

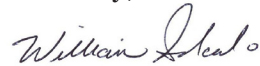
*Dear Friends,*

As our thoughts turn to spring, the promise of warmer days and time spent outdoors brings a feeling of starting fresh, a chance to do something new. Maybe that something is volunteering to mentor a child – to become a person to confide in, and to provide guidance and friendship.

In our own lives, each of us was touched by someone - other than our parents - who broadened our horizons and brought a little magic into our lives. By becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, you can do the same for a child. And you will both be forever changed by the experience.

This month we'd like to share excerpts from an essay written by Ellen, a Big Sister in the BBBSMC program on the friendship she shares with her Little Sister Brittney. You'll see first hand what a huge impact a mentor can make and how having one can help improve a child's life and their odds for future success.

Sincerely,



William Salcedo  
Executive Director

BBBSMC facilitates one-to-one mentoring, couples mentoring, and school & site based mentoring and currently has a list of over 60 children waiting to be matched with a caring adult volunteer. BBBSMC representatives are available to make presentations to area companies, organizations, service groups or other interested parties regarding the BBBSMC program and our need for volunteers.



March 2010

# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County

Newsletter

## Ellen & Brittney's Match Story: The Big's Perspective



Little Sister Brittney & her Big Sister Ellen share good times at the BBBSMC Annual Back to School Party

The past seven years has been a wonderful and rewarding experience getting to know Brittney, my "Little". The first year was challenging, but Brittney has learned that I never give up trying.

Our first meeting was at her home—we spoke and then she sang for me. She stated that she didn't sing for everyone and I thought she had a beautiful voice. Since then she has tried on many occasions to teach me to sing... there has been no success because I stink. She has also tried teaching me dancing and again she easily outdoes me. Both activities bring laughs.

Brittney is no longer shy about her singing -- there have been several plays at school where she has had a lead singing role. She has always asked me to be part of the audience and I proudly stand with everyone else to applaud her talents. She is a natural on stage, knowing everyone else's lines to help them should they forget. She

is an animated performer giving her all.

Brittney and I have spoken about her long term plans, which she hopes will be college or a vocational school. Seeing how she has grown over the past seven years in appreciating what education means and putting more effort into school, truly brings a smile to my face.

We've taken some memorable trips but walks and talks on the boardwalk and picture taking on the beach mean just as much. We like attending movies, we seem to laugh and be sad over the same scenes. She will look at me to see if I have tears in my eyes.

We talk on the phone regularly and Brittney knows she can always call me. If she's had a difficult day I try to have her see the whole picture, not just the present slice.

I joined Big Brothers Big Sisters to be part of a child's life, but over the years with Brittney she has become such a big part of mine. I feel very fortunate having been placed as her "Big". Brittney and I have a special bond, love and respect for each other. I feel that my experience over the last seven years has helped me grow as a person and look at life differently through Brittney's and my eyes.

*Stay tuned to our next issue  
as we'll feature Little Sister  
Brittney's match story!*

To learn more about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister,  
visit our website [www.bbbsmonmouth.org](http://www.bbbsmonmouth.org)  
or call 732-544-2224

