

Big news



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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County
Be-A-Friend Program, Inc.



Helping children reach their full potential through professionally supported mentoring relationships.

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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County

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The following staff members celebrated milestones as employees of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County from July 1, 2010 – Dec. 31, 2010.

16 Years - Renee Gracie

15 Years - Alicia Bartsch

8 Years - Tom Kirst

3 Years - Kelly Giallella, Tamara Helfer
 Lisa Kurt, Sheila McCrea

2 Years - William Murphy, LaGuan Rodgers

1 Year - Tom Guagiardo, Whitney Hyman
 Craig Thornton

A Note from our C.E.O.

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter. Just over three months ago, my best friend, my mentor, and my hero, Robert F. Moss, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 58. As most of you know, Bob was the Founder and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County (BBBSEC). His story is a remarkable story and his life was a remarkable life.

At the unbelievably young age of 19 years old, Bob founded BBBSEC, which years later would become the premier children's mentoring agency in Buffalo and Erie County. Since its inception in 1971, BBBSEC has touched the lives of more than 7,000 at-risk children. As one of approximately 400 affiliates of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Bob's agency has grown to become the second largest of its kind in New York State, currently serving about 600 children annually.

Make no mistake about it; Bob Moss was a real hero. He was the real deal. The children that his agency served predominately live in the inner city; are usually living in single parent households and quite often live at or below the poverty level. Bob Moss looked out for, cared for, and helped the children that needed it the most and the children that nobody else was thinking about. Bob's life's work is a shining example of how one person's passion and tireless dedication can make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of children.

I promised my best friend on many occasions that should anything ever happen to him that I would ensure that his program ("our" program) would be well taken care of. And indeed it will be. Upon his passing, the Board of Directors of BBBSEC unanimously named me CEO of this outstanding organization. I can confidently tell you that the agency that Bob founded as a 19 year-old college student will not only survive but it will flourish.

Our organization is stronger than ever. We have an extraordinary staff of 25 dedicated and fully committed employees. We have a passionate and fully engaged Board of Directors. We have exceptional partners and funding sources that share our deep belief that the children of Buffalo and Erie County need us. We have hundreds of unbelievably dedicated volunteer Big Brothers and Big Sisters that so generously donate their most precious asset, their time. And we have all of you, our friends that time after time come through for us and support our mission. Together, we will carry on Bob's life's work and we will ensure that the legacy of this great man, this hero, will never be forgotten.



David T. Hore
 President & C.E.O.



Match Highlight Cymantha & Maggie

In 2006, when Cymantha Walter's daughter Anna approached her about becoming a Big Sister in our Site-Based Mentoring Program during her junior year, she thought it was a wonderful idea. Cymantha knew she would be her daughter's transportation to and from the Enterprise Charter School location each week and figured, why not get involved herself. Cymantha explained, "I adore my children and was never more rewarded as a human being as I am being their mother, and I felt that I had more to give to other children". With the full support to leave work early once a week from her supervisor, John Lauricella at Capello's in the Village of Williamsville, Cymantha was matched with her Little Sister Maggie.

From the beginning these two seemed to be a perfect match. Big Sister Cymantha and Little Sister Maggie both enjoy any activity involving crafts or art. They are known at the site for always coming up with creative ideas. Once the two started a "fad" by creating glasses out of pipe cleaners. All of the other kids saw what they were making and before you knew it, the two were making custom glasses for everyone! While working on these projects, it gives Cymantha and her Little Sister time to chat about life and their day. Little Sister Maggie shared, "It's nice to have a special friend that's mine. She likes to be creative like me and I can talk to her about school, my baby brother or anything that I want to talk about."

Apparently, the conversations shared while making crafts have paid off. When playing games that require you to know your partner well, these two win just about every time against the other matches at the Enterprise site! However, Little Sister Maggie's mom Magali sees an even bigger payoff for her daughter, "Maggie is more open and

outgoing. She wants to do more activities and try new things. Cymantha gives extra attention, helps her with reading and brings out Maggie's creative side."

Little Sister Maggie was in 1st grade when she was matched with Cymantha. She is now a 5th grader and Cymantha has seen many positive changes in her Little Sister and their friendship. She shared, "Our bond has definitely grown and grown stronger. I see her strengths and vulnerabilities more now and we can discuss them. We can talk about issues she is facing at school that we may not have a year ago." Cymantha has also been an integral partner in improving Little Sister Maggie's reading skills. They spend 15 minutes of each weekly visit reading. Cymantha also makes herself available for extra time during the visit if Maggie needs help with additional schoolwork.

Big Sister Cymantha says she highly encourages others to get involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Site-Based program. She shared, "I love it and it is one of the most rewarding two hours of my week!" For Cymantha, mentoring has also become a real family affair. Just like her daughter, when Cymantha's son Tyler was old enough to participate, he became a Big Brother at the site!

Maggie counts on seeing her Big Sister week to week and making special memories. She explained, "Cymantha and I share the same birthday month. We make each other gifts. I really think we will be friends even when I am older." Big Sister Cymantha agrees they have a special relationship. She treasures a key chain given to her by her Little Sister that simply reads "best friend". It seems pretty clear that Big Sister Cymantha and Little Sister Maggie will have many more years of special memories to make!!





