



Welcome to the New Year, 2011!

Dec 2010 & Jan 2011 Matches

December Matches

Constanza /Samantha
Marcilyn Mills/Derriona
Laura/Keiko
Seth/Issac

Xander/Darien
Erika/Sasha

Rachel/Sequoia
Rhana /Beyonce

January Matches

Danielle /Ziliane

Brooke/Devlwi
Amber/Sosson

David /Timanto
Caroline/T Woude

Bethany /Nadline
Angella/Mariel

Camille/Phael
Christine/Lineda

Krsha/Joseph St. Louis

Najam/Ronald
Evelyn /Anisson

Melanie/Juni
Lila/Jonathan

Marisa/Elton
Alex/Jesio

Nadim /Darien
Demetri/Darius

Trevor/Joshua
Lauren/Rashonda

Rebekkah/Coco
Donovan/Christopher



Match Spotlight: Fred & Malcolm



Fred came to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida around 8 months ago originally wanting to learn more about the community, how he could get involved, and how change can be made. "I like BBBS because it allows you the opportunity to do measurable good; you work directly with the child and get to have a positive influence," Fred said. For the last 6 months, Fred and Malcolm have been a perfect match and continue to be a benefit to one another. The ability to be considered a hero to Malcolm is an aspect of being a Big that Fred enjoys.



One of their favorite memories together comes from whenever they play tag. "He always calls time-out right before he gets tagged. He never wants to be it!" Fred described the specific moment, considering it truly memorable reoccurrence. Fred described Malcolm as a great kid with a very positive attitude about things and willingness to learn and try out new places. "I think that receptivity will carry him far," Fred said of his Little, "We've gone some places over our time together I thought he would have found boring, but if you pay attention, you'll catch him digging it!" Malcolm has learned a great deal from Fred over their time together, making it clear that his Big has done all he can to not let life get in the way of them spending time with one another. About becoming a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fred suggested that those wanting to get involved should enjoy the process and to try to not be afraid of trying new events and new things as your Little will be learning as much about how to make the match work as you. Together, Fred and Malcolm learned much about forming relationships and have both experienced the giving nature of their relationship and how much of an impact they have had on each other's lives.

Match Anniversaries

7 years

Jennifer/Jalia

2 years

Pat/Sarah

1 year

Elaine/Airiana

Mariah/Keneisha

"Little Spinners" Cologuard Squad: Meetings every Wednesday, 4:30pm-5:30pm.

"Little Drummers": Meetings on every second Thursdays of the month, 5pm-6pm.

Clubs meet at BBBS, located at 1155 NW 13th St., Gainesville FL 352.375.2525.

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



Community Leader: Dr. Sarah Rausch

A new year is a good time to reflect, and at BBBS, our reflections turn to the giving spirits we encountered in 2010. This month, there is one



community leader we would like to recognize – Sarah Rausch, Ph.D. As a Big, Dr. Rausch has enjoyed her time with her Little, from reading together to having fun roller skating, making pottery and fishing in Cedar Key. “My Little Sister Rodricka is amazing,” she said. “She is such a bright, vibrant, intelligent, knowledgeable, and honest youth. I consider her part of my family.” Dr. Rausch learned about BBBS through her husband of one and a half years, who was involved in the organization while he was in medical school. She said she

had wanted to be a Big for a couple of years and was finally able to when she settled down in Gainesville. Growing up, she was blessed with loving immediate and extended family members who became her mentors, and she wanted to be a mentor to someone else.

Speaking about BBBS, Dr. Rausch said, “The entire model of bringing together the community with exceptional gifts and time to give back with youth is outstanding. And of course, the kids in our community should always be our biggest investment. I am so happy and honored to be involved with BBBS.”

This year, she was able to play a role in the Holiday Party. She said she wanted to help BBBS’ hard-working staff and contribute to the kids at the same time. Therefore, she said, “I simply helped coordinate the generosity of our community members, and provided them with an opportunity to give back.” Her colleagues at the Moffitt Cancer Center generously gave donations.

Before she went to school, the 33-year-old spent five-years doing full-time, international nonprofit work in developing countries such as India, Taiwan and Slovenia. Then she received her Ph.D. in Clinical Health Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University, interned at Shands, and completed a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. With a specialization in cancer psychology and cancer research, Dr. Rausch oversees integrative supportive services for cancer patients at all care phases. Additionally, she conducts research on quality-of-life issues for cancer patients. Through her job, Dr. Rausch is able to provide community outreach and education to the community.

