



## Girls rule...again!

by *BS Tamara & LS Hayley*

On a crisp fall Saturday morning, BBBSY started the 31st annual **GT Car Rally** in Newmarket. We arrived early in the morning and were given a coloured paper with a clue and directions to our first stop. After figuring out the fastest (kms not speed) way to get there we arrived at the first location.



**The girls club: BS Tamara, LS Hayley and BS Connie made sure no boys got near the trophy.**

Once we found **BB Trevor** in the forest, the sheet asked some question about our surroundings. The whole theme of this car rally was to test our five senses; the first was smell. Running down the path we quickly located five paper towels doused in vanilla, water, lemon, vinegar, and perfume.

We were then given the clue to our next location where we met up with **BB Joseph** and he tested our sense of hearing. After almost crashing into a few trees **BS Tamara** was finally able to talk **LS Hayley** through the obstacle course to the finish line in under two minutes.

From here we were sent to test out our sense of touch by putting our hands in a bag in order to find various objects under the

watchful eye of **LB Josh** and **Alvena**, his Mom.

Our last sense to be tested was taste. Here **CW Martha** and **BB Tom** blindfolded us and gave us small pieces of food to guess what we were eating. Some of them were less than desirable! But we pulled through it and finished off with a Timbit (Thanks Martha!).

The final destination was Fairy Lake...

"Wait...where was the last sense???" you ask. Well, that was the trick question. The answer was sight as we used our sight throughout the entire course to get around.

At Fairy Lake there was plenty of pizza, chips, apples, and beverages to go around – even some left over potatoes, tomatoes, and olives from the



**Senses of adventure (from left): BB Scott blindfolds LB Will. The group anxiously await the results at the finish line. BB Michael was the only Big brave enough to let his Little (LB Dylan) guide.**

## What's Inside:

- **A new draft pick**
- **All-star (event) voting**
- **Pitching the change-up**

tasting site.

**BS Connie** was the winner of last year's event and did a fantastic job putting this year's car rally together. She and **LS Emily** were the first females to win this rally and we were extremely happy this year to win and continue with this pattern.

Thank you BBBSY for the amazing day and allowing us the opportunity to beat the boys for a second year in a row.

For 2009, all we can say is "It's on boys!"



**Watch out for that tree! LS Patty listens for directions.**



**Thank you to everyone who attended our NASCAR Speedpark event for making it such a success!**



Big & Little Info Pages



Big Brothers Big Sisters of York

Program Newsletter

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Your Stories

Four years of fun

by BS Cara

October 13, 2008 is our 4th year anniversary of being matched. It's hard to imagine that Rachael and I have been matched for that long.

I still remember the first time I met Rachael: She was about a foot shorter than me and she was quiet as a mouse. And now...years later...she's my height...well 1 - 2 cm shorter... I'll give it till the end of this year and she'll be much taller than me.



And who's taller now?  
LS Rachael and BS Cara.

She's still quiet; she doesn't talk just for the sake of talking. She talks when she really has something important to say.

Visiting pet stores, going to In-play, and reading at the library was how we spent our first few outings together. She was still very hesitant in talking to me on the phone let alone going in my car with me to go places. It took a year for Rachael to open up to me. It was worth the wait!

Our regular outing now is going to the mall. What can I say: Rachael is turning into a young lady! She loves to go and look at accessories. I don't mind, since I like them too. The one thing that still surprises me about her is that she never ever asked me to buy her things. She never whines when I don't want to do things that she wants. She is very well behaved for a young girl her age!

Rachael loves to read, she's into photography this summer and she's crafty too! I also love to read, I'm not that crafty but I have the patience to learn. We have done almost everything that it's sometimes hard to think of other activities. Thanks to her mom **Diane** for all her input and suggestions.

These past 4 years have been amazing, and very fulfilling on my end. I am looking forward to the next 4 years!

And baby makes three

**BB Robin** and his wife **Sarah** are the proud new parents of their son, **Beckham Christopher**.

**LB Eric** (well not so little anymore) was honoured to recently meet the little guy.

We have teased Eric that he is now an "uncle"!

Beckham was born Tuesday, September 2nd. Congratulations!



