual Big and Little Sister picnics at our house in Weston. One time the whole cast of *Boomtown*, including Rex Traylor, came to the picnic to the complete amazement and joy of the Big and Little Sisters – and me, too!

What is the number one thing you want people to know about Big Sister Boston?

You can't undervalue the one-to-one mentoring relationship. It's critical to developing confidence, and without a mentor you're at a disadvantage. Supporting young girls who may not have a natural mentor in their lives is key to their success.

What is something that would surprise people about John Yozell?

I'm addicted to boxing. It's my workout and if I don't get to do it I go absolutely crazy.

Sisterhood Scoop

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!



Summer Sisters

Into every life a little rain must fall...and it did just that at our Summer Sister Picnic on July 18 at Dana Hall. But, a little precipitation didn't stop more than 160 Big and Little Sisters from enjoying a day filled with physical activity and relationship-building fun! (5) Big Sister Allison Williams and Little Sister Gina mastered their teamwork skills inbetween sprinkles during the three-legged race, while (6) Big Sister Wanda McSmith and Little Sister Dominique shared a laugh during the group dance. The good times continued inside where matches like (7) Big Sister Becky Shall and Little Sister Helen hula-hooped, while others enjoyed splashing in the pool, getting all Zen with yoga, shooting hoops on the court, and girl power-themed pursuits led by Big Sister Boston staff.



Two, Four, Six, Eight...

Who do we appreciate? Big Sisters! On May 16, we celebrated sisterhood at our annual Appreciation Breakfast hosted at the Sheraton Boston and sponsored by Holly and David Bruce. More than 300 Big and Little Sisters enjoyed a breakfast spread fit for a queen and shared words of gratitude from the humorous to the heartfelt. We recognized match milestones like (1) Big Sister Ayan Gedi and Little Sister Te'yah's seventh anniversary and our longest match relationship, (2) Big Sister Ellen DePaul Fisher and Little Sister Thelma's 15th anniversary! Guests also enjoyed hamming it up on the red carpet, like (3) Big Sister Kathryn Corcoran, Little Sister Franyeliz, and their Match Support Specialist Helen Fullerton, as well as (4) an interactive performance by the Spark Academy step team from Lawrence.



Gather Round the Table

Did you know we serve girls in four of Boston's housing developments? We have staff dedicated to identifying the needs of these unique communities so that we can best serve the girls who live in them. Our programs in the housing developments include hosting community-building potluck dinners like the June 11 one held at Bromley-Heath where (8) Little Sister Aaliyah was more of a twisted sister, and the April 16 potluck at Old Colony where (9) Big Sister Boston staffers Miriam Rubin, Jess Burday, and Heidi Ziobro served a delicious meal for our Big Sisters, Little Sisters, families, and friends.

All in the Family

Meet the Boykins Crew



Left: The Boykins Crew showing everyone how #squadgoals are done at our Summer Sister Picnic. Right: Who's that girl? It's Little Sister Takia with hip hop star Ciara. Thanks to Big Sister Tiffany's job at a local radio station, Takia got to meet the singer who later Instagrammed this photo to all her fans.



Well before pop icon Taylor Swift made 2015 the "summer of the squad" by celebrating her close-knit female friendships, the Boykins Little Sisters and their Big Sisters had already formed the Boykins Crew with the help of Big Sister Boston. Swift's squad may consist of several super models, but the Boykins Crew is made up of role models.

Just who are the Boykins Crew? They are six biological sisters living in Dorchester, being raised by mom Terkeshia. Five of the sisters have each been matched with a Big Sister through our Community-Based, one-to-one mentoring program where Big and Little Sisters meet at a time and place of their choosing. The youngest Boykins, Ti-Ny, is eagerly awaiting her seventh birthday so that she too can be matched with a Big Sister.

Seven years ago, with a house full of growing girls, Terkeshia realized that she could use some support in giving her daughters the individual attention and nurturing they needed to thrive. She turned to Big Sister Boston for help. During the following years, we matched each daughter with a Big Sister based on their individual personalities and interests. Athletic Takia was matched with sports-enthusiast Tiffany, and together they've enjoyed spending one-on-one time on and off the basketball court. Goofy and gastronomically-inclined Tay-onna was matched with Big Sister Lisa who brings out Tay-onna's silly side in the kitchen as they experiment with recipes for cakes and cookies. "They have the perfect match, all of them," said mom Terkeshia, adding how much she appreciates the ways in which

each Big Sister allows her Little Sister the space to be herself and explore her own unique interests.

Recently, the crew was put to the test when two of the Big Sisters had to move away from Boston. Though they will no longer officially be matched through our program, they will always be a part of this special family that they helped build. Choking back tears, Terkeshia shared her gratitude for the role the Big Sisters have played in her daughters' lives: "It's like a whole other world that we live in with the Big Sisters coming and taking the girls out. I don't have to worry for those three to four hours that they're gone. I know everything's ok. This program has given me wonderful women who take time out of their schedules and make it their obligation to spend time with my girls, and I'm just forever grateful that they're part of my kids' lives."



Mutual admiration society: Big Sister Shanae and Little Sister Tanique share what they admire most about each other during an activity co-hosted by Big Sister Boston and Girls' LEAP.



Where Are They Now?

Making Her Mark

Former Little Sister, Diversity Council member, and Big Sister Boston advocate, Lianne Hughes, was honored by Governor Baker on May 14 at the State House. She was chosen as one of the 29 Who Shine, a recognition earned by one graduate from each of the 29 community colleges, state universities, and UMass campuses in Massachusetts. Lianne was selected for her campus and community leadership.

Former Little Sisters at Work

Did you know we have not one, but two, former Little Sisters currently on staff? These women are proudly making matches just like the ones that impacted their lives!



Taomi Cruz, Match Support Specialist, Community-Based Mentoring

"I have such great memories as a Little Sister and really wanted to give that same experience to other girls in my community."



Sara Sanabria, Match Support Specialist, Site-Based Mentoring (pictured on the left with her Big Sister today!)

"Big Sister Boston did such a great job matching Kara and I, that as I got older I wanted to create a ripple effect by making and supporting impactful matches like mine."

2015 Match Maker Club

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association of Greater Boston between January 1, 2015-June 30, 2015*. Thank you for your generous support!

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Ketsy Vilaythong
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Emily Stanford
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Sarah Swanson
Nancy Tavitian
Patricia M. Thomas
Elly Van Faasen
Jane Wall
Nicole M. White
Joan & Donald M. White

In Honor of

Catherine Allard
Danielle D'Ambrosio
Suzanne Fay Glynn
Jack & Elsie Hasling
Carol Koppel
Nadine LeBranti
Alexandra Lingos Papaliodis (2)
Elizabeth Mullins
Deborah Re
Jennifer Spark
Wendy Thurmond

In Memory of

Joan Arcese (7)
Linda Brooks
Celia Cooper Lombardi (4)

*Excluding individual ticket purchases

Happy Anniversary, Sisters!

The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated anniversaries between January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!

15 Years
Ellen DePaul Fisher & Thelma

11 Years
Linda Hughes & Emily

10 Years
Julie Plunkett & Ana
Meagan Walker & Ashley

9 Years
Karen Angrisano & Genesis
Michelle Danis & Jennifer
Heather Ferguson & Emma
Angela Gomes & Ashley
Alexa Kontes & Chimene
Regina McNally & Cindy
Angela Seay & Asia
Laurie Smith & Lacey
Angelica Vargas & Paola

8 Years
Anne Bost & Ranajia
Kathleen Cross & Stephanie
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah
Aine Friend & Khadija
Renee Gallagher & Nelly
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari
Susan Jones & Elizabeth
Sondra Korman & Samantha
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla
Lisa Pontes Siniawski & Ajaria
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha
Stefanie Smith & Cheyenne
Erin Sunderland & Alexandra
Barbara Uttaro & Tatiana

7 Years
Lucy Bezdek & Destiny
Maureen Connelly & Laree
Jillena Furr & Ja'Najia
Juliana Gamble & Jaedah
Amanda Martinez & Micaella
Tina McDavitt & Teyasia
Kristine McKinney & Fannie
Alyssa Moskos & Kimberly
Lisa Northrup & Kaitlin
Mindy Reiser & Ashly
Nancy Zabe & Jasmine

6 Years
Brenda Anthony & Haley
Betty Chu Pryor & Melissa
Brenna Downing & Amaia
Jessica Dunner & Natalia
Amanda Farrington & Taina
Amy Garannin & Serina
Francesca Gordon & Carol
Jeanine Hall & Deylisa
Valerie Kesaris & Jade
Michelle Kwasny & Nia
Stefanie Wagner & Mariana
Claudia Rodriguez & Selena
Catherine Schaefer & Shelby
Megan Schwint & Jessica

5 Years
Erin Bonsang & Keisha
Kelley Borer & Arielle
Cameron Borgasano & Malaysia
Amanda Chan & Kelly
Sara Cooney & Labria
Amanda Dezak & Patricia
Kathleen Flynn & Midori
Julia Geisman & Mariah
Chelsea Jones Iva & Jonalys
Kimberly Koury & Katlyn
Caitlin MacNeil & Briana

Jovita Marcinkeviciene & Jessica
Rana McLaughlin & Mia
Jessica Lee Menendez & Lesley
Dalena Nguyen & Ashley
Alanna Piktla & Tanesia
Gabriella Priest & Valentina
Jaime Steele & Yandreimy
Mariya Todorova & Shaniay
Ashlee Yates & Abiona

4 Years
Jennifer Anderson & Malaysia
Kimberly Angelovich & Aishely
Valleria Miranda & Deiyeris
Nauchelle Martinez & Anastacia
Karen Miller & Arly
Valleria Miranda & Deiyeris
Meredith Mooney & Ana
Elly Mullins & Jaelin
Saba Nejatian & Janel
Molly Nelson & Nellymar
Sara Neuman & Mystique
Caitlin O'Gallagher & Nyzharee
Carly Papisih & Mya
Olga Perez & Catherine
Pascale Pierre & Brianna
Pamela Sue Poindexter & Keren
Lisa Purter & Rashanda
Loes Rabinovici & Kayla Angel
Kelly Reardon & Juliana
Laura Gray & A'Niarya
Ali Ross & Ismah
Cindy Ryan & Genesis
Pamela Simmons & Taylah
Kelsey Taylor & Dylaniece
Carol Wagborne & Olyviah
Melissa White & Lordania
Kate Wilson & Aycadieya
Amy Wixon & Uche
Elizabeth Woodcock & Annayanzi
Kim Yeasir & Grecia

Hunter Aldrich & Brianalis
Aleena Bando & Kathleen
Abigail Barton & Victoria
Lindsey Bleimes & Tiffany
Laima Bobelis & Tatiana
Tiffany Brucker & Lucy
Alexa Bruner & Kaitlin
Jennifer Byrne & Jaala
Elaine Cabuang & Natalia
Amanda Campbell & Yatzari
Paige Carlsen & Gladys
Kaitlyn Carr & Karina
Lianne Chan & Susan
Lora Clark & Emily
Alexandra Coleman & Neveah
Melissa Conner & Helena
Wendy Cotellessa & Lily
Kelsey Crawford & Janiah
Cassandra Cruz & Pejah
Jessica Dellert & Nixeynie
Christina DiGiovanni & Chrystal
Amanda Duquette & Azaree
Chelsea Elder & Victoria
Christina Fabiano & Marieliz
Maureen Fair & Jada
Deirdre Donovan Foley & Orianna
Brenda Garrigan & Nevaeh
Genevieve Gilroy & Naysha
Ashley Gradwell & Elajia
Ayoka Drake & Simmone
Kelley Durgin & Tiffany
Marissa Fields & Victoria
Lindsay Forsberg & Kaya
Katie Fuhrman & Jolana
Leslie Goldman & Wilmary
Tristan Goodall & Versashi
Simona Gordon & J'leah

Erin Greeley & Jackie
Jean Gulliver & Daniah
Kelsey Hagggett & Armani
Eleanor Heisey & Shirley
Agnieszka Ilnicka & Yantaya
Ladan Khamisi & Jah Nayah
Carolyn McGuire & Jaylene
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Bau Bau Nance & Ailani
Sylvia Ng & Zainab
Anna Marie Patti & Jazmahni
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Carrie Pennewell & Ciarali
Olga Perez & Catherine
Pascale Pierre & Brianna
Pamela Sue Poindexter & Keren
Lisa Purter & Rashanda
Loes Rabinovici & Kayla Angel
Kelly Reardon & Juliana
Laura Gray & A'Niarya
Ali Ross & Ismah
Cindy Ryan & Genesis
Pamela Simmons & Taylah
Kelsey Taylor & Dylaniece
Carol Wagborne & Olyviah
Melissa White & Lordania
Kate Wilson & Aycadieya
Amy Wixon & Uche
Elizabeth Woodcock & Annayanzi
Kim Yeasir & Grecia

Waudolyn Johnson Melvin & Nahyeliz
Shanyu Kates & Yojairis
Amanda Kelly & Briana
Jen Kelly & Sophia
Kathleen Kerigan & Ziarra
Ladan Khamisi & Jah Nayah
Carolyn McGuire & Jaylene
Erin McKenna & Wesline
Kristin McNelis & Maneyris
Ivonne-Marie Mendoza & Phylis
Monique Michel & Justina
Dianna Moore & Ella
Malorie Morrison & Delaney
Wyetta Morrow & Key-Aree
Emily Morton & Nora
Bau Bau Nance & Ailani
Sylvia Ng & Zainab
Anna Marie Patti & Jazmahni
Lauren Paul & Rahima
Elizabeth Pelletier & Emily
Carrie Pennewell & Ciarali
Olga Perez & Catherine
Pascale Pierre & Brianna
Pamela Sue Poindexter & Keren
Lisa Purter & Rashanda
Loes Rabinovici & Kayla Angel
Kelly Reardon & Juliana
Laura Gray & A'Niarya
Ali Ross & Ismah
Cindy Ryan & Genesis
Pamela Simmons & Taylah
Kelsey Taylor & Dylaniece
Carol Wagborne & Olyviah
Melissa White & Lordania
Kate Wilson & Aycadieya
Amy Wixon & Uche
Elizabeth Woodcock & Annayanzi
Kim Yeasir & Grecia

2 Years
Hunter Aldrich & Brianalis
Aleena Bando & Kathleen
Abigail Barton & Victoria
Lindsey Bleimes & Tiffany
Laima Bobelis & Tatiana
Tiffany Brucker & Lucy
Alexa Bruner & Kaitlin
Jennifer Byrne & Jaala
Elaine Cabuang & Natalia
Amanda Campbell & Yatzari
Paige Carlsen & Gladys
Kaitlyn Carr & Karina
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Looking for a holiday card that will stand out from the crowd this year? Send a LIMITED EDITION Big Sister Boston holiday card to your friends and family!

Packs of 10, featuring five different designs created by our Big and Little Sisters will be available for purchase at www.bigsister.org in late November. Limited quantity available.

Proceeds benefit our mentoring and enrichment programs for Greater Boston's girls.

Or, Give the Gift of Warmth!

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Visit www.bigsister.org to read more about the girls and find out how you can give the gift of warmth to a girl in our community this season.