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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

BIG SISTERS OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN
AREA, INC.

BIG SISTERS

OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA, INC.

file: file

January 19, 1993

ELI SEGAL
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

I would like to extend to you a very Happy New Year and a Welcome to Washington, from Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc. I hope this new term for you in the White House proves to be fruitful, with the promised changes the new Democratic administration brings.

The Clinton White House will historically be identified as the first time a new generation will be in the seat of power for the country. According to the popular press, "The Baby Boomers" are now in charge ! At long last the generation that has stood in the wings watching government, will now have the opportunity to govern. The country has been longing for a change, and the vote which placed President Clinton and Vice-President Gore in the White House was resounding proof.

Expectations are high and the task at hand is large; but we are confident that to the best of your ability and that of the country success will prevail. This White House will function as a beacon for the country. Bright young people will be attracted to government service in larger numbers than in the past. Many talented people throughout our country will emulate your efforts and strive to serve our government.

As you begin this term women and women's organization support and applaud you for your tireless effort in getting to this place. We respect the tremendous amount of effort it took to get to The Clinton White House and the importance of the viewpoint which you bring. We are respectful of the place you hold in advising and shaping decisions of today which will be the history of tomorrow. We are hopeful that the legislation and the decisions which are made in this administration will have a more humanistic slant than in previous years.

A Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America Affiliate

4000 Albemarle Street, N.W. Suite 303 Washington, DC 20016 202/244-1012



"A United Way Member Agency"

It is important that we support organizations and agencies that provide mentorship and role models for young girls, girls who may one day want to serve in The White House. Many girls at risk seldom reach their full potential without a mentor.

The mission of Big Sisters is providing adult women who offer understanding, mentoring and positive influences in one-to-one relationships with young girls ages 6 to 18.

In these difficult times it is always good to have a kind friend in government. With your support we can continue to strive for excellence and commitment to the community of young girls which we serve.

Enclosed we are sending you an information packet on Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc. Please take a few minutes to read and review. As an achiever, you understand the importance of role models. What chances do our young girls have without vision and goals?

We would like to add your name to our mailing list so that you can be informed of future events we are planning. Or if you wish us to contact a representatives in your office please indicate on the return form.

Your involvement as part of the Clinton White House will surely enhance the efforts of Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc. as we continue to serve girls who are in need of positive role models.

We would sincerely be grateful for any support you and or your office may offer in helping us carrying out the mission of the agency.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of our agency and wishing you success in your governmental endeavors.

Sincerely,



Edna Lee Long-Green
Executive Director

BIG SISTERS



"A United Way Member Agency"

OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA, INC.

Edna Lee Long-Green
Executive Director

A Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America Affiliate
4000 Allensmarke Street, N.W. Suite 303
Washington, DC 20016
202/244-1012

CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION SHEET

Big Sisters wants to know if you have any areas of expertise that may be able to help us help others! If you are interested in donating your time and expertise to the agency, check off the appropriate line below and send to:

Big Sisters of Washington Metropolitan Area
4000 Albemarle Street NW Suite 303
Washington, DC 20019
202 244-1012

- _____ General Assistance (compiling information packets for Big and Little Sisters and Volunteers etc.)
- _____ Grant Research
- _____ Support for Fund Raising Events
- _____ Volunteer to help at Special Events
- _____ Speaker for Special Seminars, Workshops, Classes involving Little Sisters
- _____ Other (recommendations of areas for assistance)

FOR MAILING LIST:

CONGRESS PERSON NAME _____

STATE REPRESENTED _____ DISTRICT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

OFFICE PHONE AREA CODE _____

CONTACT PERSON IF DIFFERENT THAN CONGRESS PERSON

NAME _____

TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

OFFICE PHONE AREA CODE _____

HOME PHONE AREA CODE _____



BIG SISTERS

Of The Washington
Metropolitan Area, Inc.



Join us!

For more information contact:

Big Sisters
4000 Albemarle Street, N.W.
Suite 303
Washington, D.C. 20016
(202) 244-1012

Who Are We?

Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area is a non-profit service organization that matches girls and adult women in one-on-one relationships. For over thirty years, we have based our service on the premise that a one-to-one friendship with an adult can provide the support a child needs to grow and mature in a positive way.

Who Do We Serve?

Many children in the Washington Metropolitan area are growing up without adequate adult support — many of them in single-parent households. Their socio-economic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds are varied, but their needs are the same. To grow into healthy, productive members of the community with good social skills and self-esteem, these children need additional adult companionship, guidance, and understanding.

Parenting is a tough job in today's society. In the absence of an extended family, a big sister can provide an additional adult role model to help a little sister grow to adulthood.



What Is Our Service?

Big Sisters matches up friends — one adult to one child who needs stability and companionship. A commitment of 4 hours weekly is made by each volunteer to this one-to-one relationship, for a minimum of one year.

Though the friendship is informal, it is backed up by a professionally staffed agency. Tremendous care goes into the recruitment, screening, and matching process that makes it work.

Once a match is made, goals are set and regular contacts are maintained between the parent, child, volunteer, and caseworker. Emphasis is placed on producing positive inner and outer changes in the child, including a strengthened sense of self-worth and improved relationships and performance at home, at school, and in the community.

As with any experience, there may be problems along the way, but the volunteer is never left to cope alone. Trained staff are there to help.



Who Are Little Sisters?

- Girls from six to eighteen years old who need the time and attention of another caring adult in their lives to cope with the pressures of growing up.
- Girls from all ethnic groups, economic conditions and local communities.
- Girls who need a big sister to be their role model, friend, and confidante.
- Girls who are willing to be involved in the program for one year.

Who Are Big Sisters?

- Women over twenty-one years old, single or married, interested in developing a one-on-one relationship with little sisters who need their help.
- Women from all ethnic groups, economic conditions and local communities.
- Women who are willing to give freely of their time to a little sister for a minimum of one year.
- Women who live in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- Women who are able to listen to a little sister and help her make sound life choices.
- Women who can help a little sister learn to overcome failures.
- Women who suggest alternatives and share in the joy of achievement.

A Record Of Success

For over thirty years, one-to-one friendships between big and little sisters have helped many children through the most challenging and crucial time of their lives. Our experience indicates that it is a highly effective means for preventing juvenile delinquency and emotional problems, and preparing children for adulthood.

How Can You Help?

- By becoming a member of Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.
- By volunteering to become a big sister.
- By planning and participating in Big Sisters activities.
- By applying to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- By contributing money, goods, or services.
- By helping us to seek individual and corporate financial support from companies, organizations, colleagues, friends, and community groups.
- By designating Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area in your United Way/United Black Fund or Combined Federal Campaign contribution.
- By arranging memorial giving.



BIG SISTERS

Of The Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (home) _____ (office) _____

Membership Dues:

- ☐ \$ 35 Regular Member
☐ \$ 50 Sustaining Member
☐ \$100 Sponsor
☐ \$200 Patron
☐ _____ Other

(check one)

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

No. _____ EXP. DATE _____

☐ American Express

No. _____ EXP. DATE _____

Make checks payable to Big Sisters. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Members of Big Sisters receive the newsletter and notification of Big Sisters events.

Return to:

Big Sisters
 4000 Albemarle Street, N.W.
 Suite 303
 Washington, D.C. 20016
 (202) 244-1012

HISTORICAL RESUME

OF BIG SISTERS OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

The history of Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area (BSWMA) is filled with joys, disappointments and accomplishments. The idea was seeded in 1956 when a group of women met with representatives of churches in the Washington area and discussed the need to form a program for matching women and girls in special relationships. From this meeting, needy girls were matched with volunteers referred by community churches. The organization incorporated as Big Sisters of the District of Columbia in 1958. However, in 1976 the Articles of Incorporation were amended to change the name to Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

In the late 1960's, students from Federal City College, now the University of the District of Columbia, assisted in developing the program concept as a class project. A planning board was formed, but the program waned due to lack of sufficient staff and a clearly defined framework. The decision to establish a Board of Directors was made in the fall of 1974.

The Public Welfare Foundation awarded the first grant consisting of \$5,000 in January, 1976. The Board hired an executive director to begin to formulate a paid staff to provide services to the waiting list of 40 referred girls and 75 interested women. In the Spring of 1976, the Redskins Foundation awarded a grant of \$3,000 to employ a part-time program coordinator to begin home visits with the increasing number of girls referred from schools, churches, detention centers and desperate parents in troubled homes.

The program was truly a grassroots organization, utilizing volunteers at every level--Board, staff, big sisters and council members. As the reputation grew, funding was received from the Meyer and Strong Foundations, IBM, Xerox and United Airlines. With the inception of CETA funding in 1977, the staff strengthened and the caseload grew to 300 active matches, and BSWMA became a full member agency of United Way. Unfortunately, in 1979 Big Sisters suffered severe cutbacks in CETA funding, and the staff decreased from 15 to 5.

