



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Rita Cox

Rita@coxmarketingsolutions.com

518-396-7840

Local Match Nominated for National Mentoring Award

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region nominates local match for Big and Little of the Year

ALBANY, NY (March 11, 2020) – Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region ([BBBSCR](#)) today announced their nomination for Big and Little of the Year. Patrick Wildes and Romallow Conyers are now eligible for the annual award offered by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

Pat and Ro were matched in 2017. Ro was 12 and constantly getting into trouble in and out of school. His grades were poor and he was acting out in class. Through the past three years, Pat and Ro have talked, completed homework, hiked, played basketball, and enjoyed numerous outings and adventures. Now, Ro is 15 and doing well in school. He is thinking about his future and is excited about the possibilities.

“I talk to him because I want to. I can be honest with him and I can talk to him about things I can’t with my mom or my friends,” said Romallow. “Pat is not just my Big, but part of my family. I feel much more confident in my life thanks to him.”

Pat and Ro were chosen by BBBSCR to represent the Capital Region out of several hundred Capital Region matches.

“We are delighted to be able to nominate Patrick Wildes and Romallow Conyers for this national award” stated Lea Montalto-Rook, Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region. “Every child in the Capital Region deserves an opportunity to reach their highest potential, and one-to-one mentoring is a major part of the solution. Pat and Ro provide a wonderful example of what is possible with a caring and committed mentor relationship.”

The national Big and Little of the Year awards will be given to one Big Brother / Little Brother and one Big Sister / Little Sister selected from the winners at the state level. The judging criteria is based upon the impact the Big has had on the Little, the progress seen in reaching the Little’s potential, the match’s engagement in the mission, and the advocacy demonstrated by the Big. Winners will be announced at the National Conference in June.

Participation in the BBBSCR program impacts the Big and Little as well as their families and friends. “Pat is the best thing that happened to Romallow as far as I’m concerned. I know for a fact that Romallow feels the same way. Pat is part of our family – he has made a difference in all of our lives, not just Romallow’s,” said Elaina Davis, Romallow’s mother. “We are so grateful for him and truly love him. The world needs a thousand people like him. Pat Wildes is an awesome dude!”

For more information about Bigs of the Year, visit <https://www.bbbs.org/bigs-of-the-year/>

###

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region was founded in 1964 and is one of the oldest mentoring programs in the area. BBBSCR has one mission, to create and support one to one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. We hold ourselves accountable to the following measurable outcomes: educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships. Serving almost 600 children each year, Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region stands in the corner of our kids and lets them know we all believe in their potential and will work hard to defend it. Capital Region counties served include Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga. Learn more at www.bbbscr.org.