

# Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring

# SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2023

## CLASS OF 2023



Congratulations to the class of 2023! **100%** of our high school seniors successfully graduated high school and have enrolled in college or a vocational training program. Additionally, **100%** of our youth were promoted to the next grade, **99%** of our youth showed increased self-confidence, **99%** of our youth avoided derailing behaviors, and **99%** of our parents/guardians have met or made progress towards at least one of their goals. Thanks to all of your support, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring staff continue to provide customized guidance to our Littles and families navigating the complex and competitive NYC high school and college admissions processes.

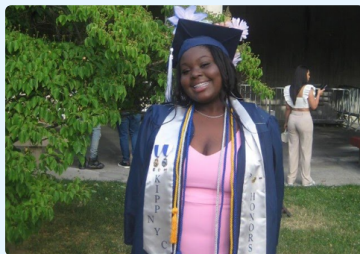
On June 28th, we hosted a virtual Academic Recognition event celebrating the 2022-2023 school year. We celebrated special milestones: Elementary school graduates, Middle School graduates, and High School graduates, of whom nearly 90% will be first-generation college students. Parents and Mentors submitted videos, written messages and photos to highlight and congratulate our Littles.



Little Sister Scandra will be attending NYU.



Little Brother Jamir will be attending Russell Sage College.



Little Sister Destiny will be attending USC.



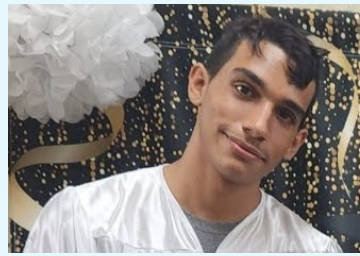
Little Sister Lucero will be attending SUNY New Paltz.



Little Sister Chelsea will be attending Dartmouth.



Little Brother Christopher will be attending a CUNY school.



Little Brother Angel successfully graduated High School and is looking into trade programs for entrepreneurship.

## INGRID KELLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our second annual Ingrid Kelly Memorial Scholarship award reception hosted by our CEO, Vidhya Kelly and her family, recognized four graduating Littles (Chelsea, Jaron, Jamir and Lucero), most of whom are first-generation college students. The scholarship provides support for college tuition, living expenses, books and meals.



Little Brother Jaron will be attending Vaughn College

Given the opportunity to reflect at this momentous milestone, impromptu, heartfelt messages from our participants filled the room with awe and emotion, and crystalized further what we know to be true -- **the impact of a quality mentoring program coupled with holistic family strengthening support is infinite, and changes each child's life trajectory and each family's legacy forever.**

We are thrilled to announce that three of our Littles who are high school juniors, Sharlene, Aqil and Jonaan, have been selected as recipients of our College Access Scholarship, each receiving funds for application expenses, and accessing ongoing support from our expert college access volunteer, Laura Manley.



Little Sister Ali will be attending University of Miami.

# W.O.W. PROGRAM

As the 2022-2023 school year came to a close, so did the sixth year of our World of Work (W.O.W.) Program; a college and career readiness program where high school students are matched with a mentor from a local company. Bigs & Littles has worked with Good Apple since the beginning and were excited to partner with JPMorgan Chase for the second year as well. Our partner companies have been integral to our ability to expose more youth to college and career readiness, using a curriculum that develops 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.



The W.O.W. Program continued to cultivate career, academic, and social-emotional skills through informative presentations, group discussions, activities, and personalized time within match pairs. After being matched with a W.O.W. Big for one year, through informative presentations, group discussions, activities, and personalized time within match pairs. After being matched with a W.O.W. Big for one year, **100% of youth served have been promoted to the next grade, all W.O.W. Littles in the program have graduated high school and gone onto college, and 100% of W.O.W. youth avoided derailing behaviors.** According to the W.O.W. Bigs & Littles survey results from 2017-2023, 100% of Bigs are glad they became a mentor and would recommend the opportunity to friends at other companies, over 90% of Littles agree that they have developed a better understanding of the workplace and how to apply to college, and 100% of Littles are glad they are in the program.



## A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

At Bigs and Littles NYC Mentoring, we are committed to supporting both short and long term success of our Littles and families by providing one-to-one mentoring and intensive support for parents.

Our highest need is for mentors 21 and over in any of these categories:

- Who speak Spanish
- Who live and/or are willing to travel to the outer boroughs.
- Who are men
- Who are interested in mentoring a parent

To learn more about how to become a Big Sister/Brother and make a difference in the lives of our Littles and families, please reach out to Kayla at [kbernstein@bigslittlesnyc.org](mailto:kbernstein@bigslittlesnyc.org)

# LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

This year we are thrilled to continue in-person programming events, ensuring our youth and families feel engaged, connected, and empowered. Group offerings aimed at developing academic, social-emotional, and health and wellness life skills and were specially tailored to respond to the needs of our constituents. As well, a special thank you to corporate partners from **IBM** and **Oliver Wyman** for lending their expertise throughout our programming events.

In June, community building was the focus for our Mentor Social, where mentors were able to meet each other, discuss how their matches have been going, and offer peer support.

In July, saving and investing for the future were the focus of our Financial Literacy event offered by corporate partner **KeyBank**, where parents/guardians and Littles/matches learned habits to improve how they utilize and save their money.

August was an especially busy month. During our Health and Wellness workshop in partnership with **Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield**, families learned about nutrition and tips for healthy eating, as well as were able to take home backpacks for the upcoming school year.

During our match outing at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, matches were able to go on a guided tour of the museum. At the end of the tour, matches had the opportunity to hear from an art conservator and fellow mentor speak about her role as well as the importance of diversity in the arts.

At Mentor Swish, matches were invited to come play pickup basketball and mingle with each other, to promote **MENToring**.

Finally, our Transition to College and Careers Program Welcome session was an orientation for Littles who recently graduated high school, ensuring that they became well-versed on the continued support and resources we offer for participating matches. Youth worked on goal-setting for next year, listened to experiences shared by fellow Littles already enrolled in college and took some time to explore the specific resources their schools have to offer.



# BIRDIES FOR BIGS & LITTLES NYC



Cheers to an incredible summer day on the greens at the gorgeous Sands Point Golf Club! Over 80 generous supporters comprising some of our most legendary golfers and the newest friends of the agency came out strong on Monday, August 14th.



Our deepest gratitude for all your support-- Special thanks to Co-Chairs Joseph Pollicino, Erin Wright, and Donald 'Trip' Sivick, as well as our Host Committee – Shamus Bartnett, Andrew Bogart, Mark Kelly, Judy Donahue Lafranchi, Joseph Lipari, Pasquale Granieri, and Brad Robins for your steadfast leadership and inspiration. To our Sponsors – JOE Fund and Raymond James– we are so appreciative for your philanthropy and look forward to future partnerships!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[BIGSLITTLESNYC.ORG](http://BIGSLITTLESNYC.ORG)



# Thank You!

**JOE fund**  
jasper olive evie

**RAYMOND JAMES**