With new board direction and staff, the organization has made significant recovery and will continue to blossom for the purpose of providing friendship to girls in need of guidance through one-to-one relationships with trained women volunteers.

II. HISTORY OF BIG SISTERS OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

Big Sisters is a nonprofit, nonsectarian agency that was incorporated in 1958. It was initially run completely by volunteers, but the continuing increase in demand for the agency's services led to the formalization of Big Sisters as a social service agency in 1976. We have continued to grow and now served over 160 girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Big Sisters is founded on the belief that one-to-one relationships can be a major positive influence on the life of a child. Big Sisters matches adult female volunteers with young girls between the ages of 6 and 18 who are in need of the special guidance, friendship, and affection that only a big sisters can provide.

Little Sisters come from differing culture, economic conditions, family and life styles, and of course have different problems. The one common bond between all little sisters is that they lack the resources they need to deal with their world effectively. The Big Sisters "match" can open up new life options, improve self-esteem, help to keep the Little Sisters off the street and out of trouble.

Big Sisters is affiliated with the national Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, which is headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Locally, Big Sisters has been a respected youth services agency since the mid 1950's, maintaining a unique position in the community as the only mentoring program working with an exclusively female population.

The Symbol Says It All.



You've seen this symbol around—at health agencies, day care facilities, neighborhood centers and, of course, on all United Way posters and publications.

But did you know the symbol's very simple, yet universal, message?



At the bottom is a helping hand. The hand symbolizes the services and programs supported by the United Way that in turn support the people in our community.



The image in the center, based on the universal symbol of mankind, is cradled by the helping hand. It shows that all people are supported and uplifted by United Way efforts.



And a rainbow springs from the helping hand, representing the hope of a better life possible through the United Way.

In these simple figures is the sum total of the United Way philosophy—to promote voluntarism and to support voluntary organizations in their efforts to provide a better life for us all.

Big Sisters

December/January
1992-93

Express-ions

WELCOME CONGRATULATIONS

by Elaine Borne-Heath

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Mrs. Edna Lee Long Green as the new Executive Director of Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area. Edna has ushered in a new era for the agency. She comes with excellent management, organizational and human relations skills. To date, Edna has organized the staff, decorated the office and managed the directors first board meeting.

Mrs. Long Green has made the transition from business to the non-profit sector with flying colors. In her previous life, Edna was responsible for securing and managing major contracts from the D.C. government. Additionally, she was involved in charting the course for a national public service organization. Her considerable talents will be a big asset as she moves Big Sisters into the mainstream of the helping community.

Edna has pledged to position the agency by making it a presence in the metropolitan area, enhancing the coffers through grants and donations, increasing the matches between Big and Little Sisters and providing insightful, innovative programming.

The Board of Directors salutes Edna Lee Long Green and is confident that she will orchestrate a new beginning and a promising future.

WHAT'S NEW? NEW NEWS

The Big Sisters Expressions

Hi! My name is Jackie Silver and I am the new editor of the Big Sisters Newsletter. I work for myself out of my home and I do Marketing, Production, and Public Relations for a variety of businesses and individuals.

I am hoping to use some of my skills to make the newsletter easy to read and fun for everyone. What I need is your help. If you are interested in becoming a writer or just want to write for fun, send your writings, games, puzzles and jokes for publication to:

Jackie Silver
TSC & Associates
5430-F Lynx Lane Suite 122
Columbia, MD 21044
301/596-6859

Now's your chance to shine in the limelight and to tell me what you'd like to see!

Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.

4000 Albemarle Street, N.W. Suite 303

Washington, D.C. 20016

202/244-1012

*Affiliate Agency of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America
A United Way Agency*

FUNDRAISING FUN

Let's start with a recap of the 4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT held on Wednesday October 21st at the Tantallon Port America Golf Country Club. It seems it was once again a success. "There was a good turn out and it was a great day" says Stella Gomez, "It was fun for all."

As times remain tough, Big Sisters continued excitement carries into some of the upcoming events. We hope many of you will join in the fun while raising much needed funds for Big Sisters.

The JUST DOODLE IT fundraiser is set for March 10th. See the article featured in this newsletter for more information about the event and how you can help make it a success.

Other events are in the works. Included is the popular MONTE CARLO NIGHT, which is always lots of fun for everyone.

The fundraising committee is vital to Big Sisters. We are always looking for new people and ideas to help meet our goals! Please feel free to call Lorenda Gordon, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, at 301/249-8917, to join our efforts.

