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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF EASTERN MISSOURI'S "EVENING OF JOY" TO STAR PARENT, ALUMNI, PARTNERS, AND BIGS & LITTLES OF THE YEAR

St. Louis – January 22, 2021 – Adapting tradition to keep folks safe but connected, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri (BBBSEMO) will livestream its "Evening of Joy" celebration on Wednesday, January 27th from 6:00-7:00pm to recognize people and organizations who've shown faith in – and deep commitment to – relationship with our region's young people.

"Evening of Joy," sponsored by Cigna, is BBBSEMO's first-ever virtual version of its annual National Mentoring Month event. 2021's celebration marks the first year to star both BBBSEMO youth and alumni ("Littles") and volunteers ("Bigs") in January, a time previously focused on adults in mentoring matches.

"Now is the time to recognize the importance of relationships – especially friendships," says Becky Hatter, CEO and President of BBBSEMO. "While the pandemic's prevented us from gathering and challenged our sense of community, we have not been deterred. We find new ways to gather. And we are never giving up on *hope and joy.*"

BBBSEMO's "Evening of Joy" event will feature these outstanding matches, individuals, and organizations as 2021 National Mentoring Month honorees:

Little Brother & Big Brother of the Year: *Little Brother Joshua and Jason Stalberger, matched 12 years*

Little Sister & Big Sister of the Year: *Little Sister Alicia and Michelle Robinson, matched 10 years*

Little Brother & Big Couple of the Year: *Little Brother Christian and Colleen & Mohammed Kashif, matched 5 years*

Alumni of the Year: *Ashley Powell-Brooks, Class of 2014*

Parent of the Year: *Dwight Mazanec, four-time Little Sister parent over 11 years*

Community Partner of the Year: *The United Way of Greater St. Louis, partner nearly 100 years*

Corporate Partner of the Year: *Regions Bank, partner 13 years*

Staff Member of the Year: *Patti Watson-Soluade, 9 years' service; 8-year Big Sister*

Board Member of the Year: *Darryl Jones, 10 years' service; 6-year Big Brother*

"Evening of Joy" will livestream via BBBSEMO's [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts from 6:00-7:00pm on Wednesday, January 27th. For more information, contact VP of Marketing & Experience Kristy Fairbanks at (314) 361-5900 or kfairbanks@bbbsemo.org.

ABOUT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF EASTERN MISSOURI (BBBSEMO)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri serves youth and community since 1914. With over 1,400 active matches in its one-to-one mentoring program, youth outcomes are improved. Its one-to-many initiatives broaden the scope of service and include the ABCToday initiative in 19 schools; its Big Futures program serving alumni Littles ages 18-25; and its community-gathering space at Anew. The agency supports children and families in St. Louis City and County; St. Charles and Jefferson Counties; and Cape Girardeau and Scott Counties. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri is a proud member of the United Way. For more information, contact Miya Norfleet (email - media@bbbsemo.org, phone - 314-255-3444) or visit www.bbbsemo.org.