



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick

## Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick delivers state funding, commendation award for Big Brothers Big Sisters

ELIJAH REICHLIN-MELNICK October 2, 2021



**NEW CITY, NY** - Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick presented Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County with a check for \$13,000 and honored BBBS president and CEO Gillian Ballard with a commendation award for 25 years of service with BBBS at the organization's annual gala event Friday night in New City at La Terrazza Restaurant.

Senator Reichlin-Melnick secured the funds in the 2021 New York State budget. The funds come in the form of a grant of \$13,000 from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services

in support of the Court Ordered Supervised Visitation Program.

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*State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D-Rockland/Westchester) said, “Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County is a phenomenal organization that is deeply dedicated to serving the children of Rockland County, and I am honored to be able to deliver this critical funding to help support their efforts in providing services to the most vulnerable children in our county.”*

“Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County extends heartfelt gratitude to Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick for securing these grant funds,” said **BBBS of Rockland President and CEO Gillian Ballard**. “Now more than ever, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland is stepping up to find innovative ways to serve its community and, the Senator’s commitment to a service providing non-custodial parents an opportunity to meet each week with their child(ren) in a safe, child friendly environment under the supervision of court approved supervisors, is truly appreciated.”

The Supervised Visitation Program is an effective and necessary tool that promotes the bond between a parent and child where there are safety or other issues present that may make conventional, unsupervised visitation contrary to a child's best interests. The program aids in supporting the critical social and emotional development needed to help build resilience and promote the mental health and well-being of the many children served throughout Rockland County.

Senator Reichlin-Melnick also presented a special commendation award to BBBS President and CEO Gillian Ballard at the event, commemorating her 25th year of service to the organization.

“Congratulations to President Ballard, who has been a steadfast champion for BBBS of Rockland for two and a half decades, and has touched countless children’s lives during her tenure,” **Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick** said. “I am thankful for her leadership and work, and wish her the best of luck as she continues to steer and grow BBBS into the future.”