



Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Mid-Florida

Experience Big Magic.

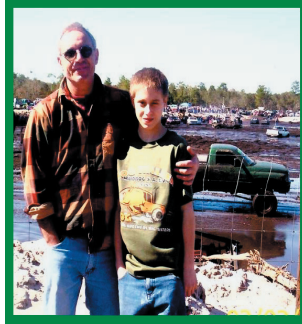
Newsletter

August 2010

BIG thanks to our Sponsors

AEC Trust
 Gainesville Community Foundation
 Gainesville Television Network
 Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
 Nationwide Insurance
 RT Schafer
 Masonic Lodge
 SAFEID4Families Inc.
 Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 Students for BBBS
 Sunshine Broadcasting
 Vanguard Foundation

Match Spotlight: Frank & Nick



Just over two years ago, Frank realized he had free time and he wanted to do something meaningful with it. After some research, he decided to become a big brother. Frank and Nick, both Marion county residents, were matched in April of 2008 and are now close friends. They do lots of fun activities together like go to Wild Waters and gator football games. "Nick has developed into a terrific young adult with good morals, a big heart, good work habits, and has positive views of the world". Frank is very proud of his little brother Nick. He said, "It gives me a lot of satisfaction to see him with a big ear to ear smile when I show up. It's wonderful." Frank advises, "if you have the time and are serious, you need to become a Big Brother/Sister. It's a terrific organization, so go into it with all your heart and soul. It's extremely important for the kids you would be helping."

Big Fun

August 28

Family Fun & Safety Expo

11am to 3pm

Bo Diddley Plaza
downtown Gainesville

*Live entertainment,
activities, food,
and refreshments*

Campaign

As many of you are aware, we are rebuilding our organization to better serve our community. Thus far, we have created and implemented sound business and program systems. We have done a wonderful job of reaching out to those in need; however, the high demand for our program remains.

Our goal is to serve children with the highest quality matches. Our future looks very bright and is filled with opportunities to serve children. We are currently seeking your support in order to change the lives of the next 200 children.

To donate visit
www.bbbsmidflorida.com,
 contact John via email,
john@bbbsofmidflorida.org,
 or call us at (352) 375-2525.

Big News

BIG Congratulations

to our newly appointed
 Board of Directors'
 Officers & Directors

NEW OFFICERS

President, Rebecca Lakkis
 Vice President, Janice Barner
 Treasurer, Larry Hartfield
 Secretary, Andrew Levy

NEW DIRECTORS

Keith Westbrook
 Ric Hansen
 Sarah Catalanotto

Welcome Aboard

BBBS would like to welcome
 Stefanie Del Toro as our new
 BISS Program Specialist.

Stefanie is a graduate of the
 University of Florida with
 a degree in Family, Youth
 and Community Sciences,
 specializing in Human Services.

Growing up, Stefanie's family
 provided her with the support
 that a lot of kids today don't
 have. "Being able to provide
 the support and guidance for
 children to grow and succeed
 brings joy to my heart,"

Stefanie said.

Match Anniversaries

5 Year Anniversary

August 15 - Benjimin / Jamaal

3 Year Anniversary

August 9 - Ella / Malika

August 30 - Terence / Mark

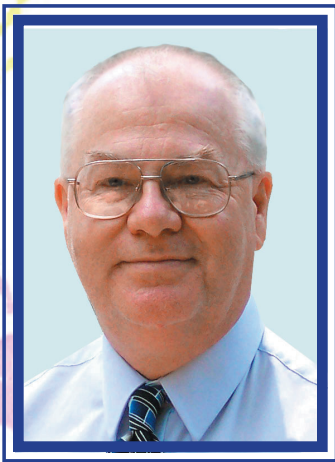
1 Year Anniversary

August 6 - Rodney / Demetrius

August 13 - Jacob / Cam'Ron

July 2010 New Matches

Daniela / Tanisha
 Jamala / Alkileya
 Desiree / Katyegdra
 Sandy / Keyana
 Sarah / Rodricka
 Whitney / Jasmine
 Janice / Rebecca
 Vanessa / Shayla
 Kimberley / Donald



Community Leader: Gary Del Gais

The spotlight shines brightly on community leader Gary J. Del Gais, Founder and President of S.A.F.E.ID4FAMILIES, whose mission is “that all families, individuals and caregivers are prepared should an unforeseen event or emergency occur.” Mr. Del Gais has been a dedicated supporter of BBBS, helping with community relations in many of the 6 counties that we serve, identifying grant opportunities, and including us in fund-raising events in

conjunction with SAFEID4FAMILIES such as Family Fun & Safety Expos. He has a genuine heart for the cause of children and making a positive impact on their lives and ensuring their safe and successful futures. His contributions to this agency and the children that we serve are invaluable. S.A.F.E.ID4FAMILIES with its “MAKE A PLAN” program is designed to improve the emergency preparedness planning and safety education for children, seniors with Alzheimer’s, persons with disabilities, communication difficulties or other disadvantages, by encouraging and providing the needed tools and resources to assist law enforcement and emergency responders in locating and caring for those missing or wandering persons. “MAKE A PLAN” is made available free through their website and through outreach efforts in schools, senior centers and communities, government agencies, other non profits, businesses and Family Safety & Fun Events.

“I am very proud to offer families, individuals, and caregivers, my free program as a simple quick emergency preparedness solution” states Mr. Del Gais.

SPORTS BUDDIES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida
is happy to announce

THE SPORTS BUDDIES PROGRAM

The Sports Buddies Program is a new activity-based mentoring program designed to encourage both men and women to share their love of sports with a child. Sports Buddies provides mentors the opportunity to help build friendships and model good sportsmanship, and provides the child the opportunity to experience playing sports and attending sporting events.

There is no bigger reward than helping a child learn the game of life, set goals and celebrate their victories. Mentors help children build confidence, enjoy new experiences and learn life skills through the fun of sports.

Who can be a Sports Buddy?

Anyone over the age of 21 who can commit to meeting at least twice a month for a minimum of one year can be a Sports Buddy, but we’re especially looking for volunteers who have active lifestyles.

How does it work?

It’s easy! Just a few hours of your time each month can make a BIG difference.

Just pick up an application at our office located at 1155 NW 13th Street, or call for more information:

352-375-2525

Big Adventures

◆ Bigs & Littles Barbecue



Children from all over Gainesville came out to the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County

at Woodland Park for a barbecue hosted with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida on July 17. Over 100 participants, including children, mentors and parents, came out to the park for a day of fun in the sun, free food, and live entertainment.

◆ Kidz on Kampus Tour



July 22, littles enjoyed a fun and interactive college campus tour of UF and some of its highlighted departments

and landmarks. The Tour included a visit to the chemistry lab, TV and radio studios, Turlington Plaza, the football stadium, and a behind-the-scenes look at UF’s football lockers led by Tight-Ends Coach Brian White!

◆ Lillian’s Music Store Annual Golf Tournament

On July 26, Lillian’s Music Store hosted the 4th Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament at the Gainesville Golf & Country Club,



benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-FL. Adults and kids both enjoyed a fun day on the green. A BIG

thanks to Lillian’s Music Store for their continued support.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

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