

THE MENTOR



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Winter 2015

Being a “Big” Feels Like Family: Amaya & Sarah



Matched since August 2014, Amaya and Sarah have already learned so much about each other in 5 months and both Amaya’s parents and Sarah have seen some positive changes.

Amaya was referred to BB/BS for a mentor in July because she needed someone outside the family who she could talk with. As an 11 year old girl, she was getting to the point where mom and dad “just don’t understand”. Amaya’s mom had a Big Sister growing up and remembered how that helped her so she decided to give it a chance and hoped Amaya would enjoy it as much as she did.

Amaya’s mom had this to say about her daughter’s mentor, “Sarah is absolutely amazing. She’s down-to earth and fun-loving. She’s always right on the same page as me, in terms of Amaya’s behavior and she’s supportive of our decisions. Amaya looks up to her as a positive role model and is always

excited when it’s their time to go and participate in some type of adventure, whether it’s just making cupcakes or playing with Sarah’s dogs. Sarah’s become more of a part of our family than a friend and just a Big Sister.”

Sarah stated, “It is hard to believe that we have been matched for just a few months now. Our relationship has grown tremendously since the first day. Amaya enjoys calling me just to chat and we talk about school and her weekend plans, etc... She loves to come over and play the Wii, bake goodies, and paint our nails. I recently started a new job which will allow me to have more time which both myself and Amaya are very excited about since we have only been seeing each other on the weekends.”

Sarah started a “Little Sister” fund to see how much they can save up with just their spare change to go on a day trip next summer. “Amaya is just a pleasure to be around and to have in my home! She is a fantastic young lady with a bright future ahead of her and it really makes me proud to know that I have an impact on her,” Sarah stated.

“I have nothing but great things to say about Amaya and her family,” said Sarah. “Her parents have been so awesome and welcoming since the beginning! They have all become part of the family in one way or another and I look forward to all of our future endeavors!”

Smithers Viscient Spreads Holiday Cheer



Thank you Smithers Viscient of Wareham for sponsoring our annual Holiday Match Party for our Bigs and Littles on December 13th. This annual event, held at Child and Family Services' Acushnet Avenue location, is a way for our Matches to enjoy the holiday together and have some fun. Because of a generous donation from our friends at Smithers Viscient, we were able to purchase all of the arts and crafts supplies, games and tasty food needed for the event. From all of us here at Big Brothers Big Sisters...Thank you!!

BJ's Chooses BB/BS as Giving Tree Recipient



Thank you BJ's North Dartmouth for choosing us to be the recipients of their giving tree donations. The tree, which stood at BJ's throughout the holiday season, requested simple products that would be beneficial to our Littles and their families. Things like clothing, books, hair accessories, and bath & body products were among the list of gifts that were brought to the store. In total, 180 gifts were collected! The holidays were made that much more special because of BJ's and the caring people that donated. Thank you!!

Hometown Heroes

Thank you to the following organizations, businesses and foundations for going above and beyond

UW of Greater New Bedford

for granting \$25,000 to BB/BS

Ludcke Foundation

for granting \$12,500 to BB/BS

The Ludes Family Foundation

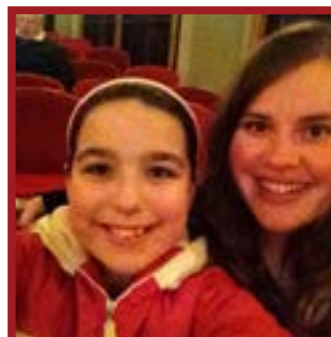
for granting \$500 to BB/BS

The Boston Celtics (Shamrock Foundation)

for donating game tickets throughout the season for our matches to enjoy

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

for donating tickets to our matches to attend The Holiday Pops concert



AHA! Nights

Downtown New Bedford

February 12 Tall Tales

March 12 Hand to Hand

April 9 Sustainable SouthCoast

FIRST BIKE RIDE

Big Sister Roberta and Little Brother Angel have been matched for 6 months. In the Fall, Roberta reached out to us about borrowing a helmet for Angel to enjoy his first bike ride. After reaching out to Bernadette Sousa from Trips for Kids, she not only let them borrow a helmet but she donated it to Angel for future biking adventures. Roberta said, "he was not able to ride before and we had such a blast learning that day! He was so pleased with himself and I was thrilled to be a part of such a momentous occasion in his young life. Such a sweet boy!!"



Match Anniversaries

1 Year

Feb 12 Katie & Koby
Feb 20 Alexia & Andrea

2 Years

Jan 15 Alicia & Anthony
Mar 1 John & Austin
Mar 5 Sara & Kayla
Mar 15 Kyla & Micayla

4 Years

Feb 24 Kendra & Mia
Mar 16 Mitch & Jibreel
Mar 18 Heather & Christal
Mar 22 Jacqueline & Kaylee

5 Years

Feb 18 Cassie & Jazmyn
Mar 3 Adam & Alexander
Mar 25 Joseph & Jamine

6 Years

Feb 4 Jay & David

Happy Birthday!

January

Sofia M- 10 Alexis O- 14
Brianna W- 12 Kayla W- 14
Delanhi V-12 Brittania K- 15
Dae'sean B-13

February

Yeslin B- 8 Micayla DP- 12
Jazmin M- 8 Lessly T- 13
Gianna P- 8 Myajoy W- 13
Tiago R- 10 Austin F- 14
Amaya R- 11 Demetrica ES- 14
Christal M- 12 Mia C-18

March

Mya B- 11 Aisha Q-13
Leann M- 11 Angel G- 14
Luis C- 12
Adam B- 13
Bryanna B- 13

Celebrate Winter with Your Little!

Outdoor Activities

- Go sledding
- Make snow angels
- Go ice skating
- Build an igloo
- Make a snowman
- Collect pinecones to make homemade decorations

Indoor Activities

- Bake cookies
- Rent a movie & make popcorn
- Play a board game
- Put together a difficult puzzle
- Learn a new game with a deck of cards
- Make Valentine's Day cards for your loved ones



B W L

FOR KIDS' SAKE

March 1, 2015
Wonder Bowl, New Bedford

Lanes are filling up fast. Register Now!

Call Deanna or Whitney at
(508) 990-0894

www.child-familyservices.org



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