



BIG NEWS QUARTERLY

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OFF AND RUNNING!

2020 is already off to an exciting start! New matches, new community partners, and new donors have already provided so much for our Capital Region kids!

BBBSCR has lofty goals about how we're going to support many more matches this year than we did in 2019 and will be sharing more details and new programs throughout the year.

We encourage you to help us spread the word by liking and following us on social media and sharing this newsletter with your friends and family.

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NOTES FROM THE BOARD

BY NOELLE PODOBA, PRESIDENT

2020 the start of a new decade, and in so many ways represent a new era for BBBSCR.

To me, being on the Board for BBBSCR is an amazing opportunity to impact, in very direct ways, the positive outcomes of mentoring. For us, mentoring is all about defending a child's potential.

We currently have a talented group of individuals from various different business sectors sitting on our board. Our members are working intensively to ensure the Board is strong, versatile, engaged, and committed to the agency's expansive growth plans over the next 3-5 years.

My involvement with the Board started 4 years ago when I was asked to consider joining to represent my employer, M & T Bank, who contributes corporately to this great agency. In the last 4 years I have seen first hand the impact that mentoring can have on a child's life, as my husband Michael, decided to become a Big shortly after I joined the Board. The cascade of positive outcomes that result from a child being mentored through our programs, are long reaching and long lasting.

As the current Board chair, it is a team effort as we work together to continue to build the infrastructure which will enable us positively impact more youth by reducing our Littles waiting to be matched. To that end, we will tirelessly and sacrificially do what needs to be done as a Board. I could not be more proud of what has been achieved so far. I look forward to sharing more updates in the very near future.

-Noelle



LEARN MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A BIG

www.bbbscr.org/volunteer

BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK



Sunday Fun Day!

March 15th from 11:00-2:00

Spare Time Clifton Park

Strike up some Sunday fun and beat the winter blues with BBBSCR at our Family Carnival-themed Bowl For Kids' Sake.

Guests get unlimited bowling, laser tag, arcade games, face painting, pizza, soft drink, and a BBBSCR T-shirt for just \$25 per person and \$12 for children 12 and under.

Register in advance to secure your spot!

<https://bbbscr.z2systems.com/np/clients/bbbscr/eventRegistration.jsp?event=49&>

Presented by:



Sponsors:



COMMUNITY PARTNER

We're excited to share that ReWire Energy will be making a \$50 donation to BBBSCR for every one of our supporters who subscribes to community solar!

No, we're not asking you to put solar panels on your house! Community solar provides you with access to a solar farm that will provide up to a 10% savings on your electric bill. If you are National Grid customer, you have the option to buy your electricity from a solar farm. The power from the solar farm is credited on your National Grid bill.

Subscribing to community solar will reduce your carbon footprint while saving you money on your electric bill and raising money for Big Brothers Big Sisters!

Complete the online form -

<https://app.communitypowerportal.com/?aff=rewire> using Promo Code "BBBS. Follow the steps to complete your subscription (you will need your utility account number and your checking account information) Savings average 10% annually.

REWIRE ENERGY

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

CHUCK REED

During our Defender's Lunch in November, one of our honorees was Chuck Reed. Chuck has served as BBBSCR Board President, is a member of our Trustee Council, and is an Alumni Big. He's a true community Defender who has been there whenever and wherever he could help.

Chuck is always thinking strategically, with compassion and care. He leads with his heart and BBBSCR has been a first-hand beneficiary of his tireless love and support. We're so thankful for his work and commitment to defending the potential of our Capital Region Littles!

"BBBSCR inspires me every day. They remind me that every kid has potential, and that every kid has an inherent right to fulfill their potential. They remind me that some kids, due to no fault of their own, have the odds stacked against them. And, most importantly, they provide the path by which I, and others, can help a kid overcome those odds. BBBSCR improves the lives of the kids they serve, the lives of the mentors and donors who partner with them and they contribute to the overall health and prosperity of our community. "



Did you know?

