

The BIG Picture



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

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES™

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June 2008



Allan Luks Honored for 18 Years of Dedication

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You're Invited!

BBBS of NYC "Race for the Kids" Kick-off Party

The fourth annual BBBS of NYC "Race for the Kids" is a day that is pivotal in Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC's efforts to raise awareness of its mentoring mission throughout the city, recruit new volunteers and raise much needed funds. Our volunteer and supporters have led the way in making "Race for the Kids" a success. To celebrate and gear up for the 2008 "Race for the Kids," BBBS of NYC is hosting a kick-off party on Wednesday, July 16th at Moore Brothers Winery, 33 East 20th Street (between Broadway & Park Avenue South) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. [Find out more.](#)





“Latino Bigs” Spread the Mentoring Message at Puerto Rican Day Festival

"Latino Bigs," is a group of current and former BBBS of NYC Big Brothers and Big Sisters dedicated to increasing the number of Latino male mentors at the agency. They recently hosted a recruitment booth at the 116th Street Festival, an event attended by more than 1 million people, a majority of whom are of Latino origin, which took place the day before the Puerto Rican Day Parade. [Click here to read more.](#)

Two Alumni Share Moving Mentoring Experiences and Credit BBBS of NYC for Valuable Training

What do an inner-city coed Catholic high school in Jersey City and an orphanage in Kigali, Rwanda have in common? Both were highlights of presentations given by two recent Mentoring Supervisor Certificate Program graduate speakers at the BBBS of NYC Center for Training 25th graduation ceremony. One speaker, a retiree who saw retirement as the next phase of her life, created a mentoring program at a high school in NJ comprised of many single parent households, and the other speaker, after a trip to Rwanda, decided to build a mentoring program for female orphans with a team of U.S. and Rwandan volunteers. [Find out more.](#)



Young Professionals Get Uncorked Wine Tasting Event Benefits BBBS of NYC

On Tuesday, June 10th, the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) hosted "**Uncorked! A Wine Tasting Party**," to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC. The event, co-chaired by YPC committee member David Sachs and Big Sister Renee Winters, took place at Barna, a popular bar/restaurant on Park Avenue South. Nearly 150 guests, including YPC committee members, "Bigs," and their friends enjoyed samples of more than 20 different wines from around the world, courtesy of Fun With Wine, and they all enjoyed music spun by DJ Mode. [Read more.](#)

♥ **Save the Date! July 9th** ♠ **9th Annual Real Estate Industry Casino Night** ♦ [More info.](#) ♣



Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City

Mentoring: making meaningful changes in the lives of today's youth.

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The BIG Picture

Allan Luks Honored for 18 Years of Dedication to BBBS of NYC

On June 16th, more than 200 people gathered at the Harmonie Club to honor Allan Luks, who has served as the agency's executive director for close to two decades. The event provided an opportunity to openly acknowledge Allan's enormous commitment to improving the lives of youth in need in New York City and his remarkable contribution to the agency's success since taking the position in 1990.

The event began with a moving tribute to Allan, delivered by Kitty Linder, the current Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC president. Big Sister Betsy Klemmer, who was named New York State's Big Sister of the Year, along with her Little Sister, Stacy, spoke about the effect of their relationship on both of their lives as an example of Allan's legacy.



There was a performance by the BBBS of NYC chorus, comprised of "Bigs," "Littles," and staff, under the leadership of Big Brother Danny Madden. A tribute book,



including letters of appreciation, photos, anecdotes, and other mementos from Allan's tenure at the agency was presented to him at the close of the evening.



Allan Luks helped make BBBS of NYC one of the country's premiere mentoring organizations. He was Crain's New York Business magazine's "Public Service Leader of the Year," and received many other awards including the national Lewis Hine award. He developed programs to meet the special needs of NYC youth,

including those affected by 9/11, teen mothers, youth with disabilities, and youth with siblings and/or parents in prison. He successfully lobbied the New York State Legislature to pass "The Safe Mentoring Act." Allan also created the BBBS Center for Training and Professional Development, in partnership with Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, which helps other city mentoring agencies develop programs based on the BBBS of NYC model.

He is the author of a book entitled "The Healing Power of Doing Good," which outlines the emotional health benefits derived by volunteers. The term he coined, "helper's high," is now found regularly in volunteer and popular literature. Although stepping down from his position, Allan will continue to serve as senior adviser, assisting the agency's new executive director, Judge Michael Corriero, with his transition.

