

## 2009 Big Sister of the Year

### Big Sister Connie Foster and Little Sister Adrianna

Connie has been a consistent and dedicated Big Sister to her Little Sister, Adrianna, for over 3 years. When they were first matched, Adrianna was extremely shy and her parents knew she would benefit greatly from a Big Sister who could help her open up, communicate effectively, and feel accepted. We knew it would take a patient and caring Big Sister to make Adrianna feel comfortable enough to form a friendship. Connie was just the friend Adrianna needed!

Connie has involved herself in Adrianna's life by creating a trusting relationship and being someone she can have fun with, talk to, and learn from. Connie has participated in Adrianna's education as a helper at school and she's always encouraging Adrianna to succeed. Connie has been that person outside of Adrianna's home who gives her one on one attention and offers her a safe place to be herself. Connie is extremely patient and creative when finding ways to interact with Adrianna. They took swimming lessons at the YMCA together. Adrianna had a blast splashing around, learning to swim.

One of Connie's favorite moments is driving Adrianna home and looking in the rear view mirror to see Adrianna's big happy grin shining out from the back seat. Connie knew that even if Adrianna wasn't able to articulate her excitement and gratitude, her smile said it all. They've made it a tradition to get their hair done together every month for the past two years. That alone has helped improve Adrianna's self-confidence tremendously.

Even when Adrianna's family moved to Caldwell, making it a further drive for her, Connie stayed committed to Adrianna and didn't let distance affect their friendship. Adrianna's mom credits Connie with being very supportive of Adrianna and helping Adrianna learn to build healthy relationships at school. Connie and Adrianna have shared in countless Little Moments that have brought Big Magic into both of their lives.