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

There are many pieces which keep our agency thriving. One vital piece are our volunteers. We love our volunteers who give of their valuable time and energy guiding our youth. Another key piece to our success as an agency are our incredible donors, who we also love! Without their generosity, BBBSCR and its mission would not exist. As one donor put it "You're the only charity I give too where the outcome is Love".

Be part of the Love.

- Make a one-time gift online at [BBBSCR.org](https://www.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 & CHARLOTTE

Erin and Charlotte are part of our site-based program at Skidmore and are our longest site-based match! They were matched two months into Erin's freshman year and three months before Charlotte developed a mysterious (at the time) illness that pulled her out of school for three months while her doctors tried to find an answer. Through all of that, Erin and Charlotte still met for Skidmore programs.

Charlotte's mom said "She was too scared to go anywhere so Erin would bring art supplies to the building at Skidmore where the matches meet and they would stay there for all three hours of program. Then as she slowly got better they would venture out around campus for part of the time and go back when she needed to. At a time when so much of her life was in turmoil, and she was experiencing anxiety as a result, having Erin be so willing to adjust the program to fit Charlotte's needs and remain an upbeat part of her life was invaluable."



Erin is equally effusive about their time together and what being a collegiate Big Sister has meant to her. "As she will be turning 11 this summer, I have had the chance to watch Charlotte grow from a child into a pre-teen, which I rarely get to see as a student teacher. The first couple of times that we met, Charlotte was quite shy. However, throughout the years, I have seen her build many friendships with the other Littles and become a leader.

For me, BBBSCR was one of the most influential extracurriculars of my college career. Charlotte taught me that sometimes all one needs to do to forget about the stresses of college is make a

messy batch (or two, or three) of slime. I would often find myself thinking of how worthwhile this time spent was, compared to the typical college student's Saturday afternoon. Additionally, my advisor recommended that I discuss my work with BBBSCR in my application to teach in Taiwan through Fulbright, and I have recently learned that I am a semi-finalist! If I do move across the world, I will make sure to send Charlotte postcards, and come visit whenever I can."

CAP COM NIGHT AT SIENA MEN'S BASKETBALL

BY LISA O'SULLIVAN

CAP COM Federal Credit Union and CAP COM Cares foundation have partnered with Siena Men's Basketball to adopt and honor BBBSR during the 2019-2020 season. A special celebration was held at the Jan. 24th home game vs. Marist.

More than 60 BBBSR matches, staff, board members, and their families attended the game. During a special presentation at halftime, six Littles were awarded with athletic scholarships to attend a week-long sports camp at Siena College this summer. Each Little will get to choose between basketball, soccer, dance, rugby, lacrosse, and volleyball. We can't wait to see the pictures and hear the stories of their camp experiences!

CONGRATULATIONS

Ashley DiDonna - Zaryus Ellis

Jacob Falzo - Anthony Payne

Kaiimah White - Malachi Young



Special thanks to CAP COM Federal Credit Union, CAP COM Cares foundation, and Siena Men's Basketball for making it happen!



THANK YOU!

BY PETER KONIUTO

BBBSR is able to defend the potential of our kids because of our volunteers and donors. We can't thank you enough! Listed below are 2020 donors as of February 18, 2020. Thank you for all that you give and all that you do. You make it all possible.

3M Foundation
Ketaki Bodhankar
John & Patsy Carl
Bernie & Lynn DeGiule
Daniela DeThomasis
ReWire Group, LLC
Katie Farrow
Pam Formica
GE United Way Campaign
David Hackler
Jullee Harris
Leonard Herman
Kaitlyn Herwig
Kimberly Sanger Jones & E. Stuart Jones
Kimberly & Robert Keefner
Brittany Keleman
George & Carrie LaMarche
Liberty Mutual Insurance Group
Cheryl Manny
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SEFCU
Slack Chemical Company, INC.
Laura Soloway
David & Cindy Taillon
Target Corporation
Jennifer Wagner
Juanita Zuend

TO OUR BIGS

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.