JUST DOODLE IT...

...BE PART OF A "FIRST" IN DC

By Karen Reed

Big Sisters volunteers are busy working on the first-ever DOODLE EXHIBIT/AUCTION in Washington, DC to be held on March 10, 1993 at the Columbus Club in Union Station. This important fundraiser will feature a wine-tasting reception with an exhibit and auction of celebrity doodles.

Response to this event is very enthusiastic. We already have doodles from such celebrities as musician Quincy Jones, American Bandstand leader Dick Clark, Democratic Committee Chairman Ron Brown, TV Personality Willard Scott, and quarterback Boomer Esiason.

In order to make this event the huge success that is its potential, we still need more volunteers, especially in the areas of corporate sponsors, matting and framing, press, and marketing/ticket sales. If you can help us in any of these areas or are just willing to lend a general helping hand, please call the Big Sisters office at 202/244-1012.

Tell your friends about this special event and see if you can enlist their help too. Volunteering to work on Big Sisters events not only is a great cause but is an opportunity to meet new friends and develop valuable work skills.

Help us meet the Challenge!

BIG SISTERS VIDEO WE NEED YOU!!

by Trish Moreis

As many of you know, we have been working on a video to promote awareness of the Big Sister's Organization. Once completed, the video will be used at Big Sister orientations, as well as local cable channels as a public service announcement.

Unfortunately, the project has not gone as smoothly as we had hoped and we have begun working with a new production company to get the video back on the right track.

The good news is, the production company that we are currently working with is well known in the area for the high quality work that they produce.

We are really excited about continuing with this project. BUT, we still NEED YOUR HELP! Many of you have expressed an interest in working on this project but were not able to take part due to scheduling conflicts. Now is your chance to do it again.

We need Big & Little Sisters to participate in a variety of ways. We need some of you to speak on camera, while others will be taped during typical Big & Little Sister activities.

Whether you previously volunteered or want to get involved now, please call Trish Moreis and leave a message at 703/528-1471

A DEDICATION

Dedicated to Ms. Tina Conner from her Big Sister Kristine Witherow

Oh little one, You are so precious! You are so special! The way you smile,
Warms me to my inner core. To watch you grow and mature, to become
a young woman, Is a delight!

I watch how you struggle, to assert your independence, but yet are afraid
of that very independence. You want it so desperately, and yet it frightens
you. Don't be frightened. It'll be O.K. I'm here.

I'll always be here, so go and explore, challenge your limits. It's O.K. I'm
still here. Allow yourself to grow. Challenge yourself, your mind. If you
need me, I'm here.

It's O.K. Go and explore. Just remember, you'll always have my love.

Use it when you need it, when you need strength, more strength than you
yourself can master. Use mine. That's why I've given it to you. It is my
gift to you. Use it, draw on it. It will help you, when you don't feel as if
you can bear to go on.

It is my special gift to you. I want you to have it, but you must reach out
for it! If you don't, it will wither away! But if you do reach out for it, it will
offer you unlimited strength and reassurance.

Oh little one, you are so special! Please take care of my special gift to you
and it will take care of you.

AROUND TOWN

There's so much to do in the Washington area it's hard to decide what to do.
There's museums, the Tree lighting ceremony during the holiday season,
dances, plays and more. Here are a few ideas for you and your little sisters
to get you started in your planning:

The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery:

From tours to a book-signing, there's lots to do, call 202/357-3232 for more information.

The Dance Place:

Song and dance for all ages with free admission for children. Call 202/269-1600 for dates and times.

River & Trail Outfitters:

Day trips to a weekend of skiing are always fun. Call (301)695-5177 for details.

WOMEN IN HISTORY

No, you didn't miss it! The Women in History theatrical event has been rescheduled to February 27, 1993. So, there's still time to sign up your little sister to perform on stage as her favorite woman in history. Look for more details in the mail soon, and at the Holiday Party. Of course you can always call Betty Wilkins at 202/882-7619 if you have any questions.

COUNCIL NEWS

By Marcia Gustafson

With 1993 just around the corner, the Steering Committee is trying a new approach. We have developed a schedule of activities that begins in February with "Women in History" and ends in December with a Holiday Party. Each month in-between has a designated event. Some elaborate, some mundane, but all planned for fun and fellowship.

The Steering Committee can use your help in making the activities successful. Our hope is that you will choose to volunteer to serve on the coordinating committee for one or more of the events. For each event, we have at least one designated lead person who will get things going. That lead person will need assistance though. The amount of the assistance will depend on the nature of the event, so different time and energy commitments are possible.

The eleven activities officially on the calendar are: "Women in History," bowling, Bethesda Cinema, roller skating, Annapolis swim party, Wild World, putt putt, picnic, fashion show, scavenger hunt, and the holiday party. Leaf peeping and camping may be added. We had loads more ideas, and you probably do too. Knowing our own limitations, we decided to keep the number at one event per month, but would be happy to augment the schedule if anyone of you would like to take the lead for an activity of your choice.

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Veronica Bennett
Thelma Brown
Kendra Burczuch
Angela Butler
Tina Conners
Katrina Cooper
Tricia Fung
Shayla Jackson
Theresa Jeffcoat
Ebony Jones
Kim Long
Devina Oliver
Naimah Sharieff
Heather Stancik
Nakita Sweeney
Jakia Turner
Sharon Willis

JANUARY

Kimberly Abusakran
Laura Boaz
Misty Brady
Kenya Douglas
Selina Ford
Lakia Harris
Melinda Harris
Tiffany Johnson
Tyesha Jones
Kim Lefcowitz
Sophia Matulas
Nicole Noel
Latoya Pinkney
Chenevia Saunders
Chimurenga Shia

ANNIVERSARIES

Tyesha Jones/Annette Harris - 12/88
Chenevia Saunders/Katrina Norfleet - 12/89
Angela Sedoti-Benton/Stephanie Murphy - 12/91
Aubrey Geddes/Michelle Harris - 12/91
Ashley McGoings/Irene Langweil - 12/91
Angela Butler/Denise Morelli - 1/90
Shannell Agnew/Yvette Mozie - 1/92
Jennifer Sherrod/Elizabeth Callahan 1/86
Jamie Aukamp-Feltmon/Laura Williams - 12/90
Kelly Henson/Ellen Felvey - 12/89
Abby Plotkin/Laura Goldberg - 12/89
Tabatha Shinault/Marion McCann - 12/91
Thelma Brown/Diane Depallo - 12/91
Farrah Cook/Marcia Calhoun - 1/91
Ericka Cullen/Pam Dragovich - 1/89
Josh Cullen/Caroline Cook - 1/6/90
Connie Herrera/Natalie Richards - 1/91
Kim Long/Jennifer Rossmere - 1/89
Kim Smeltzer/Lesta Anderson - 1/91
Latoya Pinkney/Catherine Whiteside - 12/91
Nicole Noel/Judy Smith - 12/90

Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area
4000 Albermarle Street, N.W. Suite 303
Washington, D.C. 20016

BIG SISTERS OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA, INC.
4000 ALBEMARLE STREET, NW SUITE 303
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016
(202) 244-1012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIST

NAME

1. Edythe Poole/President (202) 393-5600 [W]
2. Greta Mitchell/Internal VP
3. Karen Reid/External VP
4. Sheila Conley/Treasurer
5. Michelle Bussie/Secretary
6. Carol Seifert/Personnel Chair
7. Judith Andrews/Public Relations
8. Tamara Brown/Comm. Dvlp. Chair
9. Marcia Gustafson/Prog. Planning Eval.
10. Helen Kinard/Prog. Planning Eval.
11. Doreen Thompson/Memebrrship Chair
12. Joy Terrell/Nominations Chair
13. Janice Edwards/Steering Council Rep.
14. Clara Apodaca
15. Lorenda F. Gordon
16. Elaine B. Heath
17. Lajuan Johnson
18. Mordechai Lebenberg
19. Norma Mapp
20. Jacquelin B. Moore
21. Nan Siemer
22. Edna L. Long-Green /Executive Director (202) 244-1012 [W]



BIG SISTERS

of the Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following steps are requirements for acceptance into the Big Sisters Program.

- ☐ Orientation
- ☐ Application
- ☐ References (3)
- ☐ Personality Profile Test
- ☐ Police Clearance
- ☐ Driving Record
- ☐ Proof of Car Insurance
- ☐ Personal Interview
- ☐ Big Sister Training

REMEMBER!!!!...Being a Big Sister involves a one year commitment to the program. If you are unable to commit for one year, please consider becoming a Kindred Sister.

Forward all completed paperwork to the Big Sisters office at 4000 Albemarle St. N.W., Washington, DC 20016. If you have questions, feel free to call us on (202) 244-1012.

AFFILIATED AGENCY
BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA

"KINDRED SISTERS" are volunteers who are not matched Big Sisters but whose work supports the Big Sister Agency and the matches.

KINDRED SISTER - INTEREST SURVEY

NAME _____

HOME
ADDRESS _____

HOME
PHONE _____

****please star where you
prefer to be called****

WORK
PHONE _____

AREAS OF INTEREST: (Please check as many or as few as you'd like.)

___ Art/Graphics

___ Speakers Bureau

___ Writing

___ Fundraising Events

___ Activities

___ Desktop Publishing

___ Mailing

___ Public Relations

___ Grant Research

___ Administrative/Office

___ Other areas of interest: _____

Are you ever available during the business day for activities?
If so, when?

Preferred time commitment (Hours per week or month; preferred days, etc.)

Questions:

BIG SISTERS OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA, INC.
"GIVE THE GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE"
AMERICAN EXPRESS GIFT CHEQUES
1992 HOLIDAY PROMOTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT EDNA L. LONG-GREEN
202 244-1012

Washington (December 3, 1992)-This holiday season, American Express Gift Cheque is supporting Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.

The event was held in the Woodward and Lothrop Department store. RIDDICK BOWE, the heavyweight champion of the world and his wife JUDY joined the Big Sisters in helping the special little sisters shop for the morning.

Mrs. JUDY BOWE will be the Special Big Sister for the day to KATRINA COOPER of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The other Little Sisters who are participating in the program are: TIZQUANZETTA ADAMS AND RHONDA PROCTOR of DC, and CRYSTAL KUCBEL of Virginia, and KEYANA SOMMERS of Capitol Heights Maryland.

The Little Sisters will be escorted by their Big Sisters and Staff of Big Sisters, as they go throughout the department store to do their holiday shopping.

Each Little Sister received \$100.00 in gift cheques from American Express, the idea was to allow them the opportunity to shop for family, friends, and loved ones for the holiday.

Big Sisters is happy to be a beneficiary of the American Express Gift Cheque promotion. This will enable us to reach additional volunteers, who may want to assist us in our mission.

FACTS ABOUT BIG SISTERS

Big Sisters of the Washington Metropolitan Area is a non-profit agency founded in 1958 on the belief that a one-to-one relationship with an adult woman can benefit girls by opening up new life options, improving self-esteem and social skills, and by providing different methods of solving problems.

Little sisters represent differing cultures, economic conditions, and family and life styles. The one common bond between all little sisters is that they lack the resources they need to be able to deal with their world effectively. Little sisters are from 6 to 18 years of age and must commit to the program for one year.

Big sister volunteers represent as many different cultures and interests as the little sisters. Big sisters must be 21 years of age, live in the Washington Metropolitan area (including Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland), be able to commit to the program for a year, and be able to see the little sister once a week for 4 hours.

Application Process for Little Sisters

Each little sister who enters our program goes through an application process and a home interview. The little sister's parent or guardian participates in both steps of the process. From the interview the caseworker assesses the child's interests, strengths, and needs, and determines what strengths and skills will be needed by the appropriate big sister volunteer. Little sisters are referred to our program by parents, school teachers and guidance counselors, social service agencies, and by the little sisters themselves.

Application Process for Big Sisters

- o The first step for a big sister applicant is to attend an orientation to learn about the program and the type of commitment involved. Applications and reference forms are handed out at the orientation.
- o Next, big sister applicants must provide the Big Sisters caseworker with her background information such as a completed application, three personal references, her police record, and a copy of her driving record if the applicant is a licensed driver.
- o An interview is scheduled after all the paperwork is completed. The interview allows the caseworker to assess the strengths and interests of the volunteer. The interview is combined with or followed by a home site visit. If the applicant is accepted as a potential big sister she is assigned to a training class.
- o Training is designed to prepare the big sister volunteer for the kinds of problems she will face in the relationship. She looks at her own value system, the needs and problems of young girls, and methods of communication and problem solving.

The Big and Little Sister Relationship

The big sister and little sister relationship is an individual one. Each match is free to participate in whatever activities interest them the most. It is through these shared activities and experiences that the big sister provides the caring and trust needed to help a young girl grow into a mature, responsible adult.

Staff Support During the Match

A caseworker will work with the big and little sister to set goals to work on during the relationship such as improved school work, increased self-esteem and social skills, and a positive change in attitude.

The relationship is supervised by a caseworker during the match to help the big and little sister work out difficulties or communication problems with each other or family members. The caseworker makes periodic contacts by phone with the big sister, the little sister, and the little sister's parent or guardian.