



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida

Newsletter



Match Spotlight: Cathy/Cassie

July 2011



Extraordinary relationships are formed through BBBS of Mid-Florida, and many of them go above and beyond either a Big or a Little's expectation. When Cathy and Cassie were matched in May 2008 they signed up for a minimum one-year commitment. But this past May, they celebrated their anniversary of being Big and Little for three years. When they first met at Barnes & Noble three years ago, Cassie was very shy and withdrawn. She would barely make eye contact, says Cathy. But within six months a transformation had taken place. "She felt more comfortable with me and more at ease," Cathy said. "And at that time she made eye contact, and we

would talk; *you know, girl talk.*" According to Cathy, her Little Cassie is growing into a responsible young lady. Cassie has recently joined the U.S. Air Force ROTC and is thriving. She plans on finishing that through high school and maybe joining the service upon graduation. Cassie's mother, Daphne Bell, has told BBBS that the match between them is great and that she considers Cathy family. Cathy said that the most rewarding part about volunteering with BBBS is the trust that she sees Cassie has gained. Cathy, an Ocala resident, is no stranger to BBBS having been a Big Sister almost ten years ago whose Little moved away. Her advice to anyone considering becoming a Big is to know that "you will get more out of the relationship than what you actually put in".

(to read the entire interview visit our website bbbsmidflorida.org)

Community Leader: Mario Coppock



Dedicated, efficient, and passionate—these are the words that describe this month's featured community leader, Mario Coppock. Coppock, who has recently been promoted as the Columbia County Recreation Director, heads the Richardson Community Center. The Center, he says, "provide recreational,

social, athletic and education programs geared towards the boys and girls of our community." Specifically these programs place an emphasis on academic excellence through tutoring programs and also offer recreational opportunities through the participation of the

sport programs. Even when the school year is over, the Center serves as a haven to keep the children busy and educated; during the long summer hours, sport leagues, summer camp program, weekly Florida 4-H lessons, and summer reading mini-camp become available. Through these programs Coppock believes that they will "encourage social skills in children and offer positive experiences by providing a wholesome and safe learning environment. This will enable children to become positive contributing members of society." In closing, Coppock's inspirational words for the kids are, "Persevere... Never Give Up!!" It's a wise motto that Coppock also follows while he makes a positive impact on one child at a time.

(to read the entire interview visit our website bbbsmidflorida.org)



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



Mark your calendars for the

5TH ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

presented by

YOUR BUSINESS HERE

benefiting

Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Mid-Florida

hosted by

Ironwood Golf Course

Saturday, September 3rd

Individual Golfer \$65

7:30 am

Registration

8:00 am

Shotgun Start

For more information about the golf tournament and how you can become a sponsor

contact us **352.375.2525**

or call the Tournament Director,

Keith Westbrook at **352-505-9906**.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Alachua County

Wednesday, July 20th, 4:30 pm

@The Library Partnership, 1130 NE 16th Ave.

Marion County

To schedule your 2 hour training

contact: chanelle@bbbsmidflorida.org

or call 352 375 2525 ext 15

TAKE 5

to



and

HELP OUR CHILDREN

*A simple donation of \$5
can help build long lasting and
life changing relationships
for the children of*

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
OF MID FLORIDA**

*who need a guiding mentor
in their lives*

Please make check payable to

**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Mid-Florida**

*or visit our website and click on
"donate button" to pay via paypal.*

Thank you for your support.



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



July Match Anniversaries

8 years

7/7/2003

Jordan/Damaryus

4 years

7/11/2007

Tanya/Claire

2 years

7/9/2009

Latifat/Ja'Mes

1 year

7/7/2010

Jamala/Alkileya

7/9/2010

Sandy/Keyana

7/9/2010

Desiree/Katyegdra

7/16/2010

Sarah/Rodricka

7/21/2010

Whitney/Jasmine

7/22/2010

Janice/Rebecca

Club Meetings

Meetings for the following clubs:

“Little Ladies” Dance Troupe

“Little Spinners”

Colorguard Squad

“Little Drummers”

will reconvene in the fall.

“Little Rebels” Rollerskaters

Wednesday, July 20th,

6:30pm-8pm at Skate Station

1311 NW 76th Boulevard.

If your child is interested in joining our clubs, contact our office at **352.375.2525** or sign up at www.bbbsmidflorida.org.

