

The BIG Picture



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

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May 2008



Change of Leadership at BBBS of NYC

After decades of helping kids in the criminal and juvenile justice system, Judge Michael A. Corriero will take the reins of Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC as its new executive director, effective July 1st. Judge Corriero is recognized nationally and internationally for his work with juveniles accused of serious crimes. As a BBBS of NYC Trustee for ten years, he brings a great deal of understanding of the issues that face the organization. Allan Luks, current Executive Director of BBBS of NYC who is stepping down after 18 years at its helm, feels confident that he is leaving the organization in excellent hands. [Read more.](#)

Save the Date for the 9th Annual Real Estate Industry Casino Jazz Night

The Real Estate Industry Casino Jazz Night, one of the most festive BBBS of NYC fundraising events of the year, will take place on Wednesday, July 9 at Cipriani 42nd Street. This year's honorees are MaryAnne Gilmartin, executive vice president of Forest City Ratner Companies, and James M. Orphanides, chairman emeritus of First American Title Insurance Company of New York. The Casino Jazz Night begins with cocktails at 6:30, followed by dinner, music and gaming. [Get more info.](#)



Submit Your Videos to Our YouTube Page

BBBS of NYC has its own page on YouTube, featuring videos about the organization. Current videos on the page include news segments about the organization and coverage of special events that have been viewed thousands of times. We'd love to include videos made by our matches, especially ones showing what activities Bigs and Littles enjoy doing together. [Find out how](#) to submit your video.

BBBS of NYC Honors Mothers Across the City

On May 10, many mothers of youth participating in BBBS of NYC programs were honored at several celebrations at locations across the city. From salsa lessons in Manhattan to serenading in East New York, mothers received the recognition they deserved.

[Click here to read more.](#)



New Corporate Partnership Helps BBBS of NYC Match More Mentors With Children in Need

Ajay Chadha, President of Ignition Entertainment USA, presents a \$10,000 corporate donation to Ruth Rathblott, Associate Executive Director, BBBS of NYC, at the Teenage Zombies Launch Party in April.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City

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

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A choice that shows good judgment

Judge Corriero currently serves at the request of the New York State Chief Judge, Judith Kaye, on two state-wide commissions concerned with the development of public policy: The New York State Permanent Commission on Justice for Children and the Probation Commission Task Force. Since 1992, he has presided over Manhattan's Youth Part, a court set aside within the adult court system to deal exclusively with the cases of 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds who are charged with the most serious and violent crimes. He has been a judge since 1980, first appointed to the Criminal Court of the City of New York then to the Court of Claims of the State of New York in 1990 and assigned to the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court since 1983.

His work off the bench has reached far beyond New York. He is the author of a book entitled "*Judging Children as Children: A Proposal for a Juvenile Justice System.*" He has participated in numerous missions to other countries, consulting and lecturing on juvenile justice issues, including Sierra Leone and Israel.

During his tenure at BBBS of NYC, Mr. Luks developed a wide range of innovative mentoring programs that reflect the diversity of backgrounds, needs and experiences of New York City youth. These programs confront the complex challenges that face today's youth, from foster care and teenage pregnancy to recent immigration and loss or trauma after September 11. He is also responsible for developing the Safe Mentoring Act, the first State law in the country that sets standards for mentoring. Additionally, Mr. Luks created America's only training program for mentoring organizations: Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, together with Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, offers a semester-long training program for mentoring organizations and has trained over 600 organizations since its founding in 1998. He will remain as a senior advisor for the agency during a transition period.

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Tickets are \$1,500 per person. Last year's event raised more than \$1.7 million which went directly to supporting BBBS of NYC's mentoring programs. For more information, please contact Sharon Kessler, Associate Director of Development at (212) 994-7739 or email skessler@bigsny.org.

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together.

Create a digital video featuring your match relationship and how you spend your one-to-one time, and we will post it on the page. Submit videos to BigBrothersBigSistersNYC@gmail.com for consideration and we'll add it to our channel. To view the current compilation of BBBS of NYC-related videos, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/BBBSofNYC>. Everyone in the BBBS of NYC family should take a look!

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Honoring East New York Mothers

The BBBS East New York Family Care and Mentoring Center held its 4th annual Mother's Day Celebration Brunch at Kary's Brooklyn Café. More than 200 participants from the Center's Prevention and Mentoring programs attended the event, centered on the theme "Beating the Odds."

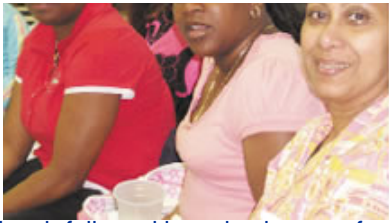


Eight phenomenal women who "beat the odds" through strength and hard work were recognized before the crowd and received roses and special gifts from the agency. Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes attended as the key note speaker, discussing domestic violence protection with the attendees. Following the lunch, the mother's and their family members were serenaded by the BBBS of NYC Chorus under the direction of Danny Madden, singing a beautiful selection, "Heros," by Jessica Jones.



Queens mothers recognized and entertained

Across the East River in Manhattan,



the youth and mothers from the Community and Special Priorities programs participated in the annual Mother's Day luncheon at BBBS of NYC's main office in Manhattan. Approximately 50 parents and children attended the event, which included

lunch followed by salsa lessons for the moms (and a few dads who also attended), while the children participated in arts and crafts activities and then presented cards they had painted to their mothers. All mothers received special "mom" mugs filled with candy, and were also eligible to participate in a raffle for additional prizes. This festive event, which has been held annually for more than ten years, is a memorable way to honor the roles the mothers play in the agency's programs and to help the children acknowledge their mothers' contributions to their lives.

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