

Howdy Folks!

I hope y'all had a great December and you are ready to gear up for a NEW YEAR!!!

If you made some resolutions for this month – we are here for you!

1. Be a better human being. You got this – you are a Big! You are making a difference in your Little's life all the time (THANK YOU!!!!)
2. SAVE MONEY --- Lots of FREE outings in this Bulletin! Free College Basketball game, free lunch and free campus tour, FREE BOOK FAIR (free books & coats), FREE Cooking Classes, Free Yoga Class, Free SHOWS!
3. Learn Something New --- COOKING CLASSES, Go to a concert at the CSO or Harris Theater (free and NEW)
4. Teach your Little LIFE Skills like making a vision board (no better time than JANUARY)
<https://www.powerofpositivity.com/how-to-make-a-vision-board/> [Sign up Here!](#)
5. Make new connections –Join the BBBSCHI Bigs Slack Channel – SO MANY GREAT IDEAS!!!! [Sign up Here!](#) Join Bigs at the BLC HAPPY HOUR is January 18th!

In 2024, I am moving on and will be working with the Lake County team to grow the BBBS footprint in Lake County. **Lake County Bigs --- give me your input!! What do we need to do?**

Taking over for me to Gigi Delaney – she is fantastic and a true believer in the BBBS Mission – you're going to LOVE her! And for all you newsletter haters – hit her up – she may change the format!!!!

Please take a look at all the opportunities & REACH OUT and SIGN UP!!!!

NEWS FROM THE BLC!!!!

Bigs Happy Hour Meet Ups – November's Happy Hour:

The Social Committee will plan Bigs Happy Hours on the 3rd week of every month!

Thursday, January 18th, 2023 at 6:30 PM: Logan Square

Location: Roundhouse, 2535 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

[RSVP Here](#)

*Please note, this event is not sponsored by BBBS and the Bigs are responsible for the cost of

the event.

Please check the [BBBSChi BLC Calendar \(google.com\)](#) for the latest and greatest details

BLC Match Meet Up (Register Now!)

Saturday, January 13th, 2023 from 11:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Ice Skating at Maggie Daley Park followed by Lunch at Giordano's

[RSVP via Eventbrite Here](#) *Note - Bigs are responsible for making their reservation at Maggie Daley Park & for the cost of skate rentals (\$20+tax). Bring your own skates is FREE for the 11:00am session, but you'll still need a reservation! **The link to reserve at Maggie Daley is [HERE!](#)** We're asking you to please RSVP via Eventbrite, too so we know how many Bigs/Matches to expect.

Lunch at Giordano's (1:30pm) --> [RSVP Here](#)

PLEASE REPLY TO this email (or slack Dawn) for FREE tickets to these great shows!

FAMILY UNIVERSITY INTRO to the FAFSA

Event Timing: Tuesday, January 9th 6-7:30

Speaker: Eric Lopez and John Branham Get Schooled

For Parents, Guardians, Littles and Bigs!

Eric & John will share what your Little needs to do to get the FAFSA done & get \$\$ for college. Sign up [here](#) for the Zoom Link

January 13th UIC FLAMES v Bradley Braves

Basketball Game 1PM

Pre-Game College Campus Tour and fun activities supervised by College Athletes!

Lunch and Game Tickets are included!

Parking and CTA tickets will also be provided!

Taking your High School or Middle School Little on a tour of a College Campus is a GIFT to them. Help them start seeing themselves as potential college kids. Help them see what college looks like!!!

**RSVP to Dawn for a SPOT --- PLEASE JUMP ON THIS!
MARTIN LUTHER KING BOOK FAIR!**

January 15th 11-3pm

SECOND ANNUAL

EVERYTHING IS FREE Book Fair

130 South Jefferson, Suite 200, Chicago, IL

This is your chance to get FREE books and see our NEW OFFICE!

Sign up [here](#)

FAFSA ADVISING APPOINTMENTS

The team at Get Schooled with help you decipher your FAFSA!

January 17th between 5 and 7 – sign up for a time slot!

Sign up [here](#)

January 21st 11:30-1:30

Cookie Decorating Class

The Brown Cow Ice Cream Parlor

(7347 Madison St, Forest Park, IL 60130)

Limited to 15 matches

Email Gigi to Register delaney@bbbschgo.org

JANUARY 26th 6-8 pm

Schoolhouse Kitchen Cooking Class

Schoolhouse Kitchen + Studio **Portage Park**

(4410 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60630)

Learn to make Calzones and Sugar Cookies

Email Gigi to Register! delaney@bbbschgo.org

February 4th 2:30-3:30

Aerial Yoga

Air Aerial Fitness

2217 N Clybourn Ave (Lincoln Park)

Email Gigi to register delaney@bbbschgo.org

February 3rd 1:00-3:00

CPR TRAINING!

Rush Hospital, 600 S. Paulina, Chicago, 60612, 7th floor, Rm 743

Both you & your Little will get certified

American Heart Association

LITTLES 12+

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Family Concert - Carnival of Animals

Saturday February 1th 11:00 or 12:45

Orchestra Hall

220 S. Michigan Ave.

Email Gigi to Register

[CSO Schedule - request other shows!](#)

Chicago's Sky Deck For FREE (\$75 Value)

233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606:

- tickets based on availability.
- Monday through Thursday (9AM-10PM)
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday (9 to 12 PM)
- Sunset hours will not be available (6:30-7:30)
- Book by Emailing Andres ACarino@theskydeck.com

- (312.875.9449)

<https://theskydeck.com/>

The Color Factory FREE (\$120 Value)

233 South Wacker Drive, Lower Level 2

- Tickets based on availability
- Sunday through Thursday (10 AM-7PM)
- Friday & Saturday (9AM – 8 PM)
- Book by Emailing John Connors jconnors@colorfactory.co. (801 231 1112)
- Include BBBS in subject line

Text if Urgent

Sneakerhead University

133 S State St

BBBSCHI DISCOUNT CODE: TeamBig

Any design workshop (non BYOB)

Adult: 54.99 (was 89.99)

Child: 49.99 (was 84.99)

This base fee covers our instructor fee and materials that will be used during the customization! We look forward to creating with you!

<https://shuexperience.com/>

Centered Clay Collective 800 Devon Ave #10 Park Ridge, IL is offering BBBS matches a discount to try Clay creating! They have a family clay time - Includes mid-fire stoneware clay, tools, and instruction on hand-building the project of the week. Fun for all ages, best for 6+. They are offering two for the price of one (\$20).

<https://centeredclaycollective.com/> Call Emily @ 312-952-7183 to make a reservation!

HARRIS THEATER for music and dance

[Upcoming Events](#)

Please pick out a show!

Email steffen@bbbschgo.org for tickets for ANY event!

Brooklyn Boulders - discount

100 S Morgan St, Chicago, IL 60607

<https://brooklynboulders.com/chicago/>

\$15/person pass which includes gear rental and climbing

Use code: BBBS30

[Parent Waiver Required](#)

BIGS HELPING BIGS – Recommended by other Bigs:

- **Joe Hall Dancers & Company:** <https://www.joelhall.org/community>
 - Classes are for kids 12-80, they are drop ins & scholarships are available.
 - Please call Joe for details – Littles are FREE for participating matches!
 - Thursdays: Ballet from 5-6:30 | Jazz from 6:30-7:30
 - Saturday: Jazz from 3:30-4:30.
- [SANDBOX VR](#)

DID YOU KNOW that BBBSChi has two grants funded by our donors that are designed to enhance your match experience. Once you've been matched for greater than six months, start thinking about these and reach out to your MSS to plan!

- **Match Enrichment Fund (MEF)** – This is a fund to enrich your little and/or your match. If there is an enriching activity that you would like to try – this can help you fund that desire. Think classes, performances, events [MEF Details and Application Here](#)
- **The Akesh Experience** – This is a memorial fund reserved for transformational experiences. These experiences are the type that you and your little will be talking about for a long while and they require some dreaming and what ifs? Perfect for Matchiversaries and Birthdays!! [Akesh Details and application here](#)

Great creative and submit some fun things to do!

YOUTH ENRICHMENT, EMPLOYMENT & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES for your Little

Please encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING BREAK ACTIVITY for girls & nonbinary: FUTURE FOUNDERS STARTUP SPRING BREAK 2024 Powered by Google. Join middle schoolers from across Chicago for a FREE weeklong bootcamp to learn about entrepreneurship, meet female founders making an impact, and collaborate to create business ideas. All program participants receive a \$100 gift card of their choice.
<https://future-founders.lpages.co/startup-spring-break-2024/>

[Chicago Youth Service Corps](#) Jobs for Youth 16-24

[JOBS for TEENS!](#)

If your Little is a FEMALE 10th or 11th Grader – AMAZING Summer Opportunity: [2023 Academy Locations · Exelon Foundation STEM Academy \(exelonstemacademy.org\)](#)

[Lifeguard Explorers!](#) Earn \$300 and get ready to have a GREAT JOB next summer!

[After School Matters](#) It's not too late to sign up – paid awesome activities for kids 14+ who attend a CPS school

[Party Per Purpose Teen Center](#) 3932 S California Free Therapy, Free Classes

[After School Writers Workshop Grade 1 - 8 Apply Here](#) Burst Into Books' Headquarters (11001 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60628). Students will meet twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) from 3:30 pm to 6 pm. One hour will be dedicated to homework and 1.5 hours for the workshops. All participants will be developing their writings to become published authors!

[South Side Youth Support](#)

SUMMER INTERNSHIP: [Bank of America Student Leaders®](#) for Juniors and

Seniors. This is an 8-week paid internship at a local nonprofit/charitable organization and a week-long Student Leaders Summit in Washington, DC (July 22-27, 2024), Expenses are paid. **Applications are due January 17th, 2024!**

[Updated-December-2023-Teen-Newsletter.pdf \(bbbschgo.org\)](#) If you have a Middle or High

School aged Little – this Newsletter is AMAZING!!!!

THINGS TO DO:

FREE Every Wednesday Night: Adler at Night Every Wednesday, the Adler stays open late from 4pm-10pm so that folks can visit after work or school. And best of all, admission is free on those nights for Illinois residents.

<https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/event/adler-at-night/>

[OPEN BOOKS PILSEN - Free kids books!](#)

We are not the only ones seeing the amazing thing you are doing!

Please take this opportunity to take the Laugh Factory up on Free tickets (and celebrate National Mentoring Month!!!

Laugh Factory x Big Brothers, Big Sisters - Complimentary Tickets

The promo code is for whoever wants to use it! Big and Littles older than 18 are welcome as well as the Bigs to invite friends and fellow Bigs.

The promo code BIGBROTHER is good for any non-special event show, but if you have a date in mind to coordinate an outing for the Bigs Leadership Council feel free to reach back out! I can reserve a section for you all to sit together :)

Dawn Steffen

Regional Director, Lake County

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago

She | Her | Hers

Cell: 312.625.2690

Our NEW Lake County Office!

1801 N Sheridan Road, North Chicago, IL 60657

bbbschgo.org

EIN: 36-2681212