

# The Big News

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast

Summer 2010

### STILETTOS TO SOIREES: Events with BIG purpose!

Excerpts from  
**Foster's Daily Democrat**  
Written by: **Roni Reino**  
August 21, 2010

With the competition hot on her 3-inch heels, waitress Kendelle Chandler won the first ever Big Brothers Big Sisters Stiletto Race.

Lined up in their tallest, brightest and craziest heels, 47 runners had given it their all to win top prizes while

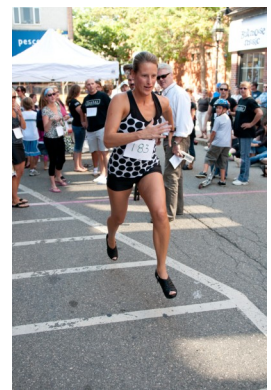
running up Chestnut Street to the finish line. The Friday event promoted Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast. About 200 spectators were lining the street while some poked their heads out of office windows to see high-flying heels head up the street.

"It was a great turnout," Board Member Bob Dell Isola said. "There was a lot

of good fun competition."

Many thanks to our racers and fabulous volunteers! Congratulations to 1st Place Finisher, Kendelle Chandler!

To read this article in its entirety and to watch highlights from the race, visit the "NEWS" section of our website: [www.tinyurl.com/bbbsgs](http://www.tinyurl.com/bbbsgs)



Above: Kessie Tomlinson  
Photo courtesy of Bill Christo

## THE 3 LITTLE SOIREES

100  
PERCENT  
OF ALL  
DONATIONS  
BENEFIT  
BBBS  
OF THE  
GREATER  
SEACOAST  
OF NH



### The Sky is the Limit

September 25th, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.  
Hosts: Alan & Sharon Weston, New Castle

### Harvest of Stars

October 15th, 6:00—11:00 p.m.  
Hosts: Bob & Nin Dell Isola, Newington

### Rock 'n Roll 60's

October 23rd, 7:00—11:00 p.m.  
Hosts: Dana De Niro & Tom Moulton, Rye

Choose from any of these three fabulous Little Soirees. Or you can attend all three Little Soirees by purchasing our PARTY PASS. Wine raffle tickets are also on sale for \$20 each or six for \$100. Three chances to win 5 cases of wine!

For more information contact Briana at 603-430-1140 x 308

### STATISTICS WE'RE PROUD OF!

- ★ We have more active matches than any other agency in NH or Maine: 321.
- ★ We served more than 420 children last year and have already served 392 children this year so far.
- ★ We have the highest match support contact rate of any agency in NH or Maine and the third highest in the Northeast!
- ★ Alumni of Big Brothers Big Sisters are 75% more likely to have received a 4-year college degree.
- ★ 52% say that their Big kept them from dropping out of school
- ★ 74% say their relationship with their Big helped them make better choices in childhood.
- ★ We are an independent 501(c)3 and as such we raise all of our budget locally to support local children.

## The Big News

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast is to provide successful mentoring relationships for children who need them, promoting a brighter future, better schools and stronger communities.

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## A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT, FRANK EASTON What a Summer!!



As I've done previously in this space, I'd like to look back & take stock of what we accomplished over the last few months. As everyone connected with Big Brothers Big Sisters across this great nation of ours knows, our mission is to serve children at risk. At Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast, we have taken the challenge from our national organization to serve more kids & serve them better.

What does that mean? We have more active open matches than any other agency in NH or Maine!! Even more importantly, experience has taught us that the longer a Little is matched with a positive adult role model, the greater the benefits of the match. Here in the Seacoast, the average length of our Community Based matches = 29.2 months vs. the National average = 23.2 months & the average length of our School Based matches = 19.8 months vs. the national average = 12.4 months. Our Match Support Completion rate (check in calls to matches completed on time) = 89%, which is the highest for all of New Hampshire & Maine. These results are clearly above average when compared to other similar agencies & demonstrate the strength & dedication of our staff. More importantly, they signal that we are doing a better job of serving the children at risk here in the Seacoast. And that is what we strive for.

Summer is a special time of the year for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast. Besides bringing us some of the best weather that I can ever remember, it was a time of hard work & accomplishment. The summer unofficially started with the Bowl For Kids' Sake fund raiser. And what an amazing event it was!! People from throughout our area came together to raise money to support our mission while enjoying our "Bowl For Kids Sake Goes Hollywood" theme. We then moved into June when we wrapped up yet another successful fiscal year for the agency. It was a year of challenges & accomplishments. While there are ever present concerns for the many who have lost jobs & homes in this economy, I urge all of our supporters, volunteers, staff & BoD members to stop for a moment & accept my sincere thanks. In spite of the challenges of the

economy, you have raised the money necessary & served more kids ... & served them better. And that is what we're all about.

As we faced the end of one fiscal year, along came the beginning of a new fiscal year ... with new challenges & opportunities. We began by organizing & planning for our fall events starting with the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Stiletto Race. For anyone who may not have heard about it, we organized a new event ... a race wearing stiletto high heeled shoes. It was an idea born out of a brainstorming discussion ... and ended up as a race in 2" or higher heels. One of the most often repeated refrains I've heard about the Stiletto Race, is that people are already looking forward to next year's race.

Now, as I sit here writing this message, many people around our community are working hard on our upcoming Fall Fund Raisers: The 3 Little Soiree's ... which will be held in Rye, Portsmouth & Newington on September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Last year was an amazing success for this new completely underwritten series of events & we are very excited about them. If you would like tickets to one or all of the events, please call the agency office—100% of your ticket price goes directly to the agency.

All in all, it has been a summer to remember. I can't tell you how proud & grateful I am ... of our donors ... our staff ... & our volunteers. You truly have made a difference.

This is also a time to look ahead ... to the challenges that we face ... as a community ... & as an agency. While we have enjoyed many successes over the last year, we need to continue our hard work. We are always in need of more volunteer Bigs to work with kids at risk. We're always in need of volunteers to work on the BoD or fund raising events. And the only way we are going to be able to continue to serve children at risk in the seacoast, is if more donors step up. Without all of these people, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the successes of this past summer.

Thank you,

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer 2010

Dear Friends,

Children are resilient. They are optimistic. They view the world differently from how adults do. Children embody the hope of a better, more just world.

*We here at Big Brothers Big Sisters count on the resiliency, optimism and open-mindedness of children and we believe passionately that they deserve every opportunity to be all that they were meant to be.*

The children we serve come from all walks of life, all ethnicities, all family structures. Each has his or her own personality, interests and hopes for the future. The one thing they all have in common is a desire for a mentor—a big brother or sister who will be their friend—who will see them as they are and truly believe in their potential. I believe the biggest gift we can give children is the gift of being “seen.”

*Our desire for the children we serve is to provide another perspective, another friend, another ballast – someone who truly “sees” the child they mentor.*

We do this by hiring the best staff possible to train, match and support the volunteers who serve as mentors. In this issue, we have a section devoted to the staff members who diligently work to do all they can to provide the best possible service for our children and youth, their parents and our “Bigs.” It is not always easy...there are emergencies, children behaving like children, volunteers who need more help understanding the capabilities or needs of the child they are mentoring, parents who don't return our phone calls for monthly check-ins...but it is rewarding...the child who says they had the best time of their life with their “big” on Saturday, the volunteer who thinks their “little” is an awesome kid, and the parent who is so grateful to the volunteer and the agency because she can see how delighted her child is after getting a phone call or a visit from his or her “big.”

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Seacoast “little” by “little” we are changing lives and positively influencing the futures of hundreds of children each year...and we are so grateful to all those who help us in our mission. We know times are tight.

We are doing all we can to keep costs down: working with generous members of our community for donations, purchasing only what we absolutely need, utilizing volunteers whenever possible and keeping our fundraising costs and administrative costs to a minimum by holding “The 3 Little Soirees” instead of one big fancy expensive dinner auction. We hope that you will help us perform our mission by purchasing tickets to at least one of these awesome parties and/or purchasing tickets for our annual wine raffle. The proceeds from this fall event comprise ¼ of our annual budget and in these times, that is absolutely essential! So, please support us this fall by attending a party...we guarantee you'll have a great time and for a great cause!

