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## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNOUNCES 2017 BIG BROTHER AND BIG SISTER OF THE YEAR**

**Portsmouth, NH- April 26, 2017** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire is proud to announce the 2017 Big Brother and Big Sister of the Year. Big Brother of the Year is Geoffrey Eichhorn, of Manchester, and Big Sister of the Year is Joanna Kelley, of Portsmouth.

“It turns out that this match could not have been more perfect,” says Eichhorn. “(My Little Brother) Michael and I have spent the past three years building an inseparable relationship. I soon realized how much we had in common – our love of games, amusement parks, hiking, food. This young man brings out the child in me, and for that I am forever grateful.

“My goal is to help shape Michael into the amazing man I know he is destined to be. Whether we are running around a playground or quietly working on math homework, our time together is memorable and precious. I soon figured out that it’s not where we go or what we do, but that we are spending time together that matters to Michael.”

“The satisfaction I got from being a Little Sister was one that I knew I had to reciprocate,” says Kelley, who was a Little Sister herself in the program when she was young. “Being lucky enough to be introduced to the good in life, there was nothing I wanted more than to show the youth their worth as well.

“My Little Sister is one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever met- so full of spirit and life! I never knew that an 11-year-old could make me feel so radiant and alive. My time with Jade has changed my life in more ways than I could have ever dream... the second I met her I knew that life was not going to be the same for either of us.”

We’ve talked about “how in life, being afraid only means you are doing something that has value to you. That anything is worth trying for, that failing only made me get out there and keep trying and ultimately helped me succeed, and that if she did not keep (working hard toward her goals), she would never know her true worth.”

Says Eichhorn, “I strongly encourage everyone with a few free hours a month, and a generous heart full of kindness, to become a Big Brother or Big Sister,” continues Eichhorn. “It has opened my world and changed my life for the better... Trust me, there is no other program around that promotes the positive results of mentoring like Big Brothers Big Sisters.”

For more information on how you can become a Big Brother or Big Sister or to enroll your child:  
[www.bbbsnh.org](http://www.bbbsnh.org), [info@bbbsnh.org](mailto:info@bbbsnh.org), or 1-844-NH4-BIGS.

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