



BIG NEWS QUARTERLY

ISSUE 04 • DECEMBER 2019



WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!

As we reflect on 2019, we're overwhelmed! We have so much to be grateful for: more donors and sponsors than ever before, and more Bigs to defend the potential of more kids!

However, it's also a time when we must say goodbye to our brave, visionary leader, Sabrina. It would be impossible for us to tell you how powerful her impact has been, so we've asked her to share how BBBSR has impacted her.

Please join us in wishing her all the best and making sure she knows that she's welcome back anytime!

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CEO CORNER

BY SABRINA HOUSER

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters,
When I first met you, you paired me with a spitfire of a little girl. A seven year old who was joy and energy and the best example of childhood that I had ever seen. And I knew I was home. I was where I belonged and found all I had been seeking. Because I fell hard and fast for you and all you stood for.

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters,
When I first met you, I was on a mission to prove so many people wrong and I was doing it with a chip on my shoulder and hard edges. You softened me. You were the example of something that I felt in my bones; that childhood is important. It deserves to be protected and defended and that is why, when I met you, I found my purpose. I found a new way to be, a new drive, a new commitment, I found hope...and who doesn't need hope?

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters,
When I first met you, I was also scared. You taught me how okay that is. I will always be the one to walk through fear, but you taught me to keep walking. I stand in front of you today because I found people that always, at every turn, believed in me more than I believed in myself and they wouldn't let me stop. You gave me mentors, you gave me family, you gave me a future, and you gave me love. You gave me opportunities and you gave me something to fight this hard for...childhood.

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters,
Thank you. Thank you for all you do for our kids, thank you for how you change our communities. Thank you for realizing that we don't create potential, we defend it. Thank you for making me realize I could do this, I had potential and I needed a little protection too.

Dear Big Brothers Big Sisters,
I treasure you, I will always carry you, and I love you.

-Sabrina



LEARN MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A BIG

www.bbbscr.org/volunteer

SPIRITS

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK

Spirits 2019, presented by SEFCU, was held November 8th at 60 State Place in Albany. The theme of "I Love the 80's" brought out a spirited crowd of 250 who danced to the music of Aquanett most of the night. The record-breaking crowd helped raise a total of almost \$85,000, an increase of 18% over Spirits 2018.

Thank you to our Honorary Co-Chairs Kimberly Sanger Jones and Carol A. Brinkman, and all the sponsors, attendees, vendors, and volunteers who made the night such a success! Check out the photo gallery [here](#).



BE A BIG!

This year we launched our brand-new Be A Big campaign with a goal of educating the Capital Region about what we do and recruiting more men as Bigs.

For a full month, we promoted Be A Big through social media and the local press. Matches were interviewed for TV and local newspapers and Sabrina made the rounds to all the TV stations and reporters.

It worked!

The campaign culminated at Spirits 2019 and we're thrilled to report that we met 100 new prospective Bigs, 34 of which were men!

Check out the press coverage [here](#) and watch Sabrina talking about BBBSR on WNYT's Forum [here](#).

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

J. DAVID MAHONEY, CEO
NOBLE GAS SOLUTIONS

At our recent Defender's Lunch, one of our honorees was Noble Gas Solutions and their CEO J. David Mahoney. For decades, they have been a steadfast supporter and partner in the work of mentoring. For over 5 years, Noble Gas has stood in our corner and made a significant impact on our growth. They realize that mentoring works and that protecting and defending our kids is vital to our community.

"There is nothing more important to the future of our community than providing mentorship to our kids. They are the ones who will make the world a better place. BBBSCR does exactly that. They make our community a better place with the work they do and we couldn't be more proud than to support them."



Thank you, Noble Gas Solutions and Dave Mahoney! We're humbled to have you in our corner and will keep working to make our community a better place.



Did you know?

That the entire operating budget of BBBSCR is paid for by contributions from our generous donors?

We love our volunteers. Our amazing Bigs give so much of their time and energy. But we love our donors too! Without their generosity BBBSCR simply couldn't exist. As one donor put it, "You're the only charity I give to where the outcome is Love."

Be part of the Love.

- Make a one-time gift online at BBBSCR.org
- Mail your check to: BBBSCR, 1698 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12205
- Call us at 518-862-1250

You can often double or triple your gift if your employer has a Matching Gift program. We can help you find out if they do!

If you would like to speak to our staff about a multi-year gift intention, please contact Peter Koniuto at 518-862-1250 x111, or peter@bbbscr.org.

Have you considered including BBBSCR in your estate plans? We'd love to hear about it! There are many ways of making a Legacy Gift to support this important work. Contact Peter to learn more.

MATCH SPOTLIGHT

ERIN & AZARIA

This November was the matchversary for Erin and Azaria. Erin has been involved with BBBSCR for a little over a year and lives in Menands, but is originally from Oneonta. Her family includes her husband of three years, her mother, her younger sister and her brother. Unfortunately, her father passed away in 2008 and the rest of her family lives in Otsego County.

Erin first joined BBBS when she lived in Las Vegas. She is so thankful to BBBS for showing her that she enjoys bringing joy to other people lives. So far, she has mentored two littles.

Azaria is a 7th grader in Troy who is a very bright, intellectual young lady who enjoys the educational things in their outings. She is full of energy, is always smiling, and is eager to socialize. In school, she loves math and english classes. She also loves being in honor roll.

Erin loves being Azaria's mentor because when she was growing up she didn't have one. She was the loner type and oldest of three kids, so served as the mentor for her siblings.

"In the future, I plan to continue my work with BBBS for as long as I can. Perhaps when I have children of my own I will take a step back but for now, I enjoy what I do a lot so I may just stay and never stop, we'll see!

So far, my biggest takeaway from BBBS has been from Azaria. She taught me so much, especially with the things she has learned. The number one thing I take away from her is that individuals are all different but at the end of the day love, care, and respect remain the same at all times. We can cry over a bad situation or pick up and keep plugging on, no matter what, she is always an inspiring, happy person who is unfailingly motivated to keep moving onwards."



THANK YOU!

PETER KONIUTO

BBBSCR is able to defend the potential of our kids because of our volunteers and donors. We can't thank you enough! Listed below are 2019 donors as of December 12, 2019. Thank you for all that you give and all that you do. You make it all possible.

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Your gift of time and love is priceless. You are the ones igniting the potential of our kids every single day.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

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