



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

Experience Big Magic.

Newsletter

December 2010

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party will be held on December 11th, at RT. Schafer Masonic Lodge, 2505 NE 9th St.

The party is for Bigs, Littles and their family. The Holiday Raffle will be held the same day and at the same location.

Celebrate the season with us! For more information call 352.375.2525



Toy Drive

With the holiday season upon us, we wish to remind everyone that our holiday party is less than two (2) weeks away!

Every toy counts!

Each toy donated will make a big difference this holiday for a Little in our program!

So please bring in your toys and help make this a holiday to remember!

The toys donated will be given to our Littles by Santa at our annual Holiday Party.

Thank you in advance

for everything you do. If you wish to participate, please contact our office at info@bbbsmidflorida.org or 352.375.2525

BBBS Holiday Raffle

Dec 11th, from 1pm - 4pm

R.T. Schafer Masonic Lodge • 2505 NE 9th Street • Gainesville FL

Prizes

Grand: **\$3000 Diamond Tennis Bracelet**

2nd: **\$1500 Diamond Necklace & Earrings**

3rd: **Foursome Round of Golf**

Ticket Donation \$10 each. Call **352-375-2525** for info.

Winners need not be present to win.

Happy Holidays & Prosperous New Year!

Thank you to our Board Members,
Sponsors, Staff, Bigs, and
Volunteers for your commitment
and determination in serving the
children of our community.

Thank you for supporting us by
giving your time and for
working so very hard to make our
programs a success.

May this holiday season bring to
you and your family all of the joy
and happiness that you deserve!

Macy's Thanks for Sharing

Join Big Brothers
Big Sisters in supporting
**Macy's 2010 Thanks
For Sharing Program.**

Enjoy 10% rewards on
most Macy's purchases
from the date of your
enrollment to

Dec 31st 2010, while
supporting a great cause
as Macy's donates \$10
for each enrollment, up to
\$15 million, to local and
national charities including
BBBS. See your local
Macy's for details.

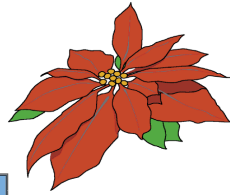
Thank you for spreading Cheer!

We at Big Brothers
Big Sisters of Mid-Florida
would like to thank the
Dollar General (on 13th
Street, Walmart Plaza) and
store manager Jennifer
Taylor for putting out a box
in their store to help our
Holiday Toy Drive. Also,
during the holiday season,
Ms. Taylor informs us that
all Dollar General Stores
will be offering a 10%
discount whenever you
spend \$100.

We'd also like to thank
RBC Bank for putting out
a box for our Holiday Toy
Drive as well.

Thank You, Thank You for
your support.

To send donations, please visit www.bbbsmidflorida.com.
You may also contact Mr. John Bonacci, john@bbbsmidflorida.org,
or call us at (352) 375-2525.



Match Spotlight: Janice & Rebecca

New 2010 November Matches

- Rebecca/Angel
- Antonia/Quashaunti
- Amanda/Dasani
- Brittany/Keazia
- Tyler/Chuckie
- Charity/Raneisha
- Anthony/Patrick
- Dairlyn/Leundria
- Michelle/Jarkiera
- Jenna/Aalayah
- Shaunn/Sean



Janice came to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida wanting to be a part of a child's life and the community. When the opportunity arose to be Rebecca's Big, it was perfect. "The idea of being involved in the growth of a young person sounded fun and rewarding," Janice said. For the last four months, Janice has been Rebecca's Big and it's been all about fun and enjoying each other's company. "I like everything about it. I like learning about Rebecca and hearing about her interests and her



life. I like planning fun things together and seeing the delight on her face when we do fun things," Janice said. Rebecca described her memories with Janice as "Fun!" and notes that her favorite memory was when Janice took her to a horse ranch for her birthday.



"I went to a horse farm and rode a horse named Bear. It was awesome! I wasn't scared, I was having fun!" Rebecca said about her experience. "While riding on the horse, a gentle buckskin, under beautiful oak trees, she just kept

shouting 'This is the best birthday present ever!'" Janice explained. Janice and Rebecca love being around each other and together show just what a match is like. "I love Rebecca's zest for life and new experiences. I love her energy that never seems to end. I like that she speaks openly and directly about what she thinks and feels and that I can do the same with her," Janice said about Rebecca, "Chanelle did a great job of matching our personalities and interests and I look forward to seeing my Little often."



Match Anniversaries

1 Year Anniversary

- Dec 1 - Brittani / Aisha
- Dec 2 - Rachel / Rebekah



VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Interested in changing the life of a child? Join us one of the following days to receive training to become a Big and give back to the local community!

Alachua County

Wed, Dec 8th, 4-7pm @ Library Partnership - 1130 NE 16th Ave

Marion County

(TBA in January)

Note All already-matched Bigs are required to attend one training day each year. Also, if matched Bigs would like to attend for the last half hour of the training and be on our Volunteer Panel to speak to new volunteers, please contact, chanelle@bbbsmidflorida.org or call 352 375 2525 ext 15



To send donations, please visit www.bbbsmidflorida.com.
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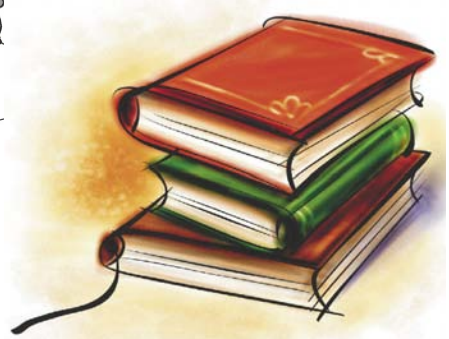


