



News from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties

Big News



May June 2012

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hosts 24th Annual the *Big Night* on May 18th, 2012

The new Greenview Inn at the Eastlyn Golf course is the venue for the 24th Annual THE BIG NIGHT for the benefit of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties on May 18, 2012.

The festivities will start at 6 pm with a Great BIGinnings cocktail hour, featuring select wine and food pairings with Steve Curry discussing the wines. The wine-food pairings include:

Melon Wrapped in Prosciutto Di Parma served with Sauvignon Blanc

Tomato Bruschetta over Garlic Cristini served with Chardonnay

Margarita Brick oven Pizza served with Chianti

Genoa Salami & sharp Provolone Bites with Cabernet Sauvignon

From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. guests will enjoy a buffet complete with a Salad station, Soup, Carving station, Hot and Cold hors d'oeuvres tables, and a dessert table. Wine vendors will pour a variety of wines throughout the evening for guests to enjoy.

Both the Live and the Silent auctions will feature interesting, tempting, and unique selections for bidding; Sports memorabilia, Phillies tickets, Bruce Springsteen Concert Tickets, Eagles Tickets, Broadway Tickets, wines and liquors, works of art, jewels, experience packages, and pet care packages will be offered to the highest bidder.

New this year... we will use electronic bidding for the Silent Auction! Guest will place bids at kiosks throughout the room, or use their own Smart Phone to place bids! No more going up to the table to check on or place a bid. Don't worry, for those not comfortable with electronic bidding, there will be plenty of volunteers to help!

We will offer a selection of Fixed Price, "Buy it Now" items for purchase. Also throughout the night we will sell 50-50 raffle tickets.

Tickets for this event are \$100 per person at the door, or \$85 per person if purchased before May 11. For Reservations:
www.bbbsthebignight.com

Thank you to our

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Sweet Match Cooks up Goodies for the BBBS Easter Party

For Four weeks before the April 5 Big Brother Big Sisters Easter Party, Big Sister Tina and Little Sister Ahnonda worked on making cookies, cupcakes and other treats to offer for sale.

Big Sister Tina said this was all the idea of Little Sister Ahnonda.. She had suggested a bake sale last year and the two have been making plans ever since. The goodies included rabbit shaped brownies, ice cream cone shaped cupcakes, carrot cake cup cakes and a variety of cookies.

They did have some challenges. They froze the items to keep them fresh for the event. However, Big Sister Tina's husband kept finding the cookies in the freezer!

All their efforts resulted in raising more than \$100 for Big Brothers Big Sisters! We all thank them for their efforts and tasty baked goods.

Tina and Ahnonda celebrated their 6 year match anniversary this April. Congratulations!



Big Sister Tina and Little Sister Ahnonda



Each child attending the Easter Party received a chock full Easter Basket thanks to the students at Our Lady of Mercy Academy. Many thanks to OLMA!



Just before the Easter party, Shamier found a four-leaf clover. And good luck was with her when she won the laptop computer at the Easter Party.

Here is Shamier, her face painted as a rabbit, displaying her laptop computer.

How Can I Help???

Ever wonder how you can help Big Brothers Big Sisters? Here is our wish list...

- Sponsors and in-kind donations for client activities
- Small photo albums, scrapbooking materials and cameras for matches to capture the "magic"
- Tickets to sporting events and movies for our matches
- New locations for our clothing collection bins
- More clothing in our clothing collection bins
- More TD Bank clients who elect to "Affinity" their account to BBBS of Cumberland and Salem Counties
- Help promoting BBBS at community events
- Committee members for our fund raisers
- Help with holiday decorations
- Sell car raffle tickets
- Host an event for children on our waiting list
- Invite people to attend a "Little Moments" session



Great weather was enjoyed by all at the recent Run for Aaron event. The proceeds from this race benefitted the Aaron Ploch Scholarship Fund and for the second year in a row, Big Brother Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties.

All American Car Raffle

The All American Car Raffle to Benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties is coming soon!

This year's Prize Options include: Cadillac SRX Four wheel drive, Cadillac CTS Sedan, Chevrolet Silverado, or Chevrolet Camaro. Other options are: two Chevrolet Cruzes, two Jeep Patriots, or two Harley Davidson Road Kings. The winner could select one Jeep Patriot and one Chevrolet Cruze, one Jeep Patriot and one Harley Road King or One Chevrolet Cruze and one Harley Road King.

The Raffle Winner will be drawn at the Deerfield Harvest Festival on October 10, 2012. The winner does not need to be present to win.

The purchase price of a ticket is \$100. No more than 999 tickets will be sold.



Above is a photo of 2011 Raffle winner Stasia Randanella selecting her cars at Novick Auto Mall.

Attention Bigs and Littles

We are looking for Matches to volunteer to help out at the South Jersey Tractor Pull on July 13 and the Exchange Club of Bridgeton Triathlon on July 21. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office at 856-692-091.

Do you have stories (and photos) of match activities that you would like to share? We would like to include your story in an upcoming issue of the news letter. Just send your story and photos to your case manager and then see yourself in an upcoming newsletter.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties, Board of Trustees

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Meet Board Member, Tammy Wetzel



Tammy Wetzel's relationship with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties began when she served as the Coordinator for the Cumberland County Youth

Services Advisory Council. In that position she learned a great deal about the agency and the people involved with the agency. Almost thirteen years ago, Tammy joined our Board of Directors.

