

February 2009

# The Big Picture



## A Message from Executive Director Michael A. Corriero

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## Answering the Call

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session in celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the historic inauguration of our first African-American president and his National Day of Service. The response was incredible. [Read more.](#)



## 1st Annual Table Tennis Benefit Event is a Smash Hit

On January 26th, the glass squash show court in Grand Central's Vanderbilt Hall became the location of the first-ever Tournament of Champions Pong. Sixteen teams representing the financial community competed to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. [Read more.](#)

## Save these Dates!

Join us at our exciting [upcoming events.](#)

- YPC's Big Night Out — Saturday, February 21st
- Bigs United's Black History Month Event with Kevin Powell — Monday, February 23rd

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of New York City**

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### A Message from Executive Director Michael A. Corriero

In its 105-year history, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City has survived many obstacles, persevering through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and September 11th to name just a few. As we start the new year in what many consider to be the most challenging of economic times, one thing is certain—as an enduring New York institution, BBBS of NYC will continue to work to help the city's underserved youth.



#### ***BBBS of NYC embraces change***

We've always adapted to meet the evolving needs of our community, creating specialized new mentoring programs, changing New York State law to better protect children, and harnessing the power to change lives for thousands of children, their families and volunteers. To address the challenging economic climate we will continue to change, making sound decisions that will enable us to provide the same quality services to youth in need within our community. For BBBS of NYC, change has always been a positive and powerful force. As we move forward, we know it will again strengthen our organization.

#### ***We appreciate our valued supporters***

The keys to our success are both the benevolence of our funders and the dedication of our volunteers. Whether donating their money or their time, we depend on the generosity of corporations, foundations and individuals. They empower us to change the lives of the children we serve—helping them expand their horizons, realize their potential and enrich their futures. We salute those who give back, especially during times when giving is difficult.

#### ***We need your financial support***

Each donation to BBBS of NYC is a proven investment in the future. Fully 82% of the funds we receive go directly toward the many successful mentoring programs we provide for our children, so your contributions have a real, powerful and lasting impact on the lives of NYC's youth. Now more than ever we need your financial support—you have the power to change not only a child's life, but every life that child will touch.

As we enter this new year filled with hope and change, we all must remember to lift up our heads, look beyond current economic concerns and keep our eyes on The Big Picture.

## Answering the Call

On Saturday, January 17th, BBBS of NYC hosted a special volunteer orientation session in celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the historic inauguration of our first African-American president and his National Day of Service. The response was incredible.



When the Presidential Inaugural Committee invited BBBS of NYC to participate in President-Elect Obama's call to engage Americans in community service, we immediately took action. Though unsure of the response, we developed a special volunteer orientation session.

At the event, Iris Ramirez and Danny Madden, the inspirational leaders of [Latino Bigs](#) and [Bigs United](#), our Latino and African-American volunteer groups respectively, shared their personal experiences as mentors and provided information about our passionate grass-roots volunteer groups. Attendees learned about how they can experience the Power to Change Lives by becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister to a child in need within our community. An interactive session followed so attendees could ask questions and decide if they wanted to begin the application process to become a Big, join our volunteer groups, or both.

The attendance was Big; the positive response was even Bigger. Enthusiastic men and women of all ages and ethnicities expressed their willingness to make the commitment and eagerly submitted their volunteer applications. Many stayed until well after the session had ended. Dozens more who could not attend contacted us asking to attend future sessions.

While we welcome this renewed energy, community service responsibility and spirit of volunteerism, our financial challenge has intensified. Funding is crucial for us to match the great wave of people who have answered the call with the many disadvantaged NYC children who are waiting for mentors at a time when they are needed most.

## 1st Annual Table Tennis Benefit Event is a Smash Hit

On January 26th, the glass squash show court in Grand Central's Vanderbilt Hall became the location of the first-ever Tournament of Champions Pong. Sixteen teams representing the financial community competed to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City.

The ToC Pong event was the brainchild of BBBS of NYC Board Trustee, Andrew Lipman, who considered the event a good way to attract the Wall Street community with an activity that many people enjoy. "As the event chair, it was gratifying to see participants and spec-



tators drawn into the excitement of the matches. I look forward to a larger and even more exciting event next year," Lipman comments.

Pictured from left to right are runners up Andrew Gordon and Bill Mack of Spin NY; and Tournament of Champions Pong winners Peizhen Shao and Steven Kellner of Harvest Management.

The event raised over \$26,000 to help underwrite the cost of BBBS of NYC's many mentoring programs that support youth across the city. "The first year for a new benefit is always difficult, and for the first year to be 2009 was particularly tough. However, we are so pleased that the event was still profitable right from its launch," Andrew Lipman adds. BBBS of NYC Executive Director, Michael A. Corriero, seconded that sentiment by remarking, "We're very grateful to the financial community for showing their support. A struggling economy hits non-profits especially hard, and we are so thankful to have raised much-needed funds for our programs."

Special thanks to Event Chairs Andrew Lipman, Sanjay Nayar and Bill Mack. Thanks also to John Nimick and the staff of Event Engine, as well as Ben Nisbit of AYTTO. The Table Tennis competition benefiting BBBS of NYC was part of The Tournament of Champions, the country's premier professional squash tournament.

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