



# Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Mid-Florida

Experience Big Magic.

Newsletter

September 2010

## BIG thanks to our Sponsors

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## Match Spotlight: Nathan & Iman



Five years ago Nathan came to BBBS of Mid-Florida because he wanted to be a positive influence to a child from a disadvantaged background. Iman's mother, Latosha says that Nathan gives her son someone to look up to. "Nathan is wonderful; I have no words to explain him. When you don't have a father figure in your life, and then you find someone to come and spend that time with you, it's great. Nathan is like a part of the family; he's helped me raise Iman." Nathan describes being a Big as "highlighting the socioeconomic disparities that exist in our community, which helps motivate me to try to help those who are underprivileged". Latosha states that she thinks her son is in "a wonderful program. It's especially helpful to families with low income. We cannot afford other programs. What BBBS is doing is a miracle. It gives you something to look forward to, your child being happy."

## Big Fun

September 18

### Little Olympics

10am-1pm at the Easton Newberry Sports Complex

September 18

### Downtown Latino Festival

12pm - 5pm at the Downtown Community Plaza  
*celebrating the positive contributions of the Latino Community*

October 15

### UF Homecoming Parade

*Bigs & Littles must RSVP to our office by Oct 8th*

October 31

### Halloween Party

*time and location TBD*

November 7

### UF Big Olympics

12pm - 5pm at the Norman Field

*Contest determining which student group is the Best at getting involved in their community*

December 11

### Holiday Party

*time and location TBD. Mark your calendar!!!*

## Big News

### Little Olympics

Come compete in fun Olympic-style events with other Bigs and Littles on Saturday, September 18 from 10am-1pm at the Easton Newberry Sports Complex.

All kids from our Big Brothers Big Sisters' families are welcome to attend.

Free shirts and a box lunch from Subway will be provided.

RSVP by contacting us at 352.375.2525 by Wednesday, September 15th!

### Homecoming Parade

On Oct 15th, we will have a float in the UF Homecoming Parade. If any of our Bigs and Littles would like to participate please RSVP, 352.375.2525,

no later than Friday, Oct 8th.

### Toy Drive

The holiday season is quickly approaching. We are seeking toy donations from our community, local companies and organizations. Our

volunteers are encouraged to donate a toy. Our mission is to collect new toys during

October, November and December to distribute them at our annual holiday party in December for our Littles. For more info, call 352.375.2525

### Volunteer Training

Our next volunteer training session will be held on September 28th, from 4:30pm-6:30 pm at the Library Partnership, 1130 NE 16th Ave., Gainesville, FL, 32609

## August 2010 New Matches

Chantelle / Antanisha  
 Darrel / Charles  
 Greg / Michael  
 James / Zachary  
 Kamia / Tia  
 Kelsey / Julana  
 Khaled / Devante  
 Lauren / Alanna  
 Natalia / Zeimyra  
 Nicole / Shayonce  
 Sasha / Shante  
 Shamaneik / Corion  
 Shayna / Jakhia  
 Tyler / Rodricas

To become a BBBS partner, or send us a tax deductible donation, visit [www.bbbsmidflorida.com](http://www.bbbsmidflorida.com) or contact John Bonacci, email: [john@bbbsofmidflorida.org](mailto:john@bbbsofmidflorida.org) • telephone: (352) 375-2525



## Community Leader: Barzella Papa

This month's spotlight turns to Barzella Papa, President and CEO of the Gainesville Community Foundation (GCF). She is also a wife and mother-of-two, who has lived in Gainesville for twelve (12) years.

Ms. Papa graduated from the University of Alabama with a BA in Communications where she won several local and national awards for her writings

and worked for several years at Southern Living and Time Life Books. Papa is also a board member for the Ronald McDonald House, University of Florida Performing Arts, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She is also a past president of the Junior League of Gainesville.

GCF, founded in 1998, exists to promote and facilitate philanthropy, and to strengthen relationships between charitable organizations and donors. They both raise funds and act as stewards of money reserved in endowments. Papa believes that community foundations are the fastest growing facet of philanthropy. She said to think of them as saving accounts. At a time of need, GCF was able to offer financial assistance to BBBS to help us through some short term challenges. Papa stated, "I think BBBS is absolutely on the right track to have an impact and be sustainable."

Papa traces her volunteer experience back to the Time to Read program at an inner city school in Birmingham, where she would meet with a 7th grader for an hour each week. She continued her desire to be a positive impact by keeping in touch with three of the girls after they moved on from the program. "You can absolutely change a child's direction in life by spending time with them," she said. She recalls someone having an impact in her life. Papa said that her first boss, Nancy Wyatt, took her under her wing when she worked at Southern Living. "She gave me so much advice," Papa said.

To any Bigs and volunteers, Papa states, "If you choose to do it, give 100 percent."

### UF Big Olympics

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida (BBBS) is holding their first ever Big Olympics. The competition will determine which student organization (grecos, groups, teams, etc.) is the "Best" at getting students involved in their community. The event will be held on Sunday, November 7th 2010 at Norman Field. Registration begins at 11:30AM and the competition will begin at 12pm.

Some contests can be performed prior to the day of the event.

Toys and money collected before the event, can be dropped off at BBBS. Every challenge is worth a different amount of points. The team with the most points will be honored as the GRAND CHAMPIONS.

Take this challenge as an opportunity to make a difference in your community.

We thank you for your participation and wish you the best of luck!

To register call 352.375.2525 or email us at [info@bbbsmidflorida.org](mailto:info@bbbsmidflorida.org).

## Match Anniversaries

### 3 Year Anniversary

Sept 19 - Patrick / Andrew

Sept 21 - Janna / Auriyunna

### 2 Year Anniversary

Sept 2 - Josh / Demetrius

Sept 5 - Erica / Draven

Sept 10 - Contessa / Markeisha

Sept 10 - Laura / Jaziya

### 1 Year Anniversary

Sept 2 - Whitney / Tomesha

Sept 14 - Andrea / Shaterica

Sept 15 - Daniel / Alize

Sept 16 - Anthony / JaQuan

Sept 16 - Audrey / Sharquez

Sept 16 - Jamel / Angel

Sept 21 - Daleesa / Brea

Sept 24 - Amanda / X'Zarhia

Sept 24 - Courtney / My'Liyhia

Sept 25 - Ryan / Jakarious

Sept 28 - Nirav / Miguel

Sept 28 - Ricky / Jacobi

Sept 29 - Breanna / Shakira

Sept 30 - Shauna /Quanita

## Big Adventures

### ◆ FAMILY FUN & SAFETY EXPO

On Saturday, August 28 a Family Fun and Safety Expo was hosted by SAFEID4FAMILIES benefiting BBBS. The event was held at the Bo Diddley Plaza in downtown Gainesville. It was an afternoon of live

entertainment, activities, food & refreshments!

Over 300 dishes were served to the attendees and surrounding neighbors.

We wish to thank the organizations & businesses whose participation made this event a success: Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, CDS Family & Behavioral Health Svcs, Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, A+ Tutor U, Hippy, Elder Options, The Dragon's Hoard, AAA, Modern Woodmen, Three Rivers Legal Services, MPB, Roy Sunglasses, Franklin Productions, Fiber Optic Plus



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