In Memoriam of our Founder

Robert F. Moss

July 27, 1952 - August 14, 2010

“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.”

Excerpts from the **Buffalo News** online **Legacy.com Guest Book**

As a Big Sister for 4 years, I am grateful for the organization that Mr. Moss created here in Erie County and for all he has done for the youth of our area. He always had a kind word to say to my little sister and I. He will be greatly missed.

~Laura Roberts

We all had the privilege to work with Bob in the Big Brothers Bowlathon. He was a very great person who we'll never forget. He was a great man, the world needs more people just like him.

~The Voelker Family and Staff

Bob was my Big Brother and I couldn't have asked for a better one. His loss is really hitting me hard because I thought he would always just be a call away. It is said you don't know what you have until you lose it. I always knew what I had with Bob and I loved him very much for it.

~Arthur H. McClure

Bob was simply put a class act. The REAL deal... he will be missed. My prayers are with his family.

~Scott Levin, WGRZ-TV

Bob was a great man and a friend. He was and will continue to be an inspiration to those working in the youth services field. His belief in mentoring those in need and what it stood for- hope, peace, stability, and education- is a legacy that will never fade and will be continued for years to come. Bob will be missed, but his mission will continue. We were fortunate to have his big heart in our community.

~David Rust, Director Erie County Youth Bureau

Please know the respect and love that Bob has left behind will last long into the future. His efforts will live on in every child that Be-A-Friend has touched and every staff member he has trained to care about kids. I treasure his memory and will miss him deeply.

~Sylvia Nadler, Executive Director Compass House

We have lost a champion for children and a voice for Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring across the great state of New York. His words, commitment, and vision will help us continue our journey. He carried his love for his wife and family in his heart and in his word, as he committed a life to others.

~Nancy Kosloski, BBBS of Orange County

Bob was the first person to give me an interview out of college. I will always be grateful for him giving me my first job in social work and the subsequent three years at Big Brothers Big Sisters and how it helped me learn and grow.

~Aaron Rosenbaum

Bob has been a friend and mentor to me during all the years I have been with Compeer. His devotion to both family and community was obvious to everyone. He will be sadly missed and the indelible impact that he made on the lives of thousands of people, youth and adults, will not be forgotten.

~Michelle Brown, Executive Director Compeer

Bob Moss was and will always be remembered as a great man. A man who would always give the most sensible answer to your question, a man who always made you feel like you belonged, a man who would go out of his way to be there for you in your time of need. I believe Bob truly cared for every person he ever met. He has touched a lot of souls. I will forever miss you friend.

~John Carey

The BBBS program has been a wonderful part of my life. About 15 years ago I had the rewarding opportunity of being a volunteer Big Sister. 6 years following I was blessed to be a part of the BBBS staff as an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer. And just last year, my daughter was then blessed with the opportunity to have a Big Sister through the program. The BBBS program & Bob have touched so many lives, including ours. I am very grateful. Bob was truly a wonderful person & inspiration to me in my own professional work with youth.

~Melissa Frawley



Bowling, Baseball and Birdies

Big Brothers Big Sisters hosted three fundraising events throughout the spring and summer, *Bowl for Kids' Sake*, *Night at the Ballpark* and *Fore the Children Golf Tournament*. A BIG thank you to all those who came out and supported these events! Through your support, Big Brothers Big Sisters raised over \$73,000, which enabled us to match over 50 children on our waiting list with a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Special thanks to our event sponsors: the Buffalo Bisons, Capital Management, PCB Piezotronics, Sahlens, Try-It Distributing, University of Pittsburg at Bradford, Wal-Mart and West Herr.

The waiting list of children looking for a Big Brother or Big Sister grows every month. For nearly 40 years, with the support of generous donors and event sponsors, our Founder and CEO, Robert F. Moss, worked tirelessly to move nearly 7,000 children off a "waiting list" and into a meaningful relationship with someone who would listen to stories about their day, provide guidance regarding difficult decisions and help them with their homework.

If you would like to help us to provide more children with a positive adult mentor and continue our Founder, Bob Moss' life work, please use the enclosed donation envelope. We appreciate your support and the children on our waiting list are in need of your generosity!



tid-bit

by Nicole Labby, Volunteer Recruitment Specialist



Little Brother Johnny and his Big Brother Jim Tretter enjoying hot chocolate at the Harvest Festival.

I have always loved the fall season and this year it was made extra special because I was able to attend the Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Harvest Festival. Our Bigs, Littles, and the BBBS staff visited Broadway Hope in Lancaster to enjoy the beautiful weather and partake in some fall festivities. Over 40 matches attended and for some, this was their first outing. What a great way for our new Littles to spend time with their new Big Brother or Big Sister!

