

# **NEWS**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATION'S FIRST MENTORING ORGANIZATION HONORS NEW YORKERS FOR SERVING AS ROLE MODELS TO CITY'S YOUTH**

***Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City celebrates 'Bigs' with awards ceremony  
as part of National Mentoring Month***

**NEW YORK, January 27, 2016** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City (BBBS of NYC) tonight honored volunteer mentors during its Volunteer Recognition Ceremony as part of National Mentoring Month, celebrating their unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of at-risk youth across New York City.

“Our organization is able to change the lives of more than 5,000 boys and girls throughout the five boroughs each year because of our volunteer mentors and their tremendous dedication,” said Hector Batista, chief executive officer of BBBS of NYC. “In the spirit of National Mentoring Month, we are extremely proud to honor these individuals for their extraordinary service to our Littles, and we encourage all New Yorkers to join our mission of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed in life.”

Awards presented throughout the evening included: *Little Moments*, *Big Steps*; *Going the Extra Mile*; *Big Champion*; *Rookie of the Year*; *WMC Corporate Big of the Year*; *Big Impact*; *Hall of Fame*.

- *Little Moments, Big Steps* was awarded to Tina Mao, Rorie Norton, Pablo Velez, David Williams Jr., JP Coviello and Erik Coler.
- *Going the Extra Mile* was awarded to Natalie Hunter, Jason Smith, Theodore “Beowulf” Sheehan and James Corbett.
- *Big Champion* was awarded to Mayra Oviedo (Workplace program – Morgan Stanley), Annemarie Teutsch, Shannon Pfohl (Workplace program – Credit Suisse), Corey Scavo (Workplace program – RR Donnelley), David Ellis and Sunny Shah.
- *Rookie of the Year* was awarded to Raj Borsellino, Gabrielle Nicoletti, Ruth Morrongiello and Dale-Ann Hitzeman.
- *WMC Corporate Big of the Year* was awarded to Pamela Katkin (Workplace program – Hospital for Special Surgery), Jeffrey Gilbane (Workplace program – Deutsche Bank), and Dan Tulloch (Workplace program – TD Bank).
- *Big Impact* was awarded to Liza Lewis Thompson-Mettle (Workplace program – American Express), Darryl Reeves, Gayle de Souza (Workplace program – Goldman Sachs), and Corrine Irish.
- *The Hall of Fame* award was presented to Nyasha Ward (Workplace program – American Express).

For BBBS of NYC, this year's National Mentoring Month marks the launch of its 2016 citywide campaign to recruit volunteer mentors for the thousands of young people across New York City who are in need of caring adult role models.

Throughout the month, the nation's first and New York's largest youth mentoring organization hosted a series of ceremonies with public officials, community organizations, schools and current Big Brothers and Sisters in Staten Island, Brooklyn and Queens, celebrating the organization's continued expansion in the boroughs.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC currently serves more than 5,000 young people each year through a variety of specialized mentoring programs. Mentoring is open to adults 21 or older who reside in the five boroughs, and it is free to volunteer. To become a volunteer mentor, donate, or learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC and National Mentoring Month, please visit <http://www.bigsnyc.org/>.

Businesses interested in joining the more than 45 corporations that already have Workplace Mentoring Programs can also email [wmc@bigsnyc.org](mailto:wmc@bigsnyc.org).

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC (BBBS of NYC), the nation's first and NYC's largest youth mentoring organization, has served the changing needs of New York City's most at-risk youth since 1904. The volunteer- and donor-based organization offers a variety of specialized mentoring programs to help children facing more complex challenges – including immigrant youth, teen mothers and children of incarcerated parents – as well as the Workplace Mentoring Center, which helps businesses throughout New York City positively impact the lives of young people and build a foundation for professional success. Additionally, since 1992 BBBS of NYC has worked through its Center for Training and Professional Development to equip non-profit professionals throughout New York City to develop and enhance their own mentoring and youth-development programs and organizations.

Through the support of individuals, foundations and corporations, this not-for-profit agency has been able to change the lives of the city's most disadvantaged children, matching them with caring adult role models – dependable friends who can help to expand their horizons, realize their potential and enrich their futures. To learn more, become a mentor and/or offer support, please visit [www.bigsnyc.org](http://www.bigsnyc.org).

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