

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the children of our nation and the world are our future, and it is vital that all opportunities are provided to them in order to elevate them physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually so they may reach their full potential and become successful and happy adults; and

WHEREAS, established in 1904 in New York as two entities, Big Brothers was founded by Ernest Coulter, and Catholic Big Sisters was founded by the Ladies of Charity, and they merged in 1977 to become **Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA)**, and for over a century the donor-supported volunteer agency has made meaningful monitored matches between adult volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles); and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters operates under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential, and its mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth; and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters holds itself accountable to the families, children, and mentors enrolled in the program, is responsible to the donors, partners, and advocates, and the organization is committed to continuous learning, improvement, and research; and

WHEREAS, currently headquartered in Tampa, Florida and led by its CEO, Chris Letsos, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America operates throughout the United States and in twelve countries globally. Locally, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, Inc. provides children and mentors the essential tools to develop lifelong purposeful relationships and it serves more than 3,000 children located in seven area counties; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa firmly believes that by mentoring children, we can ensure our children are given the means necessary to become successful, contributing leaders of our city's future, and we partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters through various initiatives including the ***Bigs in Blue***, ***Site-Based***, and ***School-to-Work*** programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023 as

"BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to support the valuable efforts of Big Brothers Big Sisters and consider becoming a mentor and to play a meaningful and positive role in a young person's life.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21st day of August, 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor