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Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region Announces New CEO

Lea Montalto-Rook appointed CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region

ALBANY, NY (March 24, 2020) – Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region ([BBBSCR](#)) Board President, Noelle Podoba, today announced the appointment of Lea Montalto-Rook as the new CEO.

Montalto-Rook was previously Director of Operations and Development for the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. In that role, she was responsible for managing the Conservancy’s operations, fundraising, marketing, communications, finance, outreach, and events. During her tenure, the Conservancy expanded its conservation lands six-fold, amplifying the concrete benefits that protected lands bring to our region, including recreational preserves, support for locally-farmed food, the protection of our water supply, the preservation of wildlife habitats, and the mitigation of climate change.

“We consider ourselves lucky to have found Lea,” said Podoba. “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. Our Board of Directors is confident that Lea will provide the leadership necessary for us to evolve as the world around us demands.”

“I am honored to join the incredible team at BBBSCR,” said Montalto-Rook. “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 communities. The need for caring, consistent mentorship has never been greater, and I will be working passionately to ensure that BBBSCR will be there for those who need us the most.”

In addition to her experience with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Montalto-Rook holds an M.S. in International Marketing from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. She volunteers with the Bethlehem Soccer Club, serving as Vice President of the Board and coaching recreational soccer. She also volunteers as a Junior Leader for the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, receiving the Volunteer of Excellence award for the past two years for her efforts to “deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience while having a measurable impact on service.”

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About Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region has one mission, we 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.