



2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BROOKE CALDWELL

*Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Cumberland and Salem Counties*

## Big News



July August 2013

WWW.SOUTHJERSEYBIGS.ORG

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Names 6 Scholarship Winners

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties recently announced the recipients of the Big Brothers Big Sisters scholarships for the class of 2013.

Emily Pettit of Cumberland Regional High was awarded the Jerry Smith Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory of Jerry Smith, a former Big Brother.

Other scholarship winners are:

Na'jee Wilson of Vineland High School

Brooke Caldwell of Woodstown High School (pictured above)

Victoria Cannizzaro of Our Lady of Mercy Academy

Ashley DuBois of, Millville Senior High School

Steven Ortega of Bridgeton High School

Each year Big Brothers Big Sister of Cumberland and Salem Counties offers \$500 scholarships to high school seniors who were either a Big or Little or whose parent/guardian are involved in the program.

This year's scholarship recipients completed a brief application and submitted an essay describing either:

- How has being a High School Big or Little 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 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?

### BIG NIGHT BIG SUCCESS!

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Night at the Eastlyn Golf Course surpassed our goal for money raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties. **Big thanks to our BIG Night sponsors:**

**Gold Sponsor:** Falasca Mechanical

**Silver Sponsors:** Paul Perino, Jr CFP®, CRPC®, APMA<sup>SM</sup> Financial Advisor Ameriprise Financial; Capital Bank of New Jersey; and BC Processing.

### All American Car Raffle!!!

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties 2013 All American Car Raffle has begun. Purchase your tickets today or more details visit:

[www.AllAmericanCarRaffle.com](http://www.AllAmericanCarRaffle.com)

**Tickets are \$100 each** and drawing will be held October 13, 2013 at 8:15pm at the Deerfield Township Harvest Festival in Rosenhayn, NJ

**Gold Sponsor:** Falasca Mechanical

**Silver Sponsors:** Paul Perino, Jr CFP®, CRPC®, APMA<sup>SM</sup> Financial Advisor Ameriprise Financial; Novick Auto Dealers; Virtue Design

## Run For Aaron Benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters

Diane Ploch, Aaron's mother presents a check to Big Brothers Big Sisters CEO Donna Bennett and Board Member Michele Plumbo



Aaron Ploch was an active and loving young boy who passed away suddenly in 1999 at the age of 10. For the past six years the "Run for Aaron" has been held in his memory. This year's run supported the Aaron Ploch Memorial Scholarship which is awarded each year to deserving students from the Vineland area. For the third year Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties also benefitted from the Run for Aaron which donated \$8,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters with a collective total of \$21,900 since 2011.

## Spotlight Match: Toni and Diamond

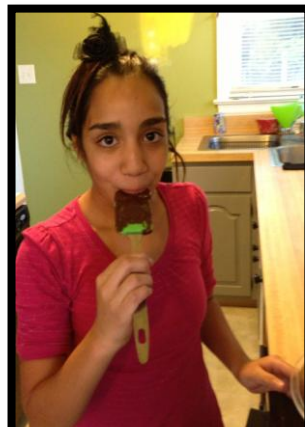
Meet community based match, Big Sister Toni and Little Sister Diamond. Diamond and Toni had a great connection from their first meeting. Big Sister Toni describes eleven year-old Diamond as a "great kid with a personality that never ends".

They get together at least once a week and enjoy baking brownies, seeing plays, visiting the zoo, bowling, and going to the movies. Diamond has even attended Zumba classes with Toni.

Toni and Diamond love being silly together. They get in the car and put the radio on and sing at the top of their lungs! Diamond has a great imagination and makes up stories to share. The pair also go to the mall and try on bunches of dresses just for fun!

Toni and Diamond attended a few Philadelphia Soul games thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Afterwards they stayed and met the players and cheerleaders!

Toni has a small photography business and Diamond loves the camera. Together they do lots of photo shoots, as seen below.



From Left to right, Toni and Diamond "goofing" in the yard, Diamond making Brownies, and Diamond at a Soul game.





## BIG (and Little) Summertime Activities

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties has BIG plans for fun activities for Bigs and Littles during this summer.

Bowling in May at Wood Lanes kicked off the summer activities. About 30 Bigs and Littles enjoyed the challenges of the game and spending time with other matches.

On July 18 matches are invited to play miniature golf at the Landis Links in Bridgeton. This activity is free to matches and waiting Littles.

On both August 11 and August 18 from 11am – 2 pm, matches and their families are invited to a free swimming party at the Dolphin Swim Club in Vineland. This includes free swimming lessons! The club will prepare food and we encourage attendees to bring covered dishes/desserts. We will have full access to the clubs facilities.

A special event for teen age girls is planned for Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fitness Connection in Vineland. "GROW" (Girls Rockin' Our World) will focus on grooming, self esteem, yoga and other concerns of our teen age Littles. This all day activity includes a special lunch with lessons in table manners

The Agency will mail out event details to Bigs and Littles. Attendees must let the agency know in advance if they plan to participate in each of the activities.



