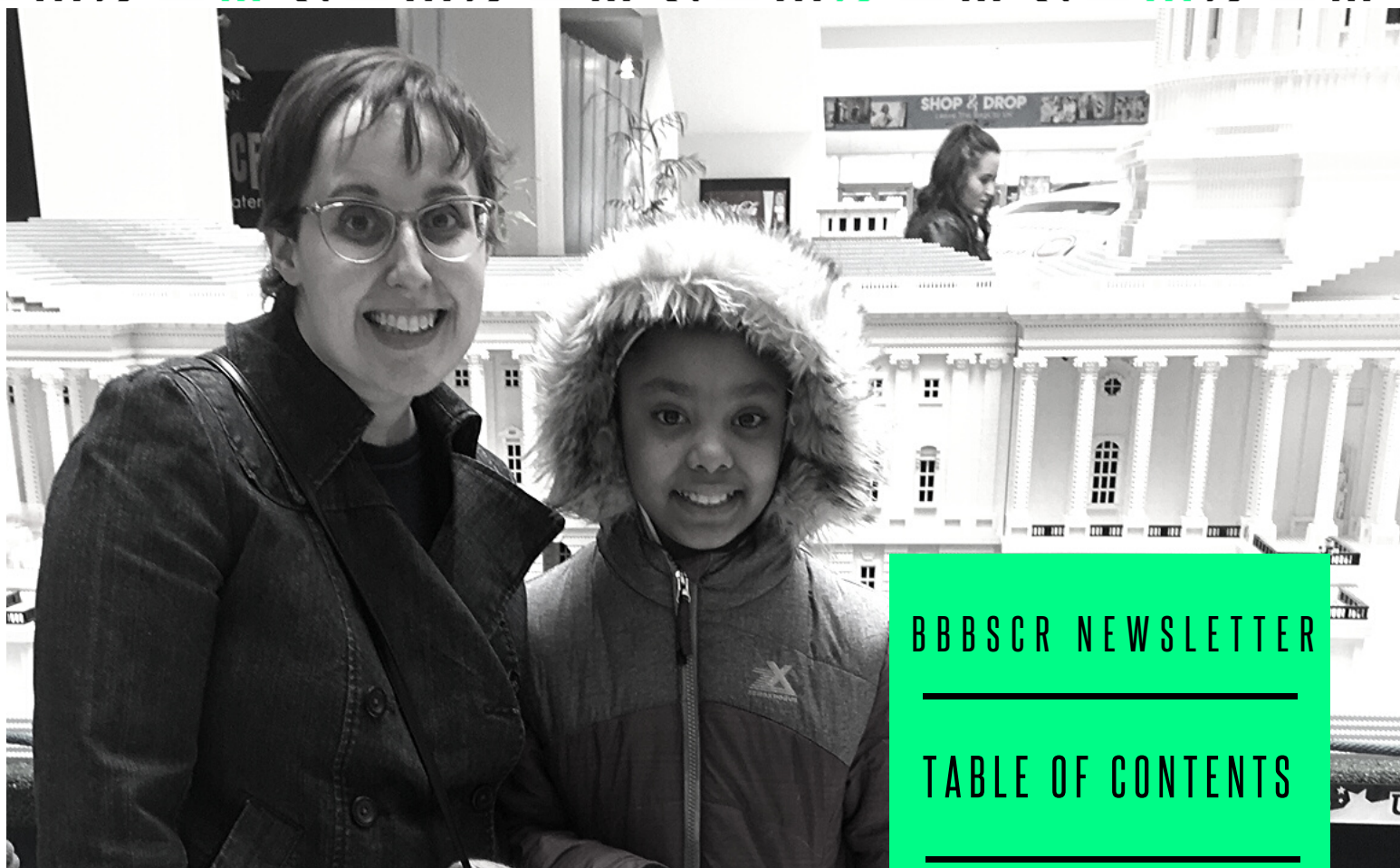




BIG NEWS QUARTERLY

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SHARE US WITH YOUR FRIENDS

BY ERIN MCGOVERN

Every month we are making new matches, but we still have a waiting list of over 100 children. Help us make the call and tell them we've found a Big perfect for them; share us with your family and friends.

