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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ST. LUCIE, INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE COUNTIES TO HOST 16TH ANNUAL CHOCOLATE, CHAMPAGNE AND CHEFS ON OCT. 28**

VERO BEACH - Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties will host its 16th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 at 6 o'clock in the evening at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

The nonprofit's mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of our youth. BBBS programs are free for all participants, so fundraisers like CCC are crucial to maintaining a community that offers every opportunity for our youth to achieve their full potential.

The elegant evening will begin with cocktails, champagne and hors d'oeuvres followed by a seated dinner. Attendees will then enjoy a delicious tour of decadent chocolate desserts created by prominent local chefs. There will be a live auction, as well as raffles supported by generous local businesses and boutiques.

This year's impressive chef lineup includes Grand Harbor Beach & Golf Club's Executive Pastry Chef Tim Blouin, Sweet Desires Espresso Bar & Dessert Lounge Owner Brandy Buckner, A Kitchen of Her Own Founder Shari Pierce, The Flavored Fork Catering Owner Chef Matthew Piscitelli, and Quail Valley River Club's Chef Paty Prato.

BBBS will cheerfully celebrate its 40-year anniversary and CCC Honoree of the Year Judi Miller at the event. Miller has been a dedicated supporter of BBBS for decades, serving as the nonprofit's former CEO and a Big Sister to many Littles.

"We are so excited to have this opportunity to shower Judi with love and thanks for

her many years of dedication to Big Brothers Big Sisters,” said Debbie Hawley, BBBS chief executive officer. “She is truly a defender of potential for all.”

Visit [bbbsbigs.org/events](https://bbbsbigs.org/events) to purchase tickets. Contact BBBS Events Coordinator Connell Osteen at [connell.osteen@bbbsbigs.org](mailto:connell.osteen@bbbsbigs.org) or 772-466-8535 with questions regarding the event and/or sponsorship opportunities.

For more information about BBBS of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties, visit [bbbsbigs.org](https://bbbsbigs.org) or email [info@bbbsbigs.org](mailto:info@bbbsbigs.org). “Like” BBBS on Facebook at [facebook.com/bbbsbigs](https://facebook.com/bbbsbigs) and follow the nonprofit on Instagram @bbbsbigs.

### **About Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties strives to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. BBBS programs are free for all members. Debbie Hawley is the Chief Executive Officer. For more information about Big Brothers Big Sisters, please visit [bbbsbigs.org](https://bbbsbigs.org) or call 772- 466-8535. “Like” BBBS on Facebook at [facebook.com/bbbsbigs](https://facebook.com/bbbsbigs) and follow the nonprofit on Instagram @bbbsbigs.

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### **Suggested photo captions:**

**Matthew\_Jillaine\_Piscitelli.jpg:** The Flavored Fork’s Chef Matthew Piscitelli and wife Jillaine pictured at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Debbie\_Hawley\_Judi\_Miller.jpg:** (From left to right): BBBS CEO Debbie Hawley and former BBBS CEO Judi Miller pictured at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 14th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida. Miller will be recognized as the 2024 CCC Honoree of the Year at the 16th Annual CCC event on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Anna Valenica Tillery\_Lindsay Yencho.jpg:** (From left to right): Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) Emcee Anna Valenica Tillery and 2023 Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Yencho at the 15th Annual CCC event on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Debbie Hawley\_Jayne Platts.jpg:** (From left to right): Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties CEO Debbie Hawley 2023 Event Committee Member Jayne Platts pictured at the BBBS 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Senator Gayle Harrell\_Judi Miller.jpg:** (From left to right): Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties Board Member Senator Gayle Harrell and former BBBS CEO Judi Miller pictured at the BBBS 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida. Miller will be recognized as the 2024 CCC Honoree of the Year at the 16th Annual CCC event on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Lee, Lucie and John Moore\_Dian DeFrancisci.jpg:** (From left to right): Lee, Lucie and John Moore pictured with Dian DeFrancisci at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event, where John served as auctioneer, on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Jean Kelly\_Linda Teetz\_Jan Harrell.jpg:** (From left to right): Jean Kelly, Event Sponsor Linda Teetz and Jan Harrell at the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event, where John served as auctioneer, on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**BBBS staff\_event committee members.jpg:** (Back row - from left to right): Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties Match Support Specialist Mercadéz Estimé-Connelly, BBBS Director of Mentoring Diana Embick, BBBS Family Engagement Specialist and Event Committee Member Dr.

Christine Ryall, BBBS Reads Program Associate Rebecca Littleton, and (front row - from left to right) BBBS Communications Specialist and Event Committee Member Jayne Platts, Event Committee Co-Chair Lindsay Yenko, BBBS CEO Debbie Hawley, and Reads Program Director Samantha Taylor pictured at the BBBS 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) event on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham

**Joan Ohl\_Bradley Lorimer.jpg:** Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties 15th Annual Chocolate, Champagne and Chefs (CCC) Honoree of the Year Bradley Lorimer with Joan Ohl pictured at CCC on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023 at the Quail Valley River Club in Vero Beach, Florida.

Photo credit: MaryAnn Ketcham