School Superlatives A BIG Thank You for Going the Extra Mile

Stefanie Del Toro and the BBBS staff would like to recognize these outstanding school staff members for going the extra mile to help the Bigs in Sites and Schools program shine:

- ❖ **Mr. Konkol**- Guidance Counselor (Kanapaha Middle School)
- ❖ **Ms. Latini**- Guidance Counselor (Duval Elementary)
- ❖ **Mr. Lopez**- Office Staff (Idylwild Elementary)
- ❖ **Ms. Martin**- Guidance Counselor (Lincoln Middle School)
- ❖ **Ms. Smith**- Guidance Counselor (Lake Forest Elementary)
- ❖ **Ms. Stokes** – Dean of Students (Howard Bishop MS)

BBBS is extremely grateful to these school professionals for their continued support in providing the agency with the necessary required documents such as report cards, FCAT score, student interviews, and monthly support needed to further our Bigs in School and Site Program.

BIG thanks to our Sponsors

AEC TRUST

ARBY'S FOUNDATION

ALTRIA COMPANY

BEST BUY

GAINESVILLE COM FOUNDATION

GAINESVILLE HEALTH & FITNESS

GAINESVILLE TV NETWORK

JUST FOR CAMPUS

L.J. PERCUSSIONS

MACY'S

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

PERSONAL ELF

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

RT SCHAFFER MASONIC LODGE

PUBLIX CHARITIES

SAFEID4FAMILIES INC.

STUDENTS FOR BBBS

VANGUARD FOUNDATION

Yoga classes for Bigs and Littles!

Starting July 13th on Wednesday evenings
From 5:30pm to 6:30pm at BBBS Gainesville office

Beginner level class

Perfect for Bigs and Littles who have or have not taken a yoga class before.

Great way to learn some basic yoga poses and have fun with your Big or Little

No need to bring anything but yourself. Wear clothes you can move in
Call our office at **352-375-2525** or visit our website www.bbbsmidflorida.org

to sign up. Limited space available.



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



UPCOMING EVENTS



ALACHUA COUNTY

FL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Summer Camps

July and August

http://www.filmnh.ufl.edu/education/summer_camps.htm

ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARY

Wii Wednesday

July 20th – 4:00pm to 5:30pm

MARION COUNTY

FOREST LIBRARY

July 8th – 2:00pm

Harry Potter Film Festival
Ocala, FL

http://www.marioncountyfl.org/MCBCC_Events.aspx

HAMPTON AQUATIC FUN CENTER AT THE MLK RECREATION COMPLEX

July 15th – Ocala, FL

Hang out poolside and watch a movie at 8:15p

OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 22nd – 1:30pm

Friday Variety Hour: Make Art with Artists Hub



NEW ADVENTURES

Saying Goodbye to One of Our Own



We are excited and honored to see Stefanie Del Toro accept a place in Florida International University's Masters in Social Work (MSW) graduate program, but we can't say we are not sad to see her go. Stefanie joined our organization in July of 2010 as our Bigs in Sites and Schools Specialist. She has played a tremendous role in the success of our organization.

In fall of 2010, Stefanie was presented with the award of "Super Star Match-Maker". In the year she has worked here, she has successfully matched 63 Littles with Bigs. She goes above and beyond in her matching process by ensuring each Little is matched with a new lifelong friend. She also goes out of her way to make sure the children in our program are happy. When possible, she brings them gifts and checks up on them.

Even in her off-time, Stefanie dedicates a lot of time to volunteering. She serves as a Guardian Ad Litem, an advocate for children in the community who are in the dependency system due to cases of abuse or neglect. She also spent many hours volunteering at the Alachua County Crisis Center.

Her heart really is with the kids. They are her number one priority. Stefanie always says, "I believe I really can heal the world by protecting children from those who are causing them harm." She has been an inspiration to all of us here at the office. We applaud Stefanie for deciding to continue her education in children's advocacy, but **WE WILL MISS HER!**

Good luck, Stefanie! Go Panthers!

Say Farewell to Stefanie

Wish her good luck, tell her how much you will miss her, or share with her the impact she has had on your life!

Go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/farewellstefanie>



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