Whether sharing how you are involved with our organization or just sharing one of our social media postings, you tell those you love that you are part of something BIG and they can be too.

BBBSCR NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK

We are very excited for our 8th Annual Chef's Challenge on May 23rd at Excelsior Springs in Saratoga. Our returning 4 year champion, Chef Thomas Gulbrandson from Excelsior Springs, will go head-to-head with last year's People's Choice Culinary winner, Chef Adam Humphrey of Harvey's Restaurant & Bar. Both chefs will have one hour to create, plate, and present a 3-course meal, highlighting a special ingredient, to the panel of judges.

In addition, several local restaurants from the region will be showcasing their signature dish paired with a signature beverage. Attendees will go around the room to sample and vote for the People's favorite.



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EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Thursday, May 23, 2019

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Excelsior Springs
47 Excelsior Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

PRICES:

Young Professional (30 & under)	\$50.00
General Admission	\$75.00
Date Night (2 General Admission)	\$112.50
Honorary Committee	\$150.00

PURCHASE TICKETS: <https://bbbscr.org/chefschallenge/>

CEO CORNER

BY SABRINA HOUSER

Hello Capital Region and Happy Spring!

Last year, across the Nation, our agency went through a re-branding and we are so proud of our bold new look. Our agency has always believed in potential; we have stood by our Littles and believed in their biggest possible futures.

**WE DEFEND THEIR CHILDHOOD.
WE IGNITE THEIR HOPES.
WE EMPOWER THEIR VOICES.**

This is the work we do; it is who we are, what we have always believed in, and what we will continue to do. In the last ten years nationwide, there has been a concerning trend of declining volunteer and family engagement. More importantly, in our local community, we have seen this decline and been too timid to share our concerns. Our mission is critical and the need in our community is urgent.

Our positive one-to-one mentoring relationships have changed the future for countless youth throughout the Capital Region. Together with our volunteers, we empower youth to succeed in school and at home, and together we are taking a stand. It is time for us to tell the world; we are BIG, we are BOLD, we are DEFENDERS. We want to show the world how empowering and strong our direction is. Go to our website to see our powerful message.

Thank you for supporting our mission.
Together, we are DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL.



SAVE THE DATES

May 23 - Chef's Challenge

November 8 - Spirits Royale

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK

Spring brings sunshine, flowers and bowling!
Throughout March and April over 300 people will have attended one of our three bowling events.

Community Bowl: On March 10th, members of the community came out to Spare Time in Clifton Park dressed as superheroes to enjoy bowling with friends, family, and co-workers.

SEFCU Bowl: A HUGE thank you SEFCU for their 26 years of partnership and to all those who came out on March 3rd and 10th to Westlawn Lanes in Albany to enjoy bowling and fun.

Executive Bowl: This private invite-only event on April 18th will have executives from the Capital Region bowling at Lucky Strike Social in Crossgates.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



MEET THE MATCH

BY PATRICK WILDES

In the fall of 2017, one match took their very first outing for what would seem to be a regular day for any person in the Capital Region; but for one young man, it was an experience to remember. In October 2017, Romailow and Pat played basketball at a local park and went to TGI Fridays to get to know one another. The two discussed sports, music, and culture at length. The highlight of the evening was the sesame chicken; Romailow said it was the best he had ever had.



Fast-forward to the fall of 2018, where the pair found themselves approaching the one-year milestone in their match. The two decided to celebrate by going to Art Omi to check out the larger-than-life art installations and the fall scenery in Upstate New York. They agreed that their favorite piece of artwork was a long, narrow house suspended about 10 feet off of the ground, which swung with the wind. They shared a lot of laughs, namely when Pat stepped in a huge mud pile and ruined one of his shoes.

After they left the park, they headed back to TGI Friday's to celebrate their one year mark. Romailow ultimately confirmed that the sesame chicken was STILL the best he had ever tasted. These experiences of diving into culture through art and food are ones that thanks to our program and volunteers like Pat, youth like Romailow get to enjoy.



Do Something Big Today

<https://bbbscr.org/volunteer/>