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Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson and Union Counties is proud to express strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and sincere gratitude for a partnership that advances health and well-being across our shared communities. With a mission to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth, and to be a credible social justice organization embedded in our community, we have provided evidence-based data-driven mentoring services—pairing youth with positive adult role models—for over 17 years.

Our longstanding strategic partnership with RWJBarnabas Health reflects our shared commitment to community centered solutions that sustain healthier communities. With their support, we serve over 1,000 youth—and their families—annually through professional supported mentoring relationships and holistic programs that promote positive health, academic, and social outcomes. Many of the children we serve face significant barriers, including educational and economic disparities and community violence. RWJBarnabas Health's investment strengthens our ability to expand services for underserved populations and reach children and families experiencing persistent health and social inequities.

In addition to critical funding, the partnership provides a series of annual behavioral health workshops covering grief, social media, bullying, anxiety, the transition from high school to adulthood, nutrition, health screenings, and essential wraparound resources. Without this partnership, key programming would be reduced, creating gaps in services for families. RWJBarnabas Health also contributes to staff professional development and provides strategic guidance and governance support through board participation, enhancing the sustainability and impact of our programs.

Continued investment in RWJBarnabas Health sustains strategic collaborative community partnerships like ours that directly benefit under-resourced communities. Together, we ensure children have trusted adult relationships that improve education, reduce risky behaviors, and strengthen well-being.

With sincere appreciation for this partnership, we look forward to continuing our shared commitment to strengthening our communities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Lejniaks
President & CEO