

2010 Annual Report

Start Something.



Big Sisters
of Rhode Island

Our Vision:

BSRI envisions a community where all children are valued, nurtured and safe. Enriched by a childhood filled with love, girls and boys will grow into strong, confident young adults.

Our Mission:

BSRI is committed to positively impacting the lives of girls and boys facing adversity. Our mission is to reduce each child's vulnerability and enable them to thrive emotionally, socially and academically; to help them grow into strong and confident young adults, ready to reach their full potential.

Our Values:

BSRI believes vulnerability is reduced when children are

- nurtured with friendship
- inspired by positive role models
- enriched with new experiences
- linked with community resources
- empowered to make good choices.



Dear Friends,

In 1967 a group of progressive women from Zonta International established an organization for mentoring at-risk girls in an effort to broaden the girls' world and support their potential for a positive future. Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BSRI) was born and today we celebrate the evolution of a mission which has grown to include both girls and boys, women and men. **Yes, BSRI now serves boys!**

In 2010 we implemented one of the most momentous decisions in our 43 year history! Our Board of Directors recognized an unmet need in Rhode Island and made the decision to expand our mission to include boys in need of strong male role models. The community has welcomed and embraced this expansion of services and a new era has begun at BSRI.

2010 was a year of firsts for BSRI. We received the largest one-year grant award (\$303,364) in our history for a new program entitled the Big Mentor League, which matches children who have an incarcerated parent(s) with a mentor. Funded by the Department of Health & Human Services, the Big Mentor League launched in October 2010. Special thanks to Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse for their support of our grant application.

At our 2010 Abracadabra Ball we awarded the first Legacy Award to Dorothy R. Pieniadz, Ed.D., one of the founding mothers of Big Sisters of Rhode Island. One of a handful of women who established BSRI in 1967, Dr. Pieniadz remains an avid supporter of BSRI.

In 2010 we awarded two \$1,500 scholarships, helping our Littles achieve their dream of higher education. Beverly Restivo, a mentor to Alyse since 2003, was named Big Sister of the Year. And in 2010 the Big Sisters Donation Center exceeded expectations with the most successful year to date!

Through it all, Big Sisters of Rhode Island has one simple goal: to provide a mentor for every eligible child who requests one. We are grateful to our volunteers, donors, and funders who help us achieve our mission every day. Together, we will provide a brighter future for all Rhode Island children.

Annette C. Cerilli, President
Board of Directors

Deborah Saunders, M.Ed.
Executive Director

We are pleased to report that in 2010 we supported 263 one-to-one matches, including 83 new matches.

Community-Based Mentoring

Our traditional program pairs children (girls and boys) between the ages of 7 and 15, in long-term, one-to-one relationships with adult volunteer mentors. These relationships, referred to as "matches," may formally remain in the program until the child turns 18 or graduates from high school, many of these matches last a lifetime. We encourage no- or low-cost activities that help friendships grow. Each month we offer a free activity open to all matches.

School-Based Mentoring

This program pairs high school and college students with elementary- or middle-school children (girls and boys) in need of extra academic support or personal encouragement. The pair meets once a week at the younger child's school during the academic year.

When our national organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, commissioned a study on the effectiveness of school-based mentoring, they found that it helps children develop more positive attitudes toward school, improve relationships with peers, and gain more self-confidence.

Big Mentor League

Approximately 1.5 million youths in the United States have at least one parent incarcerated in a federal or state prison. In Rhode Island, there are over 3,000 such children. In response to that need, BSRI competed for and was awarded a grant for the federal Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents initiative funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Youth and Family Services.

Our Big Mentor League program provides mentors to children aged 4 to 18 statewide who have an incarcerated parent(s).

Sue O'Neill from Warwick had been matched with Nikia age 9 from Pawtucket since January 2010. They both enjoy reading, arts and crafts, baking, and going to the zoo. They both love attending Big Sisters of Rhode Island activities. Sue helps Nikia with her school projects and has attended literacy events at Nikia's school. Nikia stated she has a blast when she goes with Sue and looks forward to each and every visit. Mom feels it is the perfect match and she could not have asked for a better Big Sister than Sue.



Heart-to-Heart and End of the School Year Party

In 2010 we once again combined our Heart-to-Heart volunteer recognition and End of the School Year Party (aka Little Sisters Graduation Party) for one of the most popular events of the year!

GTECH hosted the evening at their Providence headquarters on June 26, which coincided with the city's popular WaterFire attraction. The GTECH balcony overlooks downtown Providence, and is a prime viewing spot for WaterFire.

This event celebrates each "Little's" educational accomplishments and recognizes those graduating high school and pursuing their dream of higher education. This event also recognizes each volunteer mentor, culminating with the announcement of Big Sister of the Year.

Scholarships for Littles

In 2010, two Little Sisters applied to our Scholarship Fund and were each awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to help them achieve their dream of higher education. This was possible in large part due to the continuing support of one of Big Sisters of Rhode Island's founding mothers, Dr. Dorothy Pieniadz. Dr. Pieniadz is a true champion of The Scholarship Fund, always ensuring there is enough money to sustain the fund for years to come.

Later in the year, the two scholarship winners were also awarded a small sum of money from the Zabel Yaghjian Berg Fund, administered by the Rhode Island Foundation. Zabel Yaghjian Berg was also a founding mother of Big Sisters of Rhode Island and prior to her death established this fund to help scholarship winners with the purchase of textbooks or other needed supplies.





Big Sister of the Year

Beverly Restivo of North Kingstown was named 2010 Big Sister of the Year. Beverly has been a Big Sister to Alyse since June 25, 2003. At that time Alyse was 11 years old. Alyse's mother states "If it had not been for Bev, I don't know where my daughter would be. We were going through very rough times and I am grateful Bev was there for her and managed to help my daughter come out of her shell." Alyse states "I don't know where my life would be if she was not there to keep me from falling. If you knew of my life before, you would know how much she has made a difference." Beverly is a former teacher having taught in all three Warwick high schools (Warwick Vets, Toll Gate, and Pilgrim) until her retirement in 2002. Beverly says the best thing about being a Big is the fun she's had and the inspiration she's received from seeing the changes in her Little over the years.

Abracadabra Ball

On Saturday, April 10, over 200 guests joined Big Sisters of Rhode Island at The Biltmore Hotel in downtown Providence as five women were inducted into Big Sisters of Rhode Island's Magical Circle of People We Admire. Established in 2007, the "circle" was created to recognize, appreciate and reward the personal or professional accomplishments of people who are positive role models. The honorees in 2010 were Helena B. Foulkes, Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer, CVS Caremark, Reverend Betsy Aldrich Garland, Interim Minister of Edgewood Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Susan A. Keller, Partner, Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, Marie Langlois, Managing Director, Washington Trust Investors, and Linda H. Newton, Vice President, Community Relations, CSR & Diversity, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.



In addition, 2010 marked the establishment of our Legacy Award. Given to a woman who is a pioneer in her field, whose

volunteer or career work has impacted the lives of countless girls and women, the 2010 recipient was Rhode Island College Professor Emerita Dorothy Pieniadz, who describes education and mentoring as her lifelong passions.

The fundraiser was a tremendous success for Big Sisters of Rhode Island, netting \$66,200.

Golf Tournament

A golf tournament was held on October 4 at the Alpine Country Club in Cranston, RI. With almost 40 golfers in attendance, the event netted \$6,000.

Ann Sheely and Jamarya are a successful and active match! Ann decided to become a mentor because she has a lot to share. Ann nurtured her nieces and provided them with opportunities to explore the arts and to further their educations. After her nieces were grown, she wanted to give these opportunities to another child –hence she became a mentor. Since Ann and Jamarya have been matched, Jamarya has begun to flourish. She is happier than ever and has learned many new social skills. Jamarya is also doing well in school. Ann and Jamarya do a lot of activities together. They go to plays and museums, which are new experiences for Jamarya.



The Big Sisters Donation Center is an integral part of Big Sisters of Rhode Island. Through a combination of home pick-ups, strategically-placed clothing bins for drop-offs, and targeted corporate and community clothing drives, the Big Sisters Donation Center creates a sustained source of revenue for Big Sisters of Rhode Island.

As a valued partner of the Savers Corporation, we are committed to grow and build our organization in response to meet the increasing demand for gently-used clothing and household goods, as well as furniture. Needed items include all types of clothing as well as household linens and decorative items. Any types of small appliances, utensils, toys, sporting goods, shoes, books, etc., are welcome. We also accept donations of furniture. Small items can be picked up as part of our daily runs, and large items can be picked up, on a limited basis, with prior arrangement.



Donations made to BSRI actually help the community in two ways - first and foremost, it supports our mentoring programs; second, through our partnership with Savers the donations we collect are available to the general community at very reasonable prices in the upscale Savers stores. This helps people (especially in this economy) who need to shop at that price point to provide for their families.

Donations are solicited through our call center as well as postcard mailing campaigns throughout the year, and from the placement of donation bins throughout the state. Donors may also drop their donations off at our office or directly to the Community Donation Centers at any of the local Savers stores.

Following are the collection figures for 2010:

Cloth: 3,874,619 pounds

Misc.: 1,160,228 pounds

Total: 5,034,847 pounds
(A record setting year for us!)

