



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of the Capital Region

CUMBERLAND - DAUPHIN - LEBANON  
LANCASTER - PERRY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Carlisle Borough Police Department joins forces with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region for “Bigs in Blue”**

**October 27, 2017**

*Carlisle, Pennsylvania:* The Carlisle Borough Police Department is gearing up to have a big impact on the lives of children in the community they protect and serve. Carlisle Officers will participate in a program called “Bigs in Blue” through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region. As “Bigs in Blue,” officers will spend quality time as mentors to students at Wilson Middle School. The event takes place on October 27 at 9:30 a.m. at Wilson Middle School, 900 Waggoner’s Gap Road, Carlisle.

“Bigs in Blue” is a site-based, one-to-one mentoring program that is professionally supported by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region. This latest launch will mark the eighth such collaboration for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, but this is the first department to be matched with middle school, rather than elementary school, students. Amy Rote, Vice President of Programs, initiated the “Bigs in Blue” program in the Capital Region. “Adolescence is a critical stage of development, a time of transition from childhood to young adults,” says Rote. ““Bigs in Blue’ is a program that offers positive mentorship from officers who are leaders in their community. Their guidance, while youth navigate through this transition, will support healthy decision making, help avoid risky behaviors, and role model skills that will aid in their future path of success.”

Carlisle Borough has already invested in the program. Those officers who are volunteering as mentors will visit their middle school “mentee,” or “little,” several times a month to chat and connect over lunch.

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The department hopes that these “matches” will develop into strong friendships that remove barriers to trust and open new lines of communication between citizens and men and women in uniform. “The Carlisle Police Department is honored to team up with Big Brothers and Big Sisters,” says Taro Landis, Chief of Police in Carlisle Borough. “Our youth is our most precious commodity and if our officers can build relationships with our community through our youth, we can help make Carlisle Borough a better place to live, work and visit.”

Christina Spielbauer, acting Superintendent in the Carlisle Area School District, expressed her enthusiasm for and support of the program. “We believe it is important for our students and Law Enforcement Officers to cultivate positive lasting relationships,” says Spielbauer. “The ‘Bigs in Blue’ mentor program will help create stronger bonds between students, their families and our local law enforcement agencies.”

Carlisle’s “Bigs in Blue” program is made possible by a grant from the Partnership for Better Health. The Partnership awarded Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region \$10,000 to provide the match support case management that makes Big Brothers Big Sisters’ mentoring successful.

### ***About Big Brothers Big Sisters***

For more than 30 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Big Brothers Big Sisters’ mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

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**Program Partner**