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

Cosmo Giovinazzi, IV, Board Chair

Michael Testa Jr, Vice Chair

Paul Perino, Jr., Treasurer

Shayne Bevilacqua, Secretary

Peter Capizola

William Chew

Daniel Falasca, Jr

Mark Fox

Kathleen Norton-Gallaher

Joseph Mahaffy

Priscilla McCoy

Debby Novick

Michele Plumbo

Tammy Wetzel

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salem and Cumberland Counties, Staff

Donna Bennett  
President/CEO

Solomon Wactor  
Director of Development

Valerie Farrow  
Director of Programs

Carol D'Orio  
Director of Adult School-Based  
Mentoring

Danielle Clementson  
Director of High School Mentoring

Gloria Thompson  
Director of Community-Based Mentoring

Cherell Eutz  
Administrative Assistant

Monica Rodriguez  
Intern

Melany Perez  
Intern

## Meet Board Member and Big Sister Michele Plumbo

This month we spotlight Michele Plumbo, Big Sister and Member of the Board of Directors. Michele moved from State College, PA to Vineland almost seven years ago after marrying her husband, a native of southern NJ. Michele's involvement with Big Brothers Big

Sisters began when Michele and her new husband attended The Big Night.

Since attending that first Big Night, Michele involved herself in the agency using her skills in marketing and graphic design to develop communication tools. Michele also joined The Big Night committee. She partners with the agency on all aspects of their communication tools including the new website unveiled this spring. A little more than a year ago Michele became a member of the Board of Directors.

Last summer Michele became a Big Sister to 13 year-old Danielle. Michele says it has been a real joy building a relationship with Danielle. Together, they enjoy many different activities including homework and

school projects, bike riding, volunteering at the SPCA, playing board games, cooking and baking together, and making jewelry. Recently they planted an herb garden and enjoyed a cake decorating class. This summer they plan to spend time at the pool so Danielle can learn to swim.

Michele states that "Being a mentor has been a fulfilling experience. I cherish the time Danielle and I have spent together, and I look forward to continuing our relationship for years to come."



## BIG Thanks to Dr. Tenbrook

Tenbrook Orthodontics donated free braces to Little Brother J'Quan. Dr. James Tenbrook chose J'Quan as the recipient because he wanted to give back to someone from the city of Millville. Dr Tenbrook said, "Growing up in Millville, it wasn't likely that the average kid can get braces. My mother had to get a second job in order to afford them".

J'Quan's mother, Deanna stated, "What a blessing this is. If J'Quan wasn't in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, this wouldn't have happened". J'Quan is the 3rd Little to receive braces from Dr. Tenbrook. Dr Tenbrook has eight offices located in Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties and "would like to thank the community members for supporting Tenbrook Orthodontics". Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland and Salem Counties thanks Dr. Tenbrook for his continued support of children in the community.

## ***July August Events***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
July 1 - 6	Cumberland County Fair
July 4	Celebrations in Bridgeton and Millville
Summer Sundays	Sunday Night Concert Series Bridgeton Riverfront
July 18	Miniature Golf @ Landis Links in Bridgeton
July 18	Obon (Japanese) Festival in Seabrook - Free!
July 27 and 28	Railroad Days in Cold Spring Village, Cape May
August 3	GROW (Girls Rocking Our World) @ Fitness Connection
August 6-9	Salem County Fair
August 10	Millville Car Show
August 10	Tomato Festival - Downtown Vineland
August 11 and 18	BBBS Summer Fun Picnic at Dolphin's Swim Club in Vineland
August 18	Antique Fire Apparatus Show at Wheaton Arts - Free!

### **Happy Anniversary**

<b><u>Little</u></b>	<b><u>Big</u></b>	<b><u>Years Matched</u></b>
Taylor	Katherine	4
Elijah	Dennis	4
Precious	Rachel	1
Kyra	Andrea	1
Marcus	Jonathan	1
Hailey	Lois	3
Mariah	Sandra	3
Shaquinta	Joy	5

### **New Matches**

Alexia & Cecelia  
Shanera & Diana  
Jennifer & Samantha

### **Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors**

Nyshawn Belle - Millville Senior High School/ High School Big  
Ashley DuBois - Millville Senior High School/ High School Big  
Guiliana Campos - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Samantha Robins - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Devon Donaghy - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Victoria Cannizzaro - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Kiley Fulton - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Nicole Sheridan - Our Lady of Mercy Academy High School Big  
Brooke Caldwell - Woodstown High School/High School Big  
Rebecca Richards - Woodstown High School/High School Big  
Jessica Bohn - Woodstown High School/High School Big  
Molly Makos - Woodstown High School/High School Big  
Steven Ortega - Bridgeton Senior High School/ High School Big  
Little Brother - Tayron  
Little Brother - Jarred  
Little Sister - Aaliyah