A big thanks and praise to our Colorguard Club coaches: Rebekkah Houde and Camille Tinnin.

Great Job on all you have done in creating a wonderful program and making those youth’s musical dreams come true.

Featured Partner: Spirit of Truth Church

In March 2003, Rev. Pam Schauer and Rev. Theresa Wesly

came together and founded the Spirit of Truth Church, located at 2251 NW 41 Street, Gainesville, FL (Sunday service is at 10AM.) The Spirit of Truth Church is considered a Unity Church, which is defined as a nondenominational spiritual movement with the goal of teaching a practical understanding and then



applying Jesus’ teaching so that everyone can lead a happier, fuller, and more successful life. While the Spirit of Truth gives to many different organizations and participates in numerous groups’ gift giving opportunities, we would like to deeply thank them for all of the wonderful toys they donated to our Toy Drive for our Holiday Party. Their contributions will make a difference in our Littles’ holiday celebrations. Our Littles and their siblings put together wish lists full of toys and various other things they wished for this holiday. On their lists were things such as video games, bicycles, board games, clothing items, books, as well as numerous other items. The Spirit of Truth church and its congregation came together, and with these Wish Lists in mind, donated bicycles, dolls, board games, and a multitude of other things that our Littles listed. On top of giving gifts for the Littles, they also gave toys for our Littles’ siblings, who aren’t a part of the BBBS program. “We have a small congregation of about 50 and their generosity is an inspiration and blessing to many throughout the year. We are blessed and give back from our abundance in accordance with the law of demonstration which teaches us to live the truth and love our brother as ourselves,” said the Spirit of Truth church. The church’s selflessness and compassion for the community is truly a great asset for the city of Gainesville. For such a group of big-hearted people to come together and donate so many things for our Littles so that they may have a happy holiday is something that others in our community should seek to emulate.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

We wish to thank the following sponsors who provided equipments, materials and uniforms for our Colorguard Club. Your generous donations enhance our activities in this program.

Algy Costumes, Glamour Goddess, Guard Closet, Lamar Advertising Company, Power Bows, Smith Walbridge Walmart and We Love Colors.

Your continuous support brings great joy to all of us.



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

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SAFEID4Families Inc.
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Students for BBBS
Sunshine Broadcasting
Vanguard Foundation

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Feb. 12th:

The Lovers of the Fifties

celebrating Valentine's Day

Rum Runners/Fat Tuesday

from 7:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Look out for more exciting events on our website, Facebook & Twitters.

Free Day of Dentistry

On Saturday, February 12th,

Millhopper Family Dentistry is offering **free dental care** to the first 100 people beginning at 8:00 AM at 3510 NW 43rd St. in Gainesville. Call **352.377.1705** for details.

Big Bruisers Big Sisters Roller Derby

On **Sunday, February 27**, at Skate Station Funworks, the Gainesville Roller Rebels will take on Jacksonville's River City Rat Pack!

Come out to support the ladies who are sponsoring our Little Rebels rollerskating club and partake in a **50/50 raffle to benefit BBBS**. Doors open at 6pm, bout starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 at the door. 12 and under get in **FREE!**

BBBS' NEW OFFICE IN MARION COUNTY

We are excited to announce the return to Marion County with a new office at 2677 NW 10th St. Suite 1A, Ocala, FL in partnership with the Marion County Literacy Council. Our mission is to continue to provide our programs, which are proven, to change children's lives for the better, forever.

For more details, times and days the Ocala office is open, contact us at **352.375.2525**

Plans to reopen offices in Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties are presently in the works while the BBBS building in Gainesville remains up for sale as we reevaluate the corporate structure, in where to be located to best serve all the communities under our umbrella.

Big Adventures HOLIDAY PARTY

BBBS of Mid-Florida held our annual Holiday Party on December 11th at the RT Schafer Masonic Lodge. We had our Holiday Raffle & Santa gave out hundreds of gifts that were donated from our local community to all our Littles and their siblings.



Come enjoy food, entertainment, and activities for the whole family.

Family Fun & Safety Expo

Saturday, February 26th, 11am-4pm

In front of Best Buy at Butler Plaza

3750 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville.

More information forthcoming.