Little, Big, Little: LB Eric, BB Robin and introducing Beckham Christopher.

# Agency News

## Have Your Say

Here's your chance to help shape our future events:

### Girls Night Out

We are gathering information about a possible Activity Night just for Girls! We need your input in the following areas:

- Type of Activity (e.g. jewelry making, scrapbooking)
- Location (e.g. Newmarket office, school where Activity Nights are already held)
- When and how often?

Some suggestions have been to hold the event on the same day and time as the regular Activity Night. Another suggestion is having it once a month, alternating between the Newmarket and Markham schools where our regular Activity Nights are held.

If you are a Match / Big / Guardian that is interested in leading an activity for one night, please let us know.

To make 'Girls Night Out' a huge success, we need your feedback to ensure that it includes activities, locations and times that work for everyone interested.

Please email **CW Cara** at [caram@bbbsy.ca](mailto:caram@bbbsy.ca) with your comments and suggestions.

### Event Ideas for 2009

The Event Committee is starting to look ahead to the new year and would like to hear from YOU!

1. What were your favourite three events that you have participated in since you joined BBBSY?
2. What events would you like to see in 2009?

You can submit your suggestions to your Caseworker, or you can email them to [general@bbbsy.ca](mailto:general@bbbsy.ca).

If you are interested in helping to organize events, then consider joining the Event Committee. Please contact the office for more information.

## Fundraising 4 I I

### Magna Hoedown

Remember Wild, Wild West Hoedown 2008 on September 13th?

From the \$525,000 raised at the event, our Agency exceeded expectations and is receiving \$49,050.

Thank you to all those who helped us with our ticket sales, volunteering, etc.

### Gala Auction

*Change for our Kids - Trust, Confidence, Optimism* is this year's theme for the

**14th Annual Gala Auction.** It will be held on Friday, November 21st, at **Angus Glen Golf Club.**

Tickets are \$150 and are still available for purchase. Items for auction/raffle are still welcome.

## Remember! Caseworker Connection

It is ALWAYS OK to call your Caseworker.

We love to hear from you, whether it's with good news, questions or concerns. We need to know about how your match is going, and want to help if you have any doubts.

Here are examples of when to call your Caseworker:

- If something about your match is worrying you
- If you are feeling "over your head" and need some guidance
- If your relationship with your Big or Little is strained or difficult
- If you are feeling unmotivated
- If you can't think of what to do with your Little/Big
- If you have some good ideas to share with other Bigs or Littles
- If you are loving every visit and want your Caseworker to know that!
- If you have any change of address, phone number or work number.

Please contact your Caseworker with any questions. And remember: No question is too small or too large.

### Bowl For Kids Sake 2009

Start thinking about putting your team together to support Bowl for Kids Sake 2009. Pledge forms will be available in the new year.

# From the (Executive) Director's Chair

## Staff News: Goodbyes...

It's hard to say "Goodbye" to good people, especially when they have been with the agency for a long time.

**Linda Atkinson** left us this September to take a position with *Youth Assisting Youth*.

After nearly eight years with the agency, Linda will leave a gap that will be hard to fill. She did a huge amount to promote BBBSY, support her Matches, chair the Event Committee, and she was involved in every facet of the agency. Activity Nights were one of her greatest joys, and she was a force to be reckoned with when it came to Dodge Ball! If she occasionally seemed like a tyrant when it came to follow-up, it was because she was always on top of her casework responsibilities and took them very seriously.

Good luck Linda, and thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

**Kathy Wilcox** also left us in September. Kathy had only been with us since January of this year, but was very involved with *Go Girls!* and the Big and Little programs in the north.

Kathy, good luck in whatever you decide to do in the future.

Sadly, we are also losing **Helen Yu**. Helen has been juggling two jobs for the past few months, but it's been near impossible to do 50 hours a week with a family to look after as well.

Helen has done great work spreading information about BBBSY programs throughout agencies that serve new

immigrants in York Region. She represented the agency on the Chinese Social Services Network and liaised with other agencies, giving in-service training on what BBBSY is all about.

Thank you Helen.

