

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC's MENTORING CHILDREN OF PROMISE PROGRAM

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City (BBBS of NYC) has been changing the lives of New York City's at-risk youth through the power of mentoring since 1904. Our mission is to provide children facing adversity in NYC with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with adults that change their lives for the better. The youth in our program are ages 7-17, from low-income, single parent households in all 5 boroughs.

About the Program

The Mentoring Children of Promise Program aims to help families by matching youth that have an incarcerated parent or family member with a fully screened and trained, volunteer mentor. Through this mentoring relationship youth are afforded the opportunity to learn resilience in the face of adversity, the importance of healthy relationships, as well as gain the support to grow to be successful young adults.

Program Goals

- Provide youth of incarcerated parents/family members with a mentor (1 adult to 1 child)
- Connect youth and families with additional community resources
- Improve youths' behavior, academic performance, relationships and self-confidence

Program Design

- Two 3 - 4 hour long, weekend outings per month for one full year
- Each match is supervised and supported by a professional BBBS of NYC Program Manager
- All youths and parents go through an application process with a member of the BBBS of NYC staff
- All volunteer mentors are screened by Master Level Social Workers (via application, interview, references, training, and criminal background checks, etc.)

Program Eligibility Requirements

- Youth must have a parent, sibling or family member (i.e. step-parent, uncle, aunt, grandparent) **currently incarcerated** in a State or Federal Prison in the United States. If the incarcerated person is anyone other than the child's mother or father, he/she had to have been living in the same home as the child at the time of his/her arrest.
- If the incarcerated person is at Rikers Island or any other city jail, or has been deported, the youth is not eligible.
- All youth must be aware of his/her parent/family member's incarceration
- Youth must be able to commit to actively participate in a mentoring relationship by meeting with his/her mentor on weekends for 3-4 hours, twice per month for one full year
- Youth who fit the criteria are encouraged to apply

To Refer a Child Contact:

Lisette Hernandez at (212)-686-2042 ext. 162 or lhernandez@bigsnyc.org



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of New York City**

THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES®