

Remarks by SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos**November 19, 2025**

Good evening and thank you. On behalf of all of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)—including one of our small team who served as a Big Sister—it’s a true honor to be here. Tonight, we feel especially proud to be supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and especially grateful to our founder, Stavros S. Niarchos, without whom we wouldn’t be able to offer this support.

We have been feeling the gravitas of our age as a foundation: in 2026, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary and the more than 3,000 partnerships with nonprofits in over 135 countries we have formed over these three decades. Or rather I should say we *had* been feeling it, until we came to celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters’ 120th anniversary, and now we feel positively like spring chickens in comparison.

Big Brothers Big Sisters’ work resonates strongly with SNF’s mission of always putting humanity at the core, and with our emphasis on helping young people grow, thrive, and broaden their idea of what’s possible for their own future. They also understand that working with young people must be a two-way street. We adults have insights grounded in hard-earned experience to offer; young people offer fresh perspectives backed by conviction, and we would do well to listen to each other.

SNF and Big Brothers Big Sisters got to know each other at a time when the organization’s services were more needed than ever, during the pandemic, when Big Brothers Big Sisters proved to be a real safety net—a life safety net, for lack of a better term—for young people across the country. Our grant supported 15 agencies across the country from Alabama to Montana and from Florida to West Virginia through the national umbrella organization, helping young people and their mentors stay connected to each other and to society at large during a time of acute isolation for everyone.

That there is a national umbrella organization coordinating among local agencies is very important, allowing Big Brothers Big Sisters as a whole to keep growing in their mission, sharing best practices, and meeting the moment while serving a variety of widely differing local contexts effectively.

I’d like to conclude by sharing a secret with the young people who are here tonight: it’s not just “littles” who need mentorship. No matter how old you are—even at ages that might seem unfathomably ancient to you now, like 30—you still won’t have all the answers. You’ll still need guidance, a sounding board, a sympathetic ear and that “life safety net.” Hold onto the skills you are learning now, and use them to cultivate relationships with mentors throughout your life.

Thank you again to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for this honor, and a heartfelt congratulations on 120 years of growth and adaptation in pursuit of excellence. Thank you