

## BBBS Match Stories August 2008

### Rebecca and Michaella



Rebecca and Michaella have been matched for 15 months as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Adelaide. Michaella was referred to the program as her mother is affected by Multiple Sclerosis and was keen for Michaella to have more opportunities in social activities and confidence building. Rebecca and Michaella hit it off right from the start, and over the time of their match have developed a strong friendship. A highlight of their activities was when Rebecca secured free tickets to see Michaella's favourite band in concert, Good Charlotte. This was Michaella's first concert and she loved it! Michaella says Rebecca '...feels like a real Big Sister' and that she can trust her. Michaella's mother stated that her daughter's confidence has grown 'in leaps and bounds'. Michaella starts high school next year, and Rebecca plans to continue to support Michaella at this important transition point in her life.

### Dave



Dave is a 25 year old Aerospace Engineer at the Royal Australian Air Force, and has been a Big Brother with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Adelaide for 6 months. Dave's older brother was like a mentor to him, and he wanted to 'put something back' by providing support and friendship to a young person in need. In February 08, Dave was matched with a 10 year old Little Brother and they have spent their time in activities such as mini-golf, going to the playground, playing slot cars, swimming, laser tag and indoor-rock climbing. Dave and his Little Brother have also created an 'adventure

board' where they add items and pictures from their outings together. Dave says that the experience of being a Big Brother has been 'fantastic', and that he feels he is building up a 'strong friendship' with his Little Brother. Dave feels he is providing support to someone who needs it but he is also learning a lot and having fun; which is a bonus. Dave said that on one outing he found himself going down a waterslide with his Little Brother and realised '...there is no way I would be doing this if I hadn't joined the program!'

#### Mark and Sasha



Sasha is 13 years old and lives alone with his mum. In 2006, Sasha and his mum were involved in a horrific car accident which left his mum with numerous ongoing injuries. Sasha's mum is often undergoing surgery and is unable to leave the house or participate in fun activities with Sasha. Since the accident, Sasha has taken on the role of his mum's carer. He has missed numerous days of school, sacrificed friendships to ensure that he is always home to take care of his mum, and he has not had the chance to do things for himself. Sasha was matched with Mark in April 08. Since being matched, Sasha has taught Mark how to skateboard, challenged Mark in handball, and tried Sushi for the first time. Mind you, Sasha has vowed never to eat raw fish again! Sasha is thoroughly enjoying his time with Mark and describes Mark as a '...really good bloke'. Sasha's mum has noticed an increase in confidence saying that 'Sasha never used to want to try new things'. Sasha's mum believes that Mark is a great role model for Sasha and is 'wrapped that he has a new reliable friendship'.

## Mike and Luka



Mike and Luka have been matched for 4 months. Luka sent a note to the program worker soon after they were matched and it said – thanks for picking Mike, I really like him. Mike describes the match as ‘no problems at all’. He said that he was a bit apprehensive at first, hoping that his little would like him but now sees that they have made an excellent connection. Luka is often waiting outside for him when he arrives at the house or he will run outside calling ‘Mike!’. Mike said he likes how Luka is always enthusiastic and excited about the activities they do together. Mike is enjoying learning new rules to the various games they play. At golf, it wasn’t the person with the lowest score, but the person who could get the ball in the hole the quickest, who won! Luka’s mum was initially a little apprehensive about having her only son get involved in the program, but she is now very glad to receive the additional support from Mike and the program staff.