ALL PHOTOS: FRANK ROCCO

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RSVP's will be accepted up to July 9th. The kick-off party is open to all "Race for the Kids" supporters, past and present, or to anyone who wants to learn more about this year's 4th annual event. **Join us.** Contact:

Lmccormick@bigsnyc.org.

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booth. The results were impressive, signing up 60 potential volunteers interested in moving forward in the interview process. Since the "Latino Bigs" formed in October of 2007, this dedicated group of 40 volunteers has helped to increase the number of Latino men matched with "Littles" at BBBS of NYC by 63%, through a variety of events and by reaching out to their personal network of contacts. Email mcoughlin@bigsnyc.org to find out more about "Latino Bigs." To learn more about how to become a "Big," go to the [Volunteer](#) section of our website.

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two recent Mentoring Supervisor Certificate Program graduate speakers at the BBBS of NYC Center for Training 25th graduation ceremony. One speaker, a retiree who saw retirement as the next phase of her life, created a mentoring program at a high school in NJ comprised of many single parent households, and the other speaker, after a trip to Rwanda, decided to build a

mentoring program for female orphans with a team of U.S. and Rwandan volunteers.

The Center for Training and Professional Development, in conjunction with Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service has had over 900 graduates of their Mentoring Supervisor Certificate Program (MSCP) since it started the program in 1998. As a result, over 40,000 youth have been served in mentoring programs throughout the tri-state area and beyond.



Spreading the Word, Planting the Seeds

Yvonne Bryant, this year's Alumni Speaker and a graduate of the Spring 2007 MSCP, has been a coordinator for the Mentoring Program at St. Anthony High School for the past two years on a volunteer basis. She talked about St. Anthony, an inner-city, coed high school with about 240 students—of which 50% of the families are near or below the poverty level. To date, close to 60 students have received practical and meaningful support through the efforts of

selected and accomplished adults so that each student could achieve his/her academic potential. One of Yvonne's mentees, a very introverted student, gained support and coaching from a mentor, and became more social and outgoing. As a result, he was able to successfully interview with Vanderbilt University, where he was awarded a full scholarship valued at over \$200,000. This high school senior attributed his success to the school's mentoring program and his mentor's support.

Yvonne notes "I have used what I learned during my coursework at MSCP to gain confidence in my role as a program coordinator. The BBBS training center has been such a resource for me. I observed how they train mentors and use a modified model of their training for my program.

April Riegler, is a Spring 2008 graduate of the MSCP and one of this year's class representatives. She spoke about the start-up community service program that she is responsible for in Rwanda. As a buyer for Macys.com, April is instrumental in the success of the baskets sold through the Macy's Path to Peace Basket program. April traveled to Rwanda in July 2007 to personally experience the changes taking place in that country. During that visit she visited the Rebero Orphanage in Kigali, which supports over 90 orphans, and decided to build a female mentoring program.



Working at the grass roots level and dealing with both logistical challenges and recruitment of volunteers, April is launching the first-ever Girls Mentoring Camp for one week this July, with mentors from the U.S. She credits the intensive MSCP 32-hour course for teaching her about the importance of organizational skills and the value of having volunteers feel

they are an integral part of the program.

For more information about The Center for Training and Professional Development and the MSCP, [click here](#).

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Young Professionals Get Uncorked

Wine Tasting Event Benefits BBBS of NYC

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The event had a dual focus: to raise money and to also raise awareness about the positive impact of being a mentor. Julio Diaz, a Big Brother and member of “Latino Bigs,” spoke about his experience as a mentor and the agency’s need for more male mentors, in particular. He also touched on the special bond that forms between a “Big” and a “Little,” and commented on how surprised he was that his relationship with his Little Brother has changed his life in so many positive ways. His speech compelled many guests to take home recruitment materials about various mentoring programs and activities available through BBBS of NYC. In addition, the event helped to raise close to \$10,000 to support BBBS of NYC programs.

For more information about the YPC, [click here](#).

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Save the Date! July 9th
9th Annual Real Estate Industry
Casino Night



Wednesday, July 9th
Cipriani 42nd Street
Cocktails at 6:30pm
Followed by dinner, music and gaming.
Contact Sharon Kessler
at skessler@bigsnyc.org



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