

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 14th, 2021



BBBS NEWS & UPDATES

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are excited to hit the ground running in 2021 by continuing to serve the youth in Acadiana! Our staff is in the office & fully operational so we are ready to enroll more youth & volunteers in the area. If you know of a child OR volunteer who would be a great fit in our program, send them our way at [acadianabigs.com](https://www.acadianabigs.com). You can also contact your Match Support Specialist with their information.



ICYMI: Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has selected a new CEO after narrowing a pool of more than 40 candidates. We welcome Artis Stevens as BBBSA's 1st Black CEO! You can watch his interview on [GMA3 HERE!](#)



BBBS NEWS & UPDATES cont.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH



January is [#NationalMentoringMonth](#) and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana is celebrating the greatness that is ignited by mentorship! Here are some key dates to recognize:

[January 7](#) - I Am a Mentor Day

[January 17](#) - International Mentoring Day

[January 18](#) - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

[January 29](#) - Thank Your Mentor Day

You can celebrate with us by sharing our social media posts, referring your friends to our program & by sharing your match stories with us.

Please send photos & stories to
choward@acadianabigs.com



ACTIVITY IDEAS



DRIVE-IN MOVIE!

Sat, Jan. 16th! Put on your pajamas and join D.R.E.A.M.S Foundation for this outside event at the Bayou Church parking lot in Lafayette. to watch The Polar Express. The event cost will be \$15 per car, non-refundable. Each passenger in car will receive a Meat Pie, chili & Fritos, popcorn, hot chocolate and a water.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register your vehicle. Only 50 spots available!



A VIRTUAL TOUR OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE!

A fun & FREE way to learn something new together! This will be a live virtual guide as you learn the history and tour the majestic center of British Royalty!

Get more information on how to register [HERE!](#)



EMBRACE THIS SPACE

Keeping Louisiana Ave, Mudd Ave, Park St, and Moss St clear of debris, trash, and litter. After each 'Embrace This Space' cleanup, every volunteer will enjoy a "Meal on Me" from Generations Sports Bar & Grill at Jay & Lionel Hebert Memorial Golf Course courtesy of new owner Chris Arceneaux. The first cleanup is tentatively set for January 30th from 10am-2pm. Email choward@acadianabigs to volunteer!



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

We have partnered with The Educational Dreamer to create [#TheDreamersCloset](#)! These closets are located at local elementary schools like JW Faulk Elementary, Evangeline Elementary and Alice Boucher Elementary & are stocked with items our youth need to succeed! You can drop-off these items at our office Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm



THE EDD SERIES
BIG BROTHERS & BIG SISTERS
OF ACADIANA

THE Dreamers CLOSET

Giving students the tools necessary to succeed.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Children's Masks	Toothpaste and Toothbrush
New Socks & Underwear	Hats, Mittens, and Scarves
Gently Used and New	School Supplies
Jackets, School Uniforms	Face Tissue
& Shoes	Hand Sanitizer

The items listed above will be donated to students in grades K-5
at local elementary schools in Lafayette Parish.

Monetary Donations: paypal.me/theeddseries	For more information: theeddseries@gmail.com	Donation Drop-off: 123 E. Main Street Lafayette, La 70501
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients will see an increase in their benefits for the first half of 2021. More individuals may also be eligible for benefits as well. You can view the full increased benefits on the [Department of Children and Family Services](#) website.



FOR BIGS ONLY

BECOME A MICRO-INFLUENCER



The best advertising for our agency come from our Bigs so send us your stories! We want to see what you & your littles are doing whether it's in-person or virtually.

Stories & pictures can be emailed to Christie at choward@acadianabigs.com





FAMILY RESOURCES

We know many parents are feeling the stress of supporting & providing for their children over the weeks & months to come. It can be difficult to find a balance during this stay-at-home order. We will try our best to provide any resources we come across!

- If your workplace has temporarily closed or you have been told to take unpaid time off, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits through the [Louisiana Workforce Commission](#).
- A crisis text line has been activated to provide FREE, confidential support for people 24/7. If you need to talk to someone, you can get connected by texting REACHOUT to 741741 to reach a trained crisis counselor who will help de-escalate, identify coping strategies and use active listening techniques to support you.
- The Current has put together a user-friendly [dashboard of information & resources](#) for families in the Acadiana Area.
- Find the latest Lafayette Parish [COVID-19 UPDATES](#) in English, French & Espanol.



Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or requests!



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