



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, & Union Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentee Honored by Governor Murphy

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties celebrates a Little Sister as she is honored by the Governor during Women's History Month.

Princeton, NJ. March 28, 2023. In celebration of Women's History Month, Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy hosted an event honoring three New Jersey women leaders which was emceed by Secretary of State Tahesha Way. One of the honorees, Caridad Gaetan, is a Little Sister (mentee) in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties mentoring program.

Caridad has been a Little Sister for over six years and was a nominee for Little Sister of the Year in 2022. Now a sophomore at Liberty High School in Jersey City, she has shown her dedication to her community through her role as Vice President of the school's Freshman Student Government Association and as a youth leader at her church.

"Caridad Gaetan has demonstrated a sincere dedication to serving others and exceptional leadership capabilities beyond her years," said Governor Murphy. "It is an honor to formally recognize Caridad's accomplishments and I look forward to seeing what comes next in her bright future. We hope that her story can serve as an example to the girls and young women of New Jersey that their futures here are limitless."

With an aptitude for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics), her elementary school robotics team landed in the top 10 of her school district. She attended STEAM programming at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and was the only "Little" of her class to complete the Computer TIA program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is so wonderful to see young women in our program shine and be recognized for their accomplishments. We are so proud of Caridad and honored to share this momentous occasion with her," said Carlos Lejniaks, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties. "Caridad is an amazing example of the power of our youth. We can't wait to see what her future holds."

The commitment to be a Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor is only 4 hours per month, but the impact lasts a lifetime. As a mentor in our program, you will ignite the potential in youth in our communities, like Caridad, and provide a child with the support to have a voice and choice in their future. [Become a Big today!](#)



For information on supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties, or to become a mentor, please get in touch with Heather.Keller@bigsandkids.org, or visit www.bigsandkids.org.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, & Union Counties, NJ

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, & Union Counties, NJ, creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth and is a credible social justice organization embedded in our community. Founded in 2008, the local affiliate is a nationally recognized leader for its public-private partnerships and delivery of a culturally responsive continuum of services rooted in each youth's one-to-one mentoring relationship with an adult volunteer. Local agency youth achieve an average four-year high school graduation rate of 96%, 20 percentage points higher than the communities it serves. An affiliate of the national organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties has served over 4,500 youth since its inception in 2008. Learn more at <http://www.BigsandKids.org> or follow the local agency on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter.