Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda

BBBS QUARTERLY

THE LATEST BIG NEWS, VIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COVER STORY: Fidelis/KBB Clean-Up

Some of our BBBS family, including Littles and their parents, teamed up with Fidelis staff and KBB employees for a coastal clean-up at Kindley Field. Around 21 participants joined in to pick up trash and collect data to help keep our island beautiful. In just two hours, we collected 13 large trash bags and various large pieces of debris. The KBB staff guided us in documenting the types of trash, from microplastics to glass bottles, and sorting them accordingly. A huge thank you to Fidelis and KBB for their support in helping Keep Bermuda Beautiful!

Gorham's Hot Dog Day

Our annual Hot Dog Day at Gorham's was, as always, a fantastic event! Our Littles truly showed up in a big way, working hard all day and serving with enthusiasm. We are so proud of them! A special thank you to Anne at Gorham's for making the children feel so welcome. Chef Chiko was on the grill serving up delicious hot dogs, while DJ Fury kept the energy high with great music. A big shout-out to Tunji and his team at BGA, as well as to Barritt's for generously sponsoring our beverages. With the support of everyone involved, the day was a tremendous success!

Amber's Wings

BBBS has partnered with Amber's Wings, an equine therapy program founded by Heidi Michelson, to make it possible for our children to participate in this incredible initiative. Amber's Wings was born out of Heidi's personal journey of grief after losing her daughter, Amber Rose, in a tragic road traffic accident. Driven by a desire to live a life of purpose, Heidi now offers innovative, evidence-based animal-assisted services that inspire hope, build confidence, and foster personal growth in youth. Through this partnership, our children enjoy visits to the stables, where they learn about horses and experience the healing power of the bond between animals and humans. This program promotes physical, emotional, and cognitive healing, and we are grateful for Heidi's ongoing support!

Blake Family

Five-year-old Joshua Blake made his 5th consecutive donation to BBBS on behalf of his family, and this year, he brought along his little brother, 3-year-old Oliver. The two boys proudly presented their donation, both flashing huge smiles. It was heartwarming to see how proud they were to give back to the community! Thank you, Joshua and Oliver, for your continued support and generosity!

Dunkley Family

The Hon. Michael Dunkley visited our office to present a very generous donation on behalf of himself and his family. We are incredibly grateful to the Dunkley Family for their continued support. Thank you so much – we truly appreciate you!

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

BBBS community partner - OneComm

BBBS community partner - Miller

Each year, some of our wonderful community partners step up to ensure our children have a very Merry Christmas by providing gifts. A special thank you to One Communications, Rosa's, and Miller for their generosity this holiday season. One Communications even included some of our children in their Christmas Wishlist commercial, which made the experience even more memorable! Our children were overjoyed with the gifts they received and, as always, were incredibly grateful. We truly appreciate your support and kindness!

Athene Christmas Pantry

For the fourth year in a row, Athene has generously provided groceries and toiletries for our BBBS families and community members. The grocery pantry was set up at Evening Light Pentecostal Church (ELPC), where families could "shop" for what they needed. Athene employees donated items they would select for their own families, creating a true sense of community. This year, we had a wide range of food, toiletries, and cleaning products available. We also received BELCO, Market Place, Lindos, and Phoenix vouchers, which were distributed to further support our families. This initiative highlighted the power of working together—it's not just about Big Brothers Big Sisters or Athene, but about the strength of the Bermuda community as a whole. A heartfelt thank you to the staff at Athene for their continued generosity and dedication, as well as to all the volunteers who helped make this possible. A special shoutout to Pastors Jonathan and Candice Lambe of ELPC and their church family for allowing us to use their hall for the pantry. We are truly grateful!

Children's Christmas Luncheon

For the past four years, our annual BBBS Christmas Luncheon at Hamilton Princess has been a wonderful success, and this year was no exception. The theme, "The Polar Express Sweater Fest", was brought to life with beautiful table and room decor that perfectly showcased the festive spirit. Conductor Trina welcomed guests at the door, collecting train tickets as our Littles and their families, dressed in festive Christmas sweaters, added to the excitement. Santa, played by Mr. O'Connor, made a special appearance to hand out Christmas goodies and take photos with the children. We also had surprise visits from the Yeti and Frosty the Snowman, thanks to Bermy Christmas Wonderland. The buffet lunch, complete with tasty desserts, was a hit, and each child received a gift bag full of treats. The grand finale was a fun and exciting moment as we pulled the Polar Express Piñata, created by parent Zenia Brooks.

A huge thank you to Hal Browne and the Hamilton Princess team for their continued support and top-notch service, as well as to Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Paynter for the amazing sound system. Special thanks also go to Brian and Anne Botelho for their support of the event, and to the BBBS staff and events committee for ensuring the event's success. We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to BGA and Phoenix for their generous sponsorship of this event. What a fantastic time we had!