Community Leader: Rebecca Lakkis



This Holiday Season, our spotlight shines on one of our own – Rebecca Lakkis. As president of our Board of Directors, we are so grateful for all the time, energy and ideas she provides the agency year-round. The 29-year-old is married to her high school sweetheart, Ricky, and has a dog named Berio and a cat named Karma. Lakkis has returned to her roots and now works as the Special Programs Coordinator for the UF Warrington College of Business Administration, where she received her Bachelor’s Degree. Her position focuses on alumni programming and events at the college. In 2009, at Rebecca’s 10 year high school reunion she was reconnected with a former classmate, who invited her to a board meeting at BBBS as his guest. “He knew I couldn’t say no to helping” Lakkis commented. Shortly after that meeting she volunteered and worked on the planning committee for the Date Auction Event. She adds, “The rest is history....” Now, as president of the Board, Lakkis sees herself as “the grease that keeps the chains going.” Every time the agency “squeaks,” she makes sure it stops so the problem or concern can be examined. She states, “We oil up and keep on moving forward.” Lakkis continues to volunteer at our Events. Her assistance at organizing and setting up for the BBBS Halloween Party and BBBS Big Olympics was priceless. During the Big Olympics she was excited to see UF student groups compete in field-day style activities at Norman Field. She hopes to see even more student groups next year. Rebecca reflects on the importance of BBBS. “Everyone needs a mentor, whether they believe they do or not,” she said, “and I believe each child should have the opportunity or chance to have a positive mentor in their life regardless of the hand they’ve been dealt.” She shares that even she has a few mentors and each has been instrumental in making a difference during different aspects of her life. “For example, I have a mentor for my professional life, which is different than the mentor I have for my personal life.” She encourages Bigs, Littles and Sponsors to “Do the right thing”; words she has always lived by.

Featured Partner: The Library Partnership



The Library Partnership opened up in June 2009 thanks to the local Department of Children and Families, Partnership for Strong Families and the Alachua County Public Library District. With the goal of keeping families together and reducing the number of children entering the foster care system, The Library Partnership provides various resources geared toward Family and Child Development, Health and Safety, and Self-sufficiency. One of the biggest things that I feel has contributed to the success of Library Partnership is all of the partner agencies and organizations that have come to the table to assist us in providing services to the community. We would not be able to not do what we do without their support and our volunteers, who have all helped make this a success in the community,” said Carressa Hutchinson, the Manager of Library Partnership since it first opened its doors. In its still young existence, the Partnership Library has held over 200 events, including many for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was recognized by Harvard University’s “Bright Ideas Programs”, being one of only three libraries to make the 173 government program list. Ms. Hutchinson has witnessed the effect Library Partnership has had on the Gainesville community so much so that they’re thinking of expansion in the Gainesville area. Their devotion to helping the families in need in our local community deserves to be considered a ‘bright idea’ and furthermore, should be recognized for all of the great things they’ve done and continue to do. “I really want to thank our volunteers and community partners and agencies that continue to support efforts, for coming together as a community and collaborating to make this one of the 100 best communities for young adults,” Ms. Hutchinson added.

To send donations, please visit www.bbbsmidflorida.com.
You may also contact Mr. John Bonacci, john@bbbsmidflorida.org,
or call us at (352) 375-2525.





BIG thanks to our Sponsors

AEC Trust
 Arby's Foundation
 Gainesville Community Foundation
 Gainesville Television Network
 Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
 Just for Campus
 Nationwide Insurance
 The Neighborhood House
 RT Schafer
 Masonic Lodge
 Publix Charities
 SAFEID4Families Inc.
 Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 Students for BBBS
 Sunshine Broadcasting
 Vanguard Foundation



Big Adventures UF BIG OLYMPICS

On November 7th at Norman Field, various UF clubs and student groups participated in events such as tug of war, 3-legged relay, water balloon toss, pie-eating contest, and more.

The groups raised money and donated over 100 toys to BBBS. We wish to thank the following UF Clubs for their continued support: Mortar Board, UF Speech and Debate Team, UF CaribSA/JamSA, UF Faces Modeling Troupe, Members of Students for BBBS, Super Smash Brothers, Alice In Wonderland, and Faces Modeling Troupe



Founding Member Invitation

The Little Moments Big Magic Leadership Circle allows today's leaders to help build tomorrow through America's children. As a founding member, your gift will assure our continuing ability to change lives - reducing youth violence, drug use, teen pregnancy, and positively affecting students' test scores. BBBS gives children a chance to realize full lives, contributing to thriving communities and an improved economy. We put hope in a child's future by putting a friend in a child's life. We invite you to become a part of the growing band of leaders determined to positively influence America's children, families, neighborhoods, and entire communities.

To become a founder please contact Mr. John Bonacci @ 352.375.2525.



Clubs

"Little Ladies" Dance Troupe
 will resume meetings in January 2011.
 Call for details.

"Little Spinners" Colorguard Squad
 holds meetings every Wednesday from 4pm-5:30pm
 at the Library Partnership, 1130 NE 16th Avenue.

"Little Drummers"
 holds meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month.
 The next meeting Thursday
 Dec 2nd from 5pm-6pm at our office.

"Little Rebels" Rollerskaters
 hosted by the Gainesville Roller
 Rebels, is planning it's launch soon.

Contact our office if your child is interested in joining one of our clubs.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

1155 NW 13th St. • Gainesville, FL 32601

www.bbbsmidflorida.org

P. 352-375-2525 • F. 352-375-0319

