



# BIG NEWS QUARTERLY

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## IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD

While we're all concerned about the world around us, BBBSCR is happy to introduce you to our new CEO, Lea Montalto-Rook.

Lea was previously Director of Operations and Development for the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, where she was responsible for managing operations, fundraising, marketing, communications, finance, outreach, and events. During her tenure, the Conservancy expanded its conservation lands six-fold.

"We consider ourselves lucky to have found Lea," said Noelle Podoba, President of the BBBSCR Board. "Her vast experience is exactly what we need as we look toward what has become an uncertain future. We know that mentoring works and we know that the children of the Capital District will need our support more than ever before. We are confident that Lea will provide the leadership necessary for us to evolve as the world around us demands."

In addition to her experience with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Lea holds an M.S. in International Marketing from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She volunteers with the Bethlehem Soccer Club and the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, where she received the Volunteer of Excellence award.

Lea lives with her husband and three children in Delmar and in her spare time enjoys gardening and painting.

Please join us in welcoming Lea! You can email her directly at [lea@bbbscr.org](mailto:lea@bbbscr.org).



# FROM LEA'S DESK

BY LEA MONTALTO-ROOK, CEO

## STANDING TOGETHER FOR A BIG FUTURE

Schools are closed, after-care programs have been suspended, extracurricular activities have been postponed until further notice, and everything is uncertain. These are unprecedented times and the need for caring, consistent mentorship has never been greater--especially for kids living at or below the poverty level.

In a sea of unpredictability and in the face of mounting necessity, there is one sure thing: the children of the Capital Region can count on Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Can Big Brothers Big Sisters count on you?

Your financial support allows us to keep doing what we do best: empowering kids to achieve their potential. Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between Bigs and Littles from age six through high school graduation. We rely on individual contributions to sustain this important work; your support enables us to meet the needs of each child individually.

Our one-on-one mentoring services have never been more urgently needed! In a time when our community support-system is on a forced hiatus and children are left without their normal daily resources, our Bigs are there to continue to guide, nurture, and strengthen our Capital Region communities. Because we believe that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Our programs are proven to keep kids in school, out of trouble and on the path to lifelong success.

As we work to sustain our mentoring services and fill the gap in these unique times of "social distancing," we need your financial support to sustain these vital efforts. Your generosity is key to our success.

Please donate today in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region. Please, be as generous as you can.

With much gratitude,  
Lea Montalto-Rook



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