

Press



Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislature Honors Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mentoring Program Pairs Volunteers With Youth Facing Adversity

Study Shows Participants Do Better In School, Don't Abuse Drugs Or Alcohol

New City, NY (May 5, 2016) The Rockland County Legislature recognizes the efforts of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland this week during a special ceremony celebrating four participants of the program.

Big Sister Sharon Dacres and Little Sister Jael Dolly have been paired for 11 years while Big Sister Judy Davidson and Little Sister Quexli Ruballos have been paired for 9 years. Both Little Sisters are “graduating” from the program as they reach age 18.

A ceremony presided over by Legislator Nancy Low-Hogan Tuesday honored all four participants. Low-Hogan serves as the Legislative Liaison to the organization.

“This is a true example of a program that works,” Low-Hogan said. “These participants have developed loving and strong bonds that are mutually beneficial and that serve to make our county a better place for all families.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters pairs a volunteer mentor with a youth between the ages of 6 and 18 who is facing adversity. Together they share simple low-cost or no-cost outings allowing them time to get to know each other and to converse.

The relationship can have far-reaching impacts, as a study by Public/Private Ventures, a Philadelphia-based national research organization, has shown.

Youth who participate in the mentoring program do better in school and in their relationships with family and friends, and are less likely to use illegal drugs or alcohol, according to the study.

But those are just the measurable statistics.

Said Little Sister Quexli of her Big Sister Judy, “She listens to me. She understands me... She’s so strong. She gives the best advice...She’s more than a Big Sister. She’s part of my family and I love her so much.”

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