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



A BIG Thank You for Spreading the Holiday Cheer

A gigantic thank you to **Ms. Jo Hughes** of the **Spirit of Truth Church** for sponsoring 50 of our Little's at our holiday party. The generosity and support that the Spirit of Truth Church has given has changed the Holiday Season for the majority of our Little's. A huge hug to **Ms. Laura Northcutt** for donating 50 stuffed animals to our Little's which were given out at our Holiday Party. A huge thank you to **Sweetbay Supermarket** for donating all of the drinks, cups, and candy canes at our holiday party! **Sarah Rausch**, a special thanks to your generous donation of various toys. Your efforts and time spent on our party delighted the whole event. **Thank you WCJB TV 20 for the Free Announcement / donated to toy drive.** A big thanks to **Cox Cable** for lighting up Little's Christmas by donating Star Wars toys. Thank You **Freddy Williams of the Woodland Park Boys & Girls Club** for your continued support of BBBS; it means so much to us. **Curt and Carol Franklin, Shannon Dennis, Eric Tilden, Susan Pojols, Sam Goldstein, and Bijan Devani**, thank you all for donating gifts to a family of nine in our program and making the holidays extra special. We would also like to thank **National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)** for making Little's party full of fun with its generous donation. We sincerely thank **Renshinkin Martial Arts Academy (Jason Dodge & Joyce Pratt), Dollar General, RBC Bank, and Gators for Unicef** for donating boxes of toys as well. **Thank you to Moe's for generously catering our holiday party. The food was delicious and made the day even more special.** Words are not enough to express our thanks to the following individuals for their generous donations: **Catherine Seemann of the Gainesville Roller Rebels, Evelyn Karolyne, Stefanie Del Toro, Marilla Fernandez, Cher Hubsher & Jared, Janice Garry, Kelly Morgan, Allison Barkett, Lauren McCarthy, Dana Sutherland, Trevor Lopes, Allesandro Bordoli, Anthony Bluangtook, Rebecca Lakkis and Ann Cranick.** Thank you to Santa's helpers who came in and wrapped all the gifts donated towards our holiday party **Rebekkah Houde, Danielle Fernandez, Ana Barbic, Melissa Keightley, Kate Keator, and Christine Troskey of Gator 4 Unicef; and Kate Magill, Nar Nazal Ebinc, James Chan, Laura Daley, Brittany Fox, Jonel Edwards, Alex Becker, Kimberly Linton and Jeff Rood of Public Service Counsel.**
You have been great gifts to us.

Thank you to our **Board of Directors** for assisting with the raffle tickets, helping at our events and volunteering their time to help out Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida. Your aid has helped to make our events a great success. Special thanks to **Rebecca**, who helps at all our events, **Ricky, Larry, Keith** and **Sarah** for their tremendous assistance at the Holiday Party and also **Dennis and Eureka.** Couldn't have done it without you! In addition, **Tammy Bernard** hosted a yoga class which benefited BBBS in a new and healthy way. Thank you so much. Special thanks to the **RT Schafer Masonic Lodge** for providing a venue to hold our holiday party. We are so grateful. Thank you **Rebekkah Houde and Camille Tinnin** for the splendid performance of the Color Guard Club; you are doing an amazing job. Warmest thanks to the **Junior Achievement Volunteers** who provided arts and crafts activities during our holiday party. You made things run smoothly and we are so grateful. **Lauren McCarthy & Amber Pope**, thank you for all your hard work and filling the role of "elves" at our holiday party. Because of your work, every child received a gift at the event. We couldn't have done it without you. **Kenneth Akin**, thank you for the marvelous job you did of photographing the entire event. The pictures came out terrific. Thank you to all **BBBS interns, volunteers and work study**, who worked so hard in achieving and putting together the necessary elements to make the holiday party a huge success. Great thanks to all volunteers who helped us at the holiday party and supports us all the year around. Without your dedication and effort, we could not have been as successful as the event turned out. **You get a standing ovation from all of us.** And last but not least, a huge thank you, applause and our deepest, heartfelt appreciation goes to **Santa Claus, Dennis Pollard.** You provided great cheers to all who attended and you made Christmas come alive to the children that were present. **You are truly the best Santa, ever.** Our Littles were so ecstatic and they were happy to have Santa hand-out their Christmas gifts. All this was only possible because of the thoughtful contributions from organizations and people mentioned above. We hope for your continued support in the future and once again thank you, thank you, thank you for your humongous generosity and making our **Holiday Party truly, the most successful event, ever!**

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

Alachua County:

Tuesday, February 22nd from 3:30-6pm @ The Library Partnership, 1130 NW 16th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32609

Marion County:

Wednesday, February 23 from 6-8pm @ United Way of Marion County, 1401 NE 2nd St, Ocala, FL 34470

Volunteers can RSVP by calling the office @ 352.375.2525.



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.