The day was certainly a busy one. Matches played football, had their faces painted, ran sack races and roasted delicious marshmallows. Our group also went on a hike through the wilderness. With the assistance of our guide, Scott, everyone was able to enjoy the beautiful scenery, skip stones in the creek, and even catch a glimpse of some wildlife. Afterwards, the matches relaxed and enjoyed hot chocolate, cider, and snacks.

Thank you to the volunteers from Target in Orchard Park for all of their hard work and help running the games and activities. Also, a BIG thank you to Broadway Hope for providing the beautiful location to host the festival!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The following matches celebrated milestones in their friendships between July 1, 2010 and December 30, 2010.

7 Years

BS Anna Fulfaro & LS Marisa

BS Jenna Smith & LS Neena
BB Christopher Thevanesan & LB Shawn
BB Kurt VanDeMark & LB Henry
BS Jessica Wagner & LS Xenia
BS Jessica Woodrow & LS N'Deiah
BS Kimberly Worgren & LS Tatiana
BB Eric Worral & LB Isaiah

4 years

BS Aimiamia Amadasu & LB Romiro
BS Mary Beth Anstett & LS Elizabeth
BS Rebecca Hoffman & LS Christal
BS Marguerite Knowles & LS Haley
BS Rachelle Matthys & LB Dayqwan
BS Lena May & LB Jovannie
BS Laura Roberts & LS A'aliyah
BS Carrie Stevens & LS Rain
BS Rosemary Tonner & LS Misty

1 year

BB Christopher Adamczyk & LB Connor
BS Tanya Ambellan & LS Dominisha
BS Lindsay Arcese & LS Olivia
BB Joe Basile & LB Phillip
BB Anthony Caruso & LB Wasca
BS Patricia Cavalier & LS Dejahnae
BS Elizabeth Comfort & LS Kaylie
BB John Costello & LB Cody
BS Angela Detschner & LS Katelynn
BS Kristina Evtimov & LS Unique
BS Nina Fedak & LS Shivani
BS Ashley Graczyk & LS Shayla
BB Justin Haag & LB Jayvaughn
BS Lauren Hackett & LS Aria
BS Johnelle Haines & LS Makaylee
BS Ann Marie Hernandez & LS Amelia
BS Christina Jackson & LS Emerald
BB Edward Jackson & LB Demetrius
BB Jason James & LB Allan
BB Jim Litz & LB Austin
BB Marshall McCarty & LB Jayson
BB Nicholas Mendola & LB Timothy
BB Remy Miiello & LB Dante
BB Devin Piscitelli & LB Antoine
BB Jack Quinn & LB Quandrell
BB Kenneth Richmond & LB Allen
BS Jennifer Rizzo & LS Cashari
BS Preeti Sandhu & LS Hawa
BS Laurie Santiago & LS Precious
BB Paul Schmitt & LB Javier
BB Geoff Schutte & LB Daekwon
BB Jason Skalski & LB Joshua
BS Darice Sullivan & LS Danielle
BB Jason Torreano & LB Nathan
BB Peter Trzybinski & LB Jacob
BS Alyssa VanWormer & LS Aviana
BS Leah Vermont & LS Sieanna
BB Jordan Vokes & LB Justin
BB Samuel Webster & LB Carlos
BB Chris Wojcik & LB Sharif

3 Years

BS Susan Frawley & LB Joshua
BS Kriselle Gines & LS Kayla
BS Janet McMahon & LS Rahtia
BS Fatma Ramadan & LS Keishauna
BS Maureen Ronan & LS Rahbisha
BS Emily Rosenberry & LS Serena
BS Bridget Saviola & LS Desiree
BB Andrew Streit & LB Aaron
BB Michael Tritto & LB Juan
BS Cymantha Walters & LS Maggie
BB Dennis Williams & LB Shane
BB Robert Wind & LB Alex

2 years

BB Eddie Asbie III & LB Shamel
BS Amy Carroll & LS Nakhiya
BS Amanda Ciesielski & LS Christine
BS Andrea Cifonelli & LS Kayleigh
BS Christine Farrow & LS Shacrasta
BS Erin Horihan & LS Ann
BB Mudassir Hussain & LB Tajuddin
BS Angela Keppel & LS Aniyla
BB Paul Kloster & LB Anthony
BB James Mantell & LB Tyler
BS Asal Nassir & LS Elizabeth
BS Cheryl Rozanski & LS Deneilia
BS Linda Santa Maria & LS Janyia
BB Michael Sia & LB Sean



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Be-A-Friend Program
of Erie County
Big Brothers Big Sisters



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How can I help?

- I would like to arrange a speaker for my group.
- I would like to volunteer as a Big Brother or Big Sister.
- I would like to host a BBBS fundrasier at my place of employment - please tell me more.
- I'm interested in learning how to include BBBS in my estate plans.

Problems?

We'd like to make it right!
Please correct in space provided below, Thank You!

- Misspelled Name
- Wrong Address
- Received duplicate issues
- Other _____

Name: _____

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Telephone/E-mail: _____



Big Sister Rachel Caputi and Little Sister Nasha joined other Bigs & Littles in September to march in Buffalo's Puerto Rican Day Parade. This was one of several activities Big Brothers Big Sisters participated in during September as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.