

Defenders of Potential Are REQUIRED in Many Forms



Do you remember the first time someone asked, "What do you wanna be when you grow up?" Depending on how old you are, you probably answered something along the lines of a doctor, an astronaut, a pro ball player, or maybe a podcaster. As time went by, for most of us, the answers changed as we learned new things and saw more of the world. For others, it seems, they were born knowing exactly what they were meant to do. Regardless of where a child is on their path to the future, every kid could use some help on their journey.

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has remained true to our founders' vision of helping children achieve their greatest potential by bringing caring role models into their lives. Today, BBBS of Palm Beach and Martin Counties realizes that barriers to potential come in many forms. With factors like COVID, social media, distance learning, and national migration, our Littles live in a world that looks and feels very different than the one in which their elders were raised... *cont'd on pg 2*

Guess Whose Coming to Dinner!

The 2022 Big Taste of Martin County Food & Spirits Festival is shaping up to be our best event yet. Since its launch in 1999 with just a handful of local restaurants this signature Big Brothers Big Sisters fundraiser has grown to include such notable establishments as **Hudson's on the River, The Hanger, Kork, Kyle G's, Conchy Joe's Seafood, The Dolphin Bar & Shrimp House, Ellie's Downtown Deli** and more.

Join us on October 11th to taste and sample spirits and culinary treats from local restaurants and craft breweries, culminating in an event like no other. For the true foodie, don't miss the Big Taste VIP party. VIP tables include... *cont'd on pg 3*



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While financial limitation is certainly an obstacle facing many of the children we serve, it is merely one in an array of issues that can stand between a child and their dreams. But with the right Big to defend their potential, our Littles can and **do** achieve great things.

Today, BBBS of Palm Beach Martin Counties has **93 boys and 27 girls waiting to be matched with the right Big**. Take, for example, Janie*, a sassy and smart 11-year-old girl who scored off the charts in her academic placement testing and qualified for the gifted program at school. When she grows up, Janie wants to work with children in some way, but she hasn't decided how just yet. Unfortunately, Janie's mom suffers from a variety of health issues and can't always support her daughter's potential the way she would like. Both are hoping to meet a caring adult who can help Janie harness her many gifts and guide her toward a successful career. When asked what she would like most from a future Big, Janie said, "Someone who will ask how I'm doing" and can talk to her about girl stuff.

Or Adam*, a playful, sports-loving 6-year-old little boy who lives with his mom and her long-term partner. Mom says Adam has been bullied at school and struggles with anxiety. Mother and son are hoping for a Big who can provide a stable male role model who likes sports as much as Adam does and isn't afraid to get silly sometimes.

Janie and Adam are just two of the 120 amazing Littles we currently waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. Some have been waiting since 2019 and several have aged out of the program without ever being matched with a caring adult mentor. A personal commitment and just a few short hours a month is all it takes to make a BIG difference in the life of one of our waiting Littles. If you think you or someone you know would make a great Big, please visit www.mentorbig.org/becomeabig/ to learn more, or give us a call at 561-727-3450.

**names have been changed to protect the privacy of our Littles and their families.*



Guess Whose Coming to Dinner

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Guests will experience an array of craft beer from local breweries such as **Hop Life, Islamorada Beer Co. & Sailfish Brewing Co., Motorworks Brewing Co.**, to name a few. Get a taste and samplings of wines, liquor, and food from more than twenty vendors and restaurants of all cuisines throughout and surrounding Martin County.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors - Publix Super Markets, Rehmann, Philip DeBerard Injury Attorney, Morgan Stanley, Go Electric, Macy's, All Area Roofing & Construction, Inc., Southern Eagle, Sunbelt, First Horizon, Bayview Construction, Accelerated Business Solutions, FPL, and Terrance Riley Irrigation.



Get Your Tickets to TASTE

GENERAL ADMISSION: Early bird tickets are available for \$55 until September 15th. After that, all advanced order General Admission tickets will be on sale for \$60. Guests wanting to buy tickets on the day of the event will pay \$70 at the door.

VIP PARTY: Purchase of VIP Party package includes access to the VIP Party with exclusive tastings catered by premier BIG Taste vendors, a reserved table for four, drinks tickets for use at private VIP bar, bonus raffle items, complimentary gift bags, and early access to the main event. Tickets to the BIG Taste VIP Party are available for \$400. Space is limited and tables will sell out, so don't delay.

Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online at <http://mentorbig.org/events>, visit <http://bigtaste.givesmart.com> or TEXT **BigTaste** to76278.



Donor Spotlight

BBBS of Palm Beach and Martin Counties Named “2022 TOP-RATED NONPROFIT” by GreatNonprofits

June 2022 – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties announced today it has been named a “2022 Top-Rated Nonprofit” by GreatNonprofits, the leading website for community recommendations of charities and nonprofits.

“We are honored to be named a 2022 Top-Rated Nonprofit,” says BBBS, Grants Manager, Anna Hartnig. We are proud of our accomplishments this year, including keeping innovative and fresh programs and activities for our “Littles and Bigs.” The Top-Rated Nonprofit Award is based on the rating and number of reviews that Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Palm Beach and Martin Counties received from volunteers, donors, and other community members.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties is a great example of a nonprofit making a real difference in their community,” said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits, “Their award is well-deserved recognition not only of their work, but the tremendous support they receive, as shown by the many outstanding reviews they have received from people who have direct experience working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties.”

About GreatNonprofits

GreatNonprofits is the leading site for donors and volunteers to find stories and ratings of nonprofits. Stories on the site influence 30 million donation decisions a year. Visit www.greatnonprofits.org for more information.

Building a Foundation with your Little

THIS MONTH'S MATCH CORNER BROUGHT TO YOU BY LORI



So, you've gone through the process - you gave your fingerprints, cleared your background checks, and aced the orientation and training. You've been matched with a great kid, and you are feeling good about your rapport with their guardian; now the BIG day has arrived. It's time to spend some quality mentoring time with your Little... and WOW are you nervous!

Of course, you are! You're venturing into the unknown! But, have no fear your Match Support Team is here with some helpful hints and tips to get you started on those first few Match meetings.

- Make an effort to establish a regular day and time to meet with your Match is your best bet for a solid first start, but the key is consistency! Let's repeat that - *consistency - consistency - consistency!* Start off with something simple like getting together for breakfast every other Saturday. Or perhaps a longer outing every 3rd Sunday of the month. Don't forget to set a time and include your Little's guardian in the planning process. This helps the entire family plan for you to spend quality time with your Little.
- Back-to-school is a tough transition period for any household. The new school year means new after-school schedules and obligations that will require a lot of juggling. Sometimes, plans won't go as expected. Be patient with your Little and their family as they adjust to new routines. Your patience and flexibility will go a long way towards building trust in your new mentor relationship.
- If you text with your Little to schedule outings, don't forget to create a group chat and include their guardian in the process. Please note - school/career matches cannot text.
- It's a good idea to confirm the details with your Little and their guardian before every outing. We think 2-3 days prior is best. This will help to reinforce your commitment to the Match and lay the foundation for long-term expectations.
- REMEMBER, It takes time to get into a rhythm with your new Match. Your patience, understanding and consistency (even when an outing doesn't go as planned) in the first few months will make all the difference for success in the long run.

Now, take a deep breath. You've got this! And when in doubt (because that day *will* come), your Match Support Specialist is here to help. Good luck and thank you for being a BBBSPBMC Defender of Potential!