

## Press Releases

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### 02-01-11 OC Exec Diana Joins Big Brothers Big Sisters for Thank Your Mentor Event

#### *At Middletown's Mechanicstown Elementary School*

In recognition of *National Mentoring Month* and *Thank Your Mentor Day*, County Executive Edward A. Diana recently attended a celebration hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) at Mechanicstown Elementary School in Middletown.

Mr. Diana thanked BBBS staff and mentors, known as "Bigs," for their service and commitment to the children they mentor.

The County Executive also read the proclamation he presented in recognition of National Mentoring Month. "Big Brothers Big Sisters is the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network. They are dedicated to making meaningful mentoring matches between adult volunteers 'Bigs' and children 'Littles' so that children facing adversity may enjoy positive relationships that will change their lives for the better, forever," said Mr. Diana.



***Cutline: Daniel Benotti, BBBS Mentor Manager, Anthony Gillmeier, BBBS Board President, and Nancy Kosloski, BBBS Executive Director, joined County Executive Edward A. Diana at Middletown's Mechanicstown Elementary School for the reading of the National Mentoring Month proclamation.***

He went on to say, "As a parent and grandparent, as well as long-time educator and coach, I appreciate the important role a mentor plays in a young person's life. Like BBBS, I believe every child has the ability to succeed and thrive. I applaud the efforts of this important organization and thank the staff and mentors for their dedication to the children of our community."

Nancy Kosloski, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, introduced the County Executive to the students and mentors attending the celebration. "Thanks to the dedication and commitment from the local businesses and organizations with whom we partner, as well as the support from County agencies and the community as a whole, our One-to-One Mentoring program is a success for so many Orange County children."

Research has shown that programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for graduating from high school and leading a healthy and productive life.

Families interested in finding a mentor for their child, and adults looking to volunteer time as a mentor, can get more information by contacting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County at 888-412-BIGS or go to [www.MentorAChild.org](http://www.MentorAChild.org).