Thank you for all you do for the children we serve,



## SPONSOR CENTRAL



**THE 3 LITTLE SOIREEES**

**S P O N S O R S**

**Platinum Partner:**



**AUGER BUILDING COMPANY, INC.**

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**DEMAND MORE THAN SUPPLY**

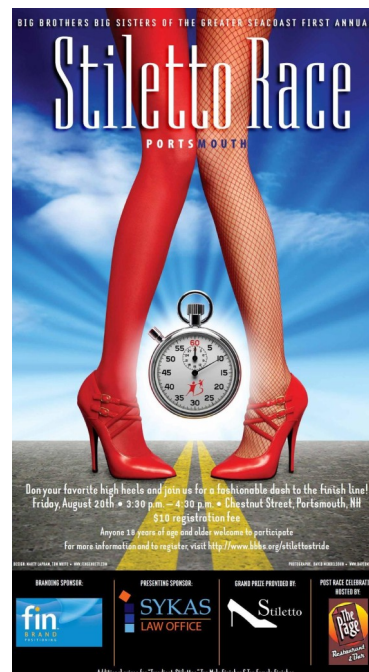
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To become an event sponsor, contact Briana Marshall at [briana.marshall@bbbs.org](mailto:briana.marshall@bbbs.org) or 603-430-1140 x 308



**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER SEACOAST FIRST ANNUAL**

# Stiletto Race

PORTSMOUTH

Don your favorite high heels and join us for a fashionable dash to the finish line!  
Friday, August 20th • 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Chestnut Street, Portsmouth, NH  
\$10 registration fee  
Anyone 18 years of age and older welcome to participate!  
For more information and to register, visit <http://www.bbbs.org/stilettostride>

**BRANDING SPONSOR:** fin  
**PRESENTING SPONSOR:** SYKAS LAW OFFICE  
**GRAND PULL PROVIDED BY:** Stiletto  
**POST RACE COLLECTOR:** The Page

Additional prizes for "Tiniest Stiletto", Top Male Volunteer & Top Female Volunteer.

### Additional thanks to our Stiletto Race Donors:

- Bagel Basket • Bill Christo
- Clear Channel • The Duda Spa
- Flower Kiosk • foobar
- John Pappas • Kim Egonis
- The Ledges • Lee & Jill Horgan
- Loft • Me & Ollie's • Mizuna
- Neil & Helen Garvey
- Private Label
- Portsmouth Beauty School
- Portsmouth Spa
- Ruby's Bar • Timberline Signs
- Wingate Salon • WXGR

**Special thanks to:**  
Chase Bailey

# A BIG Thank You to Our 4th Quarter Donors\*

## \$5,000+

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## \$2,500-\$4,999

BAE Systems  
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## \$1,000-\$2,499

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\*The above are donations received between  
April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010

For a complete listing of donors under \$100,  
please visit our website.

## WHY I ENJOY WORKING AT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER SEACOAST

♦“I have been given much in life and BBBS enables me to share in the hope, opportunity, and sense of future that positive mentoring can provide to children in the program.” ~Joan Barretto, Program Director

♦“I enjoy the ability to help people in my community and create life-long friendships between children and mentors.” ~Lauren Bradshaw, Enrollment Specialist

♦“I enjoy working with our compassionate and generous community of volunteers and donors who make our mission so magical.” ~Briana Marshall, Development & Marketing Associate

♦“I love talking with the kids in our program.”~Anna Remillard, School Support Specialist

♦“Working at BBBS is part of my life because I have a strong passion for helping people form relationships and solve problems.” ~Christine Thiel, Match Support Specialist

♦“I like my position because there is a strong sense of community within our office, and I love hearing positive feedback within our own community of our work making a positive influence for the youth we serve.” ~Matt Wadlinger, Match Support Specialist

♦“I love my job because of the committed staff with whom I work and the incredible long term outcomes of one-to-one mentoring using the Big Brothers Big Sisters model.”  
~Tawnee Walling, Executive Director



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[www.nhseacoastbigbrothersbigsisters.org](http://www.nhseacoastbigbrothersbigsisters.org)