As a Board Member, Tammy is the Chairperson of the "Big Night" fund raising committee each year. This is a large responsibility involving sponsors, venue representatives, food and wine selections, and most challenging, donations for the silent and live auctions. Each year, Tammy sells All American Car Raffle tickets at local events and lends her hand at other Big Brothers Big Sister functions. Many times, Tammy's mom is by her side, selling raffle tickets, handling event refreshments, or preparing mailings for the office.

Tammy is a Senior Associate at Triad Associates which is a community economic development firm. There, Tammy applies her knowledge as a Community Development Specialist, and is directly responsible for the creation of state, federal, and private community development grant funding applications. She also delivers training and seminars on successful grant writing. She was the former Empowerment Zone/Community Development Specialist at the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

In 2005 she created Yileen Press, a small independent press dedicated to printing "What Needs To Be Said." In a quest to promote undiscovered and silenced talent, Yileen Press publishes short stories, poetry and creative non-fiction narratives from all genres. The Yileen Press book, "Poets for Haiti" raised over \$9200 for Haitian Relief.

Tammy is an avid runner who serves as a Vice President for the New Jersey Road Runners Club. She tries to run at least 40 miles each week. Tammy has a goal of running a marathon in each of the 50 states. So far she has run 33 marathons in 31 different states.

In her spare time, Tammy is involved with the South Vineland Little League and the Youth Alliance. She also is a Grant Writer for Next Generation Nepal (*Next Generation Nepal preserves family unity and strengthens communities by reconnecting trafficked children with their parents*) and the Mountain Fund (*Addressing Poverty-Related Issues in Developing Mountain Cultures*), both are organizations for the benefit of the Nepalese people. Tammy has also been involved with the Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River. And she likes to exercise her artistic side working with Pastels.

Reminder for High School Seniors!

Big Brothers Big Sister of Cumberland and Salem Counties offers \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors who were either a Big or Little or whose parents/guardian is involved in the program. The award is \$500 payable to the higher education institution the recipient is attending. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salem and Cumberland Counties awarded six scholarships in 2011.

To apply for scholarship you must complete the brief application and include an essay. The essay must either describe

- How has being a Little Brother/Little Sister or a High School Big Brother/Big Sister impacted you at this time in your life, and how will you continue to use the skills and experience that you have learned to be a leader in the future?

Or

- How has your experience participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters events/activities made an impact on your life? What skills have you learned and what experiences have you had that have prepared you for your future? How will you use those skills and experiences to be a leader in the future?

If you are a senior at one of the following high schools and are interested in applying for a BBBS scholarship, please call the office at 856-692-0916 for more information:

Cumberland Regional
Vineland High School
Millville High School
Woodstown High School
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Bridgeton High School

May and June Events

| Date | Event |
|-------------|---|
| 5/6 | Spring Concert - Free at the Cumberland County Community College - 3 pm |
| 5/5 - 5/19 | Arts in Bloom in Salem County - Open artist studio tour |
| 5/18 | BIG NIGHT fundraiser |
| 5/25 | Tractor pull at the Salem County Fairgrounds |
| 5/26 | Cowtown Rodeo Opens for the Season |
| 6/2 | Appel Farm Arts and Music Festival tickets \$40 for adults, \$5 for under 12. |
| 6/2 | Youth Fishing Event and the Great Outdoors at Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge - 8 am - noon |
| 6/2 | Pennsville Township Historical Society's "Day at the Farm." A fun day for all members of the family. Artisans will demonstrate crafts and skills used by folks in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Free guided tours of The Farm House Museum (circa 1850) and museum annexes. There will be pony rides, face painting and Victorian-era childrens games. Special exhibits, presentations and displays are planned. The Church Landing Farm Museum is located on Church Landing Rd., Pennsville. Free, donations are welcomed. |
| 6/2 | Delaware River Bay Day Festival in Bivalve |
| 6/9-6/10 | Indian Pow Wow at the Salem County Fairgrounds |
| 7/2 - 7/7 | Cumberland County Fair |
| 7/12 - 8/16 | Summer Fun Series at the BBBS Office. Look for details in the mail. |

May and June Match Anniversaries

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Laura | & Amber | 5 Years | in May | Connie | & Angelic | 6 Years | in June |
| Brenda | & D'anna | 4 Years | in May | Sandra | & Aaliyah | 4 Years | in June |
| Jonathon | & Robert | 3 Years | in May | Alexandra | & Elle | 4 Years | in June |
| Lisa | & Mercedes | 3 Years | in May | Wendelin | & Janiya | 3 Years | in June |
| Karen | & Amber | 3 Years | in May | Andrew | & Dean | 3 Years | in June |
| Michelle | & Alyssa | 2 Years | in May | Gail | & Raven | 2 Years | in June |
| LaToya | & Rhehneesha | 2 Years | in May | Ashley | & Miah | 1 Years | in June |
| Michael/Shelly | & Dane | 1 Years | in May | | | | |

Congratulations to our New Matches

Nathan and Grant
 Christian and Edy
 Alyssa and Victoria
 Amiyah and Lynette
 De-Andre and John
 William and Devan
 Brooklyne and Patricia

*The dates for the upcoming Little Moments sessions are May 2 and June 6.
 Each Little Moments session starts at 12:15 and ends promptly at 1:15.
 Call 856-692-0916 to attend.*