Furniture: 5,835 pieces

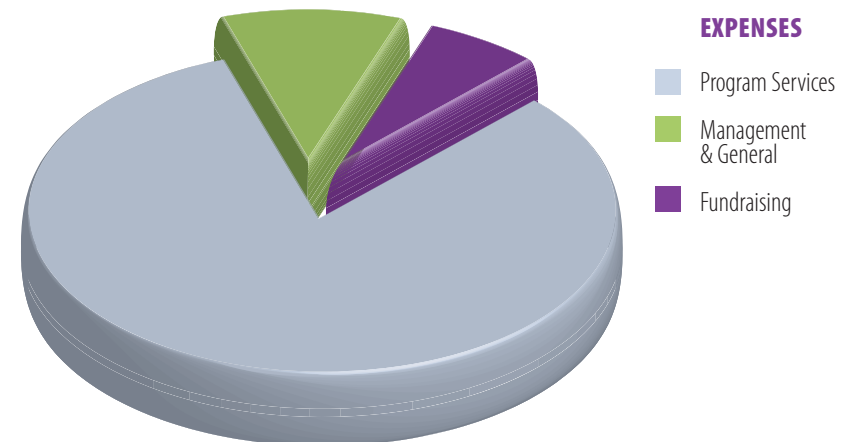
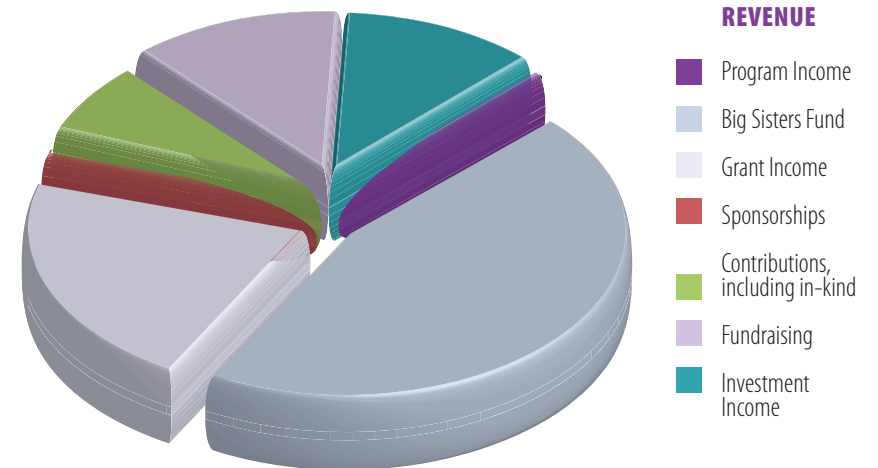
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Rebecca Berta	Elizabeth Dennen	Mary Kay	Rita Nerney	Christine Smith
Nikolai Blinow	Brittany DeOliveira	Kara Kelly	Kimberly Niedzinski	MaryBeth Smith
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Revenues & Expenses

REVENUE	DECEMBER 31, 2010		DECEMBER 31, 2009	
Program Income	\$2,278	0.37%	\$12,451	1.90%
BIG SISTERS FUND	281,110	45.23%	289,770	44.15%
Grant Income	135,411	21.79%	74,458	11.35%
Sponsorships	6,900	1.11%	61,335	9.35%
Contributions, including in-kind	45,617	7.34%	52,705	8.03%
Fundraising, net of related expenses	78,229	12.59%	66,272	10.10%
Investment Income (including unrealized gains and losses)	71,944	11.57%	99,305	15.12%
Total Revenue	\$621,489	100.00%	\$656,296	100.00%

EXPENSES	DECEMBER 31, 2010		DECEMBER 31, 2009	
Program Services	429,809	82.58%	474,941	74.11%
Management & General	55,839	10.73%	122,062	19.05%
Fundraising	34,822	6.69%	43,862	6.84%
Total Expenses	520,470	100.00%	640,865	100.00%

Financial Profile



2010 Donors

The Big Magic Leadership Circle was established in 2005 as a way of recognizing donors and funders able to offer gifts totaling \$1,000 or more during the calendar year. Whether through a single gift, grant sponsorship, or a combination of event tickets, auction purchase, or any other contributions throughout the year, our Big Magic Leadership Circle donors are indeed helping to make "Big Magic" for the children in our program. For their belief in our work as demonstrated by their philanthropic leadership, we convey our deepest gratitude.

2010 BIG MAGIC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Lifetime Members

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Dorothy Pieniadz

Visionaries \$25,000+

Department of Health & Human Services
Rhode Island Justice Commission

Miracle Makers \$10,000 - \$24,999

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Every week Delaine and her Little Sister Alexis are going to try to do something nice for someone, without the person knowing. Sometimes they will do it together, and sometimes on their own. One weekend, they left quarters already part-way turned in all the gumball machines at their local pizza place for the next lucky kid (or adult) that comes along. Their big project right now is starting a fund with donations from local businesses to help kids who struggle to afford school lunches. They have learned of kids who don't qualify for state assistance but who are still in need. Little Sister Alexis is also very involved in sports and Delaine attends as many games as possible to cheer her on. Also in attendance are the Little's two loving Dads. The Little's Dads acknowledged that their daughter was getting older and would need female guidance especially during her teenage years. Together, Delaine and the parents work as a team to provide the Little with structured activities and new experiences to increase community involvement, self-esteem and social awareness.



Big Sisters
of Rhode Island
Start Something.

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