



BIG NEWS QUARTERLY

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WELCOME FALL!

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK

As much as we enjoyed summer, fall is when things get busy at BBBSCR! More requests for a match, more programs at our off-site partner locations, more volunteers, and more matches!

Even with all the activity fall brings, there are still hundreds on our waiting list. Please share us with your family and friends, and let them know how important it is for you to help defend the potential of Capital Region children.

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CEO CORNER

BY SABRINA HOUSER

Happy fall!

It is the time of year to sharpen pencils, get back to schedules, welcome in one of the most beautiful seasons in our area, and start a new chapter. No matter how old you are, fall feels like the start of a new year. At BBBSCR, it is certainly our busiest time of year with our college-based programs starting back up and our program team busy at work.

As you know, last fall, BBBSCR and affiliates across the Nation, underwent a major rebranding. We have taken the time to recreate our look and determine our priorities. And where we have landed is, we are not saviors, we are allies. We are not small, we are big. And we don't create potential, we defend it. BBBSCR has decided to go BIG. We have made it our priority to double the number of youth we are serving in the next five years and we are all in. Our community needs us, it is time, and we are ready.

With our new initiative, BBBSCR will nurture and support development within our agency. We will expand our services, we will market our programs, we will remind our community that we are here because of you and your generosity and investment in our work. Together, we will stand in the corner of the youth we serve and tell them we don't just believe in their potential, we will defend it!



LEARN MORE
ABOUT US

www.bbbscr.org

SPIRITS

BY ELENA KYPRIANOU MAROSEK

We LOVE summer! But we're also excited to share our plans for Spirits 2019.

Presented by our friends at SEFCU, this year's theme is "I love the 80's".

Join us for spirits tasting, gourmet food, a silent auction, and more! You might even win a \$2,500 travel certificate!

Join the Honorary Committee and you'll also get a special tasting pass featuring local vendors.

Come dressed in your favorite 80's gear and dance to all your favorites played by Aquanet!

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Presenting Sponsor



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EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Friday, November 8, 2019

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: 60 State Place
Albany, NY 12207

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/spirits2019/>

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

BERNIE & LYNNETTE NOONAN

When we decided to add the Donor Spotlight, Bernie & Lynnette Noonan immediately came to mind. Not only because they are generous donors, but because their commitment and dedication to BBBSCR go back to the very beginning.

Bernie first volunteered as a Big Brother in 1973. Since that time, he has held numerous leadership roles on Advisory Councils and Boards of Directors, worked on Bowl for Kids Sake, and much more than we could possibly list.

Throughout his almost 50 years of service to BBBSCR, Lynnette has been right by his side, as an unofficial Big Sister and member of the BBBSCR family. When she encouraged him to volunteer in 1973, we're pretty sure she didn't expect BBBSCR to become such an integral part of their life together!

Bernie continues to serve on the Trustee Council and continues his active involvement with Bowl For Kids Sake. He's also still in touch with both of his Littles, John and Terrence.



This story became a special donor spotlight on August 10, 2019 when their children and grandchildren threw them a 50th Anniversary party. In lieu of gifts, it was suggested that attendees make a gift to the organization that has meant so much to the couple for 47 of their 50 years of marriage - BBBSCR. For the occasion, 15 donors donated \$2,000!

We are humbled at the commitment and dedication of this wonderful couple and thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

BBBSCR ON-CAMPUS

BY SARAH BERRY

When people think of BBBSCR, they typically envision our community-based model. However, we also have a thriving site-based match model in five local colleges. Our site-based program pairs college students with local children in the same one-on-one mentor structure, but all within the confines of the college campus.

At SUNY Albany, Union, The College of St. Rose, RPI, and Skidmore we are bringing our services to our Bigs, enabling us to serve far more children than we otherwise would. These clubs meet twice a month during the school year where the Littles are bused to the college, fed lunch, and then given free reign of all the activities universities have to offer.



Site-based Littles are recruited through the schools in all five counties, enabling us to strengthen our community connections. By having partnerships with both the colleges and the schools, we are able to provide a holistic approach to our site-based matches, as well as allow our Bigs to feel more connected to their home-away-from-home.

Currently most of the matches stay matched for over a year, with 6 of them currently on year 4 of their match, thanks to being matched as freshman and now beginning their senior year. Wish us luck as we enter our busy season and kick off our 5 collegiate programs!

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](https://www.bbbscr.org)
- Mail your check to: BBBSCR, 1698 Central Ave Albany, NY 12205
- Call us at 518-562-1250

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.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

PETER KONIUTO

Peter believes in the power of giving.

He began his philanthropy career when he moved to the Capital Region from Boston in 2005. "A local non-profit serving people with developmental disabilities was embarking on a major capital and endowment campaign. They needed to grow to meet the need in the community. I joined the fundraising team because I knew data management and research, and I'd been connecting people as a problem-solver throughout my career. It was a fabulous learning experience." Earlier this year Peter joined the team at BBBSCR in the role of Chief Philanthropy Officer, again as part of our plan to grow the agency.



"I've met so many amazing people in my first months with BBBSCR. My co-workers are all really smart and creative, and they're thoroughly dedicated to our mission. As I met Bigs and Littles, the more stories I heard, the more it made sense to me why the staff works so hard. These mentoring relationships are transformational."

BBBSCR's operating budget is fully funded through the support of its donors. To meet the need of the youth in the Capital Region, the only way to grow is to increase philanthropic investment from the community. Peter has worked in non-profits both large and small. He has experience in capital campaigns and building philanthropic support, with a strong interest in helping donors make a difference in ways that are most meaningful to them.

What is Peter's favorite part of working at BBBSCR so far? "That's easy. Spending time with our donors. These folks know that the work of BBBSCR is vital in our region, and they have given so much. This agency has achieved amazing things over many years. Lives have been changed for the better, and yes, some lives have even been saved. Our donors are a big part of that success. Now we want to take things to the next level, and I know our donors are excited to be right there with us."

DO SOMETHING BIG TODAY

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