



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

Experience Big Magic.

Newsletter

November 2010

New 2010 October Matches

- Mike / Demetrius
- Laura / Natalia
- Jamie / Consuela
- Caitlin / Tahlor
- Molly / Mikeria
- Dan / Elijah
- Nirav / Miguel
- Ciarra / Kiyana
- Krsha / Sasha
- Veronica / Jessica
- Samuel / Devin
- Amber / Shaniya
- Jennifer / Briana
- Evan / Tony
- Alex / Kaleob
- Michael / Kaige
- Kristen / Shay
- Nicholas / Gregory
- Erika / Keyari
- Landon / Dre
- Brett / Malik
- Ellen / Alexandria
- Alexa / Aaliyah

Match Spotlight: Fedro & Noah

Just about a year ago Fedro was invited by one of his close friends to join BBBS of Mid-Florida and since then he has developed a "close personal relationship and friendship" with Noah, his Little. Noah always had a desire to have a male around that he could do "guy things" with. Since being matched with Fedro, they've done various things. "We play laser tag, fishing, canoeing, movies and he prints posters for me on his cool printer. We went bowling once and laughed about how terrible bowlers we are," Noah explained. Fedro and Noah, along the way, discovered that the age difference didn't matter when they found a common interest: Greek Mythology. "We spend some time talking about serious things such as school, experiences, or a common interest (e.g. Greek mythology). This is followed by some activity that we both enjoy that is plain fun," Fedro said. "I like telling my friends I have a Big to do guy stuff with and I like learning things from him. I want to be a Big when I grow up," Noah said. Fedro enjoys the time he has spent with Noah and has loved seeing how his Little is "developing into a focused individual" he feels will be successful as an adult. "There is a sense of freshness and happiness that comes with unabashed fun, and having my Little as a friend has led to many of these moments."



Match Anniversaries

- 5 Year Anniversary
Nov 1 - Nathan / Iman
- 3 Year Anniversary
Nov 6 - Kevin / Raulheim
- 1 Year Anniversary
Nov 12 - Fedro / Noah
- Nov 24 - Amy / Nickia

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

Tues, Nov 16, 4-6:30pm @ Library Partnership - 1130 NE 16th Avenue

Wed, Dec 8, 4:30-7pm @ Library Partnership - 1130 NE 16th Avenue

Marion County

Mon, Nov 29, 6-8p @ United Way of Marion Co. 1401 NE 2nd St., Ocala

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 352 375 2525 ext 15

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



Community Leader: Daniel Walkup D.M.D. PA



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida has much to be thankful for, not only during the Thanksgiving season, but year-round. Our community is full of generous people who give freely to our Littles and their families. This November, we would like to focus our spotlight on one story in particular.

When one of our Bigs told dental assistant Jessica Davis that his Little's teeth needed some attention, she went straight to Dr.

Daniel Walkup. Dr. Walkup and his staff – Jessica, Karen, Sandy, Michelle and Erika – gladly agreed to perform a number of extractions and cavity fillings at no charge to the Little's family. Dr. Walkup expressed only kind words in regards to the Little, stating that he was a "nice, well-mannered young man and it was a privilege to meet him." The dentist called BBBS a blessing to children and the community. While Dr. Walkup was blessed with guidance from both his parents growing up, he expressed his concern for children who do not have that same advantage. He said that "Big Brothers and Big Sisters does a tremendous job and deserve all the credit."

Dr. Walkup's practice is in Ocala, but he resides in McIntosh with his wife Renée and children Matthew, 12, and Sam, 7. The 46-year-old dentist attended Stetson University and then graduated from the College of Dentistry at the University of Florida in 1990. We at BBBS of Mid-Florida give a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Walkup and his staff, for their generous contribution and making it easy for our Little to have a big smile this year.

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

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.

Big News

Clubs

"Little Ladies" Dance Troupe will hold it's next meeting Tuesday, Nov 16th from 3pm-4pm at the Library Partnership, 1130 NE 16th Avenue.

"Little Spinners" Cologuard Squad will hold it's next meeting Wednesday Nov 10rd from 4pm-5:30pm Library Partnership, 1130 NE 16th Avenue.

"Little Drummers" will hold it's 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.

Intro to Birding for Kids!

Come out Sunday, November 7th from 12:00-2:00pm to the Alachua

Conservation Trust's Tuscawilla Cabin in Micanopy, FL .

The event will feature The Bird Detective, Binocular Basics, listening to the birds, and an introduction to field guides. Light snacks will be provided

To RSVP contact:

Elementary: Emily Schwartz,
emilysgf@gmail.com

Secondary: Mike Manetz,
mmanetz@yahoo.com

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 Fun

Nov. 7 - UF Big OLYMPICS

On Sunday, Nov 7th between 12pm-5pm at the Norman Field, BBBS is hosting the first ever Big Olympics. This event will consist of a series of contests to determine which of the Greek or student groups is the "Best" at getting students involved in their community. Please let us know if you will be participating by Friday, November 4th. For questions or more information, please contact: Lauren Klein Event Coordinator at (352) 375-2525 or pr@bbbsmidflorida.org

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 tickets or info.

BELK CHARITY SALE

Buy a \$3 ticket from us to get **\$5 off** of your pre-sell purchase at Belk on or before Saturday, November 6th. Also the first 100 customers on Nov 6th are given a gift card that is worth up to \$1000! Not only are you saving money, you are also supporting your local Big Brothers Big Sisters.

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 December 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.

Big Adventures

Homecoming Parade

On October 15th, around 100 Bigs, Littles, and Families marched in the Homecoming Parade. The Littles experienced the excitement of one of Gainesville's biggest events. A BIG thanks to Rebecca Lakkis, Janice, and Sarah for making this event possible! A special thanks to Ricky Lakkis for supplying the beautiful float he made for the parade & to Andrew Levy for providing the transportation.



Sports Buddies Kick Off



On October 23rd at Howard Bishop Middle School, over 200 Bigs, Littles, and Families enjoyed the entertainment and activities. There were free snacks and desserts, as well as the first 50 families receiving a ticket for free food baskets. A special thanks to the guest speakers: Chief Tony Jones (current Chief of Police of the Gainesville Police Department), Judge Greene (UF Alumni and former county judge), Firefighters Cary Williams and Jamel Cheesborough (President of Brothers in Action), Josef Ian Scott (former defensive tackle for the University of Florida), as well as Joseph Lewis (former varsity basketball player). A thanks to our donating sponsors at the event: Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Red Mango Yogurt & Smoothies, and Okito America Martial Arts. And also a thanks to all of our other sponsors for attending.

Little Spooktacular Halloween

October 31st at Splitz Bowling Alley Bigs, Littles, & Families enjoyed 2 games of bowling, shoes included, for just \$6. Around 70 kids enjoyed a party, a free haunted house, and free candy to make for a very enjoyable night. We want to thank Rebecca Lakkis for providing Halloween decorations.



Toy Drive



The holiday season is rapidly approaching. We are requesting toy donations from our



community, local companies and organizations.

We are also requesting from our BIGS, if possible, to donate one toy. The toys donated will be given to our Littles at our annual holiday party on December 11th.

Thank you in advance for all you do. If you would like to participate, please contact our office at **352.375.2525** or email us at info@bbbsmidflorida.org

To send donations, please visit www.bbbsmidflorida.com.
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Thoughts for Thanks

We are deeply thankful and proud of Dr. Sarah M. Rausch, one of BBBS's Big Sisters, for heading our Holiday Toy Drive and really helping to give back to the local community. Her compassion and generosity will affect many this holiday season.

Ms. Correnda is thankful to have a Big Brother in her son Gregory's life. Even though they were recently matched, she can already tell that Nick will be a tremendous influence to Greg. She appreciates all the things that Nick has already done for him. All Greg talks about is his Big Brother!

To Priyal:
Thank you for bringing me a toy.

I am thankful that Melissa is my Big Sister because she consistently visits me, she is fun, and she is pretty!

I am thankful for Sam being my Big Brother because he is the best big brother a boy will ever have. I wish that Sam would never leave my side!

Thank You!
Dr. Walkup,
Jessica, Karen,
Sandy, Michelle
and Erika of
Marion County

Thank you SO much, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida, for trusting me to be a big sister for Briana. She is the greatest little I could have ever asked for. When we first met, we automatically understood each other. We always have a blast and we are teaching each other so much. I am so thankful for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida and their mission to help littles like mine. I am also thankful for my little, Briana, for trusting me to be there for her, for caring about me and for always participating in the activities I plan. Briana, my favorite days are when I get to see you! - Love, Melissa

I am thankful for BBBS because it give kids the opportunities to just be kids. Without this organization, many children will continue to feel ignored or not loved, but the staff and the Bigs are here to help those kids in need. I am so excited to get involved in BBBS, being my first year here at UF, because I want to make that one person feel special. We should all be thankful for our friends, family, and especially BBBS for doing the amazing things that they do.

Ms. Latosha is thankful that her daughter Dasani finally has her Big Sister Amanda. Amanda is all Dasani ever talks about! The family is excited for the match to move to the Community Based Mentoring Program before the end of the year so that the girls can go on adventures together!

To Emily:
You are a
great person and
very helpful.

To Dan:
I am thankful
for my Big
Brother's
help!

Ms. Valerie is thankful for her two girls' Big Sisters Whitney and Shayna. The Littles have had a great start to their school year and have improved in their academics because of the help and attention of their Bigs.

I am thankful that I have Sham in my life, to be there to help me solve my problems!

To Amy:
Thank you for being
my Big Sister.

To Greg:
I am thankful that
you come visit me
each week.

To Jamie: Thank you
for being my big sister.

Chanelle, thank you so much for believing in the Students for Big Brothers Big Sisters student organization at the University of Florida. It means to much to us to have your trust and participating in our club. You have always stood by us in all the chaos and we could not be more thankful. We love you!
(Love, Students for Big Brothers Big Sisters Executive Board)

To Michael: I am thankful that I have a Little Brother that is so much fun to hang out with!

To Ja'mese:
Thank you for helping me with homework and having fun with me. Have a great day and christmas.

To Wilhelmina:
Thank you for being a good big sister and helping me with reading and attitude.

To Daleesa:
You are the best big sister in the world to me.

History Essay Contest!

The 2010 African American History Essay contest theme is: "African American Excellence: Creating, Building and Serving" in which essays may address individuals, organizations and/or events related to the theme." All submissions (essay signed entry/release form) are due by Friday, November 19, 2010. should be mailed to Essays Contest c/o P. Hilliard-Nunn P.O. Box 357041, Gainesville, FL 32635 and be postmarked no later than Nov. 19, 2010. Ages 5-18 are eligible to participate. Winners will be announced and presented on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at the Link Holiday Bazaar at the Library Partnership at 1130 NE 16th Avenue, 11:00AM to 4:00 PM.

GUIDELINES:

For Ages 5-7: 150-250 words.
For Ages 8-10: 200-300 words.
For Ages 11-13: 600 - 700 words.
Include Bibliography. *
For Ages 14-18: 700 - 800 words.
Include Bibliography. *

*The bibliography is not included in the word count.

REQUIREMENTS:

Be a student in Alachua County, one essay per student, essays must be typed or printed only, essay title goes on the top of each page, student's name may only appear on the registration form (not on the essay),

organizers reserve the right not to award any prizes.

**Any questions, email
makare@mindspring.com**

Thanks to all our Board Members, Sponsors, Staff, Bigs and Volunteers for their commitment and perseverance in serving the children in our community. - John

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

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