



May 12, 2020

Dear Community Member,

As the Governor continues to provide guidance on the reopening of businesses in Rhode Island, it's important that we communicate plans for BBBSRI with our volunteers, supporters and donors.

This situation continues to evolve, therefore, BBBSRI would like to make it clear that the plans noted here are tentative and based on a best-case scenario. A part of, or all, of these plans could change based on various factors and we ask that everyone continue to be patient with us as we work to do what is best for our employees and program participants.

The Donation Center

- Home pickups – BBBSRI plans to begin to reschedule free home pickups July 1st. This will be a phased in process, with certain towns/cities routes opening before others. Our goal is to open pickups to the entire state in August.
- Bins – we will replace clothing collection bins that were removed starting in August.
- Drop Off Centers – We hope to reopen our Drop Off Centers in late August/early September

Questions about our Donation Center should be directed to Jack@BigsRI.org

Mentoring Programs

- Current match in-person meetings – we are developing guidelines, in partnership with our National organization, and expect to have these ready by mid-June. We will not allow for in-person meetings before these guidelines are developed and agreed upon by mentors and families.
- Volunteers already in the enrollment process will be re-engaged in June to finalize their enrollment. Matching will be delayed until September.
- Community members who would like to enroll to become a mentor will be able to do so in September when we reopen enrollment.

Questions about our mentoring program should be directed to Tiana@BigsRI.org

Fundraising Events

- Golf – August 24th – Still on schedule, however, we will be assessing the situation with Warwick Country Club – Registration website: <http://bit.ly/BigGolf2020> - Prices are subject to change.
- Welcome to Summer – Announcements for this event still to come.
- Bowl for Kids' Sake – September 26, 2020 – Still on schedule, some components may be virtual and some in-person. Details to come.
- Halloween Hike – Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Roger Williams Park – Still on schedule, details to come.

Questions about our fundraising events should be directed to George@BigsRI.org

Hiring and Employment

- In May, we will bring back a total of 3 employees, all who are cross trained in multiple functions to support the organization as we rebuild.
- In June we plan to bring back one additional employee who is cross trained in Donation Center and Mentoring Program functions.
- There are no plans at this time to bring back additional employees.

Questions about hiring and employment should be directed to HR@BigsRI.org

We are grateful to everyone who has stood by as we slowed down our operations due to COVID19 – to the donors who continue to give, to the former employees who are returning soon and those who are patiently waiting for us to rebuild, to the program participants who continue to meet in new and creative ways, to the media for its support and especially to the current employees who continue to work through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Katje

Katje Afonseca
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P.S. Check out this [BiggerTogether video!](#)