### ...and Hellos...

**Nirmala Sharma** joined the agency in July as Volunteer Coordinator. She has many years of experience in the social work field, and a Certificate in Volunteer Management from Humber College. She has already done great work in outreach to the South Asian Community, and is in the process of revamping our Info Sessions to make them even more inviting and user-friendly. We are happy to have someone of her experience and energy in this very important position.

Welcome, Nirmala.

**Fal Desai** came back to join us in June on a part-time contract after a year at York University working on her MSW. When we heard of our success in being awarded a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Education for School-based programming, Fal's experience, qualifications, and skills made her an obvious candidate for the position of Coordinator of School-based Programs. She is doing great things getting *The Club* off the ground, and helping to increase the existing *In-School Mentoring* program

Welcome back, Fal.

**Fiona Sedgewick** immigrated to Canada from South Africa in 1992, and joined BBBSY in September.

She has an MSW from the University of Witwatersrand, and an International Equivalency Degree from Ryerson. Most recently she has been working with Canadian Mental Health in Markham. We are really happy to welcome her to our Casework Team. Her qualifications, experience, and outgoing personality will all be assets to the agency.

Welcome, Fiona.

### ...and Promotions.

**Cara Mapano**, who joined us in the spring as a Program Assistant, wants to work with BBBSY full time. Since she has the qualifications and experience required for a Caseworker, Cara moved into that role in October, taking on a traditional caseload. She will also help with *Go Girls!*

Way to go, Cara!

And finally: **Christine Kollar** will be joining us at the beginning of November, filling the role of Program Assistant.

Christine comes highly recommended, and has great volunteer and work experience that will enable her to step into this position and get up to speed in record time.

She is presently a student at York University in the Health Bachelor of Arts program, but wants to pursue a career in social work. You will soon be receiving email from Christine, and hearing her cheery voice on the phone.

Welcome, Christine.

# Event Gallery: 12 months of fun



# Upcoming Events

To sign up for an event, call 905-895-0289 and press 0 OR email [general@bbbsy.ca](mailto:general@bbbsy.ca).

## Activity Nights - Mondays

Looking for a something to do? Come and join us for basketball or dodgeball or floor hockey or whatever the group decides.

Here's the schedule for both Markham and Newmarket:

- Nov. 3: Markham
- Nov. 10: Newmarket
- Nov. 17: Markham
- Nov. 24: Newmarket
- Dec. 1: Markham
- Dec. 8: Newmarket (last for 2008)
- Dec. 15: Markham (last for 2008)

In January, we resume in Newmarket on Jan. 5th and in Markham on Jan. 12th.

Call the office for further details and directions to the schools.

## Info Sessions

Do you have any family or friends that are interested in volunteering with the Agency?

Invite them to attend an Info Session where they can get the latest information on our volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming dates:

- December 6th:  
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
York Regional Police,  
District 1, Newmarket
- January 10th:  
11:30 am to 1:30 pm  
York Regional Police,  
District 4, Vaughan

Please call the office to register.

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## Holiday Party - Saturday, December 6

With less than two month's 'til the end of the year, Holiday Party preparations are well underway.

**Pickering College** will be hosting this event for the fourth year in a row! There will be skating, gym activities and a social gathering for all. Come join in the fun!

Please bring one of the following: a dessert, dip, or a fruit or veggie tray. Call the office to register and let us know what you're bringing.

Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm                      Cost: FREE

Location: Pickering College  
16945 Bayview Ave., Newmarket (north of Mulock)

## Snow Tubing - Sunday, January 20

We're heading back to the slopes of **Snow Valley** in Barrie for another day of tubing adventure.

Check-in begins at 8:30 am sharp; the discounted tickets are only available until 8:45 am (if you miss check-in, you'll have to wait in the main lineup and pay the regular rate).

Time: 8:30 am - 11:00 am                      Cost: \$18/person

Directions:

Take Highway 400 NORTH towards Barrie. Exit onto Dunlop Street WEST (exit 96B). Continue to 3rd traffic light and turn RIGHT onto Ferndale Rd. Proceed NORTH and watch for the **Snow Valley** signs (approx. 10 kms).



**United Way**  
of York Region  
Member Agency

Coming Soon

February:

Ice Skating

March:

<YOUR IDEA HERE>  
(Turn to page 3 to see how!)