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For Immediate Release

The Power of Mentoring Shared Firsthand at the 12th Annual Presidential Gala Benefitting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island

(Levittown) Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) shared the power of mentoring with 450 guests at their 12th Annual Presidential Gala on September 23, at the Crest Hollow Country Club. The event honored Men of the Year Andrew Corrado and James Metzger.

Little Brothers George and Elijah along with Little Sister Emily shared the podium and read letters to their Bigs to the audience. Emily, matched for over five years with Big Sister Lori Diamond of Lynbrook wrote, "Lori, I am grateful for your presence in my life. I appreciate that you've given so much of your time and energy to make me a better person." Little Brother George, who towers over Big Brother Tom Cucitro of Floral Park, also shared his gratitude. "Growing up without a father was hard until you showed up. I just can't express how much your kindness and friendship has meant to me."

Both of the 2010 Men of the Year have given much of their time and energy to making a positive impact in the lives of Long Island's children, and along with the Gala Committee, were instrumental in raising nearly \$300,000.

Andrew Corrado, Senior Vice President and Market President for Nassau County for Capital One Bank, has served as a member of the Board of Directors for over 19 years, is on the BBBSLI Scholarship Committee, and also serves as Chairman of the Board for the Maurer Foundation for Breast Health Education. James Metzger, Chairman and CEO of the Whitmore Group, is a member of the Board of Directors, major donor to the recently named James C. Metzger/E. David Woycik, Jr. Endowment Fund for BBBSLI, and a prominent philanthropist on Long Island.

"I have remained a supporter of this agency for close to two decades because there are children who still need our help," remarked Mr. Corrado. "I have heard firsthand from our Littles how their lives have been impacted, and that's clearly the reason why I keep coming back, year after year."

"I am overwhelmed and humbled by the support I have received, and we have received as an agency to make this year's Gala a huge success" said Mr. Metzger. "It's about Elijah, about George and about Emily."

The Presidential Gala received much support from the community, and would like to thank the following sponsors: (Presidential Sponsors) Capital One Bank, The Morey Family Foundation, The Whitmore Group, Ltd.; (Vice Presidential Sponsors) BNY Mellon, Frank J. Antun Foundation; (Senate Sponsor) Make it Count Foundation; (Congressional Sponsors) Ahmuty Demers & McManus, Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, Commercial Industrial Brokers Society-CIBS, Hofstra University, The Island Financial Group, Newmark Knight Frank, E. David Woycik, Jr & Carolyn Sanchez; (Party Sponsors) Friedman & Levine, Inc. and Rose Fence.

BBBSLI also gave guests a sneak-peak at the new Big Brothers Big Sisters of America national campaign, 'Start Something'. Susan Samaroo, Chief Operating Officer of BBBSLI remarked, "We can each start something, no matter how small, that will inspire another and ignite change. Our Bigs are doing so every day, inviting their Littles to consider 'What if' and shed light on the possibilities."

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island

Incorporated in 1977, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island (BBBSLI) has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and shine. BBBSLI makes meaningful, professionally supported matches between adult volunteers ('Bigs') and children ('Littles'). Our mission is to promote the positive growth and development of Long Island's children by providing quality mentoring, education and support services.

BBBSLI provides a system of ongoing evaluation and support which is proven by independent studies to help families by improving the odds that "Littles" will perform better in school and avoid violence and illegal activities, and have stronger relationships with their parents and peers. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, please visit us at www.bbbsli.org.