

# Big Sister

## Bulletin

BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

## Addressing the Needs of the Whole Child

**An Interview with Traci Walker Griffith, Principal at the Eliot K-8 School in Boston's North End.**

Big Sister has served 40 girls at the Eliot School in the North End since 2008. There has been a 50% improvement in grades among girls who took part in the program. Principal Traci Walker Griffith is an advocate of our partnership.

**You've been a Principal at the Eliot School since 2007. Why did you want to start a partnership with Big Sister?**

I started at the Eliot in 2007 when it was deemed by the Department of Education as an "underperforming school." I knew the only way to turn around this school was to address the needs of the whole child. There was a lot to be done with the climate and culture of the school and meeting the social and emotional needs of the students. To do this, I needed to find a way for students to have mentors.

**You have been a vocal advocate of the importance of mentoring. Last year we matched ten girls at the Eliot with a Big Sister. Why do you think girls need a mentor?**

We must make a commitment to girls and help them develop their self-esteem and confidence. Mentors do that, Big Sisters do that. You will not reach academic achievement with students unless you have healthy, confident young kids. Big Sisters are able to model what a healthy relationship looks like for our girls.

**Your daughter had a Big Sister. Did you have any mentors growing up?**

I was lucky enough to form positive and impactful mentoring relationships with coaches, camp counselors, and teachers.



My daughter, Elizabeth was a Little Sister. At the time there was a lot going on in her life and she needed an additional adult friend she could turn to. If you ask Elizabeth about her Big Sister she would say that she helped her during a difficult time. It was important to me on a personal level knowing that she had someone there for her.

**When you walk around the school and see matches interacting what do you see?**

I witness happy, smiling faces. A lot of our students work so hard academically and it is imperative we give them an opportunity to take a breath and have fun. This happens when they spend one-on-one time with an adult who really cares about how they are doing. This is why our partnership with Big Sister is so essential to the success of the Eliot School.

**If there's one thing you would want to change for girls growing up in Boston today, what would it be?**

I wish that every girl in Boston could have the benefit of a Big Sister, an adult female mentor in their life. My hope is that all women, regardless of age, or where they live, can take on the role of a Big Sister and support a girl into her adulthood.



## Big Sister Association Celebrates 25th Anniversary Car Raffle

We celebrated the 25th Anniversary Car Raffle with a Ford Mustang Convertible held in partnership with Rodman Ford Sales. Congratulations to Carolyn McKenna who was our lucky grand prize winner! The raffle drawing was held at 100 Summer Street in Boston on Wednesday, July 31 where the crowd watched as Little Sister Ashlyn pulled the winning ticket. McKenna couldn't believe the news, "Thank you so much! I can't stop smiling!" Pat Walsh, of Equity Office, generously donated one month of free parking in their garage to people who purchased tickets. Thank you to our raffle participants who allowed us to sell 1,395 tickets which provides mentors for more of Boston's girls. We are also thankful to our event sponsor, Holly and David Bruce. We'll see you all next year when the lucky winner could be you!

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### Highlights

- ★ Boston's Big Shots Support Big Sister at Celebrity Chef and Fashion Show
- ★ Board Member Spotlight, Lisa Hughes
- ★ Big Sister's High School Mentoring Academy



**Big Sister Association**  
of Greater Boston

Share your thoughts with us!  
E-mail: [nwhite@bigsister.org](mailto:nwhite@bigsister.org)

## Fashion Show

**B**oston's fashionistas and Big Sister supporters arrived in high fashion for Big Sister Association's third annual Fashion Show. The event, led by co-chairs Don Rodman and Carol McKean, was our most successful one yet, raising more than \$100,000. 400 guests joined us at the Fairmont Copley Plaza to witness Boston's most notable men on the runway, and women models dressed in Denise Hajjar's Spring 2013 collection. Following a cocktail reception, future fashion designer, Little Sister Rodrienne, beamed with pride as she told the crowd that she had designed and made the dress she wore, with help from her Big Sister Jeanne McDermott.



**Top:** John Yozell, Sharon McNally, Jason Varitek, and Jane Deery **Above:** Thank you to our guest models, shown with CEO Deborah Re

### Thank you to our guest models

Jeff Bellows, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
 Brian Burke, Microsoft  
 Steve Burton, WBZ-TV  
 Tom Crohan, John Hancock  
 Paul Grogan, The Boston Foundation  
 Fran Kelly, Arnold Worldwide  
 Robert Lewis Jr., HomeBASE  
 Zoltan Mesko, The Patriots  
 Juan Carlos Morales, Big Sister Board Member  
 Mikko Nissinen, The Boston Ballet  
 Bryan Rafanelli, Rafanelli Events  
 Bill Teuber, EMC Corporation  
 Jason Varitek, The Red Sox

### Thank you to our emcee

Susan Wornick, WCVB-TV

### Thank you to our event sponsors

Rodman Ford  
 EMC Corporation  
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 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
 PGR Media  
 Time Inc.  
 The Boston Foundation  
 State Street Corporation  
 Boston Red Sox Foundation

## Celebrity Chef

**O**n Sunday, June 2nd, Evan Deluty of Stella, Ting Yen of Oishii, Jeremy Sewall of Eastern Standard, Ming Tsai of Blue Dragon, and PJ Waters of Radius joined their friend Michael Schlow for the 14th annual Celebrity Chef Dinner. The event raised \$151,000 for Big Sister's mentoring programs for girls. Michael Schlow, celebrated chef and long-time supporter of Big Sister, hosted the event at Radius, which closed its doors at the of June. "Although it is bittersweet that this event will be the last time at Radius, it will not be the last time partnering with Big Sister. We love our kinship with Big Sister," said Schlow.



### Thank you to our emcee

Lisa Hughes, WBZ-TV

### Thank you to our event sponsors

Beth and Max Bardeen  
 Holly and David Bruce  
 Abby and John Yozell  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
 Denise Coll and Nick Sampson  
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 The Romanow Zelermyer Family  
 Mariann and Andy Youniss

**Left:** Jeremy Sewall, Ming Tsai, Michael Schlow, Lisa Hughes, Evan Deluty, Ting Yen, and Deborah Re **Top:** Carol Kalicki, Ryan O'Donnell, Jayme O'Donnell, Jeff Bellows, and Nicole Bellows.

# Big and Little Sisters Create Memories at Our Annual Summer Picnic



**B**ig and Little Sisters, Big Sister staff, and volunteers had a blast at our annual Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 13. More than 230 Big and Little Sisters joined us at Camp Harbor View, thanks to Paul Revere Transportation in Quincy.

Activities included swimming, a water-balloon toss, relay races, sandcastle building, arts and crafts, and even a hula-hoop competition! DJ Renell kept us dancing with high energy music all day. Matches also enjoyed a delicious spread of organic b.good hot dogs and hamburgers, while Mix 104.1 stopped by to hand out free Turkey Hill ice cream.

Big thanks to our generous event sponsors John Hancock, and Holly and David Bruce; and the Connors Family for opening Camp Harbor View for the day.



# Board Member Spotlight, Lisa Hughes

## What brought you to Boston?

The job at WBZ-TV brought me to Boston. I was living in Washington, DC working for CBS Newspath as a correspondent for the network's affiliates when the opportunity arose at WBZ. I fell in love with the city, the people at the station; it felt like home very quickly. I still pinch myself. I cannot imagine a better city, anywhere in the country, to be covering news.

## Can you describe a highlight from your time as a News Anchor for WBZ?

It would be very hard for me to come up with a single highlight. There have been so many wonderful moments! I was lucky enough to be in St. Louis and in Denver when the Red Sox won the World Series. That was magical. The parades for our sports teams were all great fun. How lucky are we that we've seen them ALL win a championship? Covering Cardinal Sean's consistory in Rome and the selection of Pope Francis was a great experience. Covering the Democratic National Convention was exciting because we did all of our newscasts from the Garden with no teleprompter and had a lot of live interviews. My two favorite days of the year to work are Marathon Monday and the Fourth of July. Since this year's marathon, we have seen the best in people: compassion, kindness, and resolve. Interviewing first responders and survivors is a privilege.

## How did you first learn about Big Sister?

My introduction to Big Sister was through Jim Roosevelt. He invited me to a Celebrity Chef dinner. I was touched by the stories I heard and the passion of the people in the room. That was the night I began to understand just how critical a resource it is for many girls.

## What interested you in joining Big Sister's Board of Directors?

Being on the board of Big Sister means a lot to me. We know, definitively, that mentoring girls boosts their self-esteem, creates healthy relationships and empowers them in a way

tricky situations and inspired me to push myself. I knew they had my back but I also knew they would be truthful with me about how I could improve. They both set such high standards for themselves that they make you want to perform at a high level, too. And they

both have a great sense of humor. To be able to laugh, often at yourself, is a must.

## What are some of your interests outside of your career and your work with Big Sister?

I'm a runner and a cyclist. I ran the Boston Marathon in 2002 and rode my third Pan-Mass Challenge in August. I love to read, listen to music, cook, travel and daydream about traveling. I work at night, so I treasure my weekends with my husband, Mike, our daughter, Riley and our son, Dylan—aka the Human Tornado.

## What is your favorite thing about being a part of the Big Sister community?

What I love most about being part of the Big Sister community is sharing in the effort to help girls find their own voice. We all grow when we feel loved and supported. To be

part of an organization that exists to create supportive, life-changing relationships is an honor.

## What is your vision for Big Sister over the next two years?

I'm hoping, in the next two years, Big Sister will become even more successful in raising the kind of money that will enable more mentoring relationships. When people in the Boston area think of the organization for girls, I want them to think of Big Sister. We have a great track record and so much to be proud of. I want more people to learn of Big Sister's success and how they can be part of it.



*"Mentoring girls boosts their self-esteem, creates healthy relationships and empowers them in a way that can change their lives for the better."*

— Lisa Hughes

that can change their lives for the better. To be a part of the board gives me a chance to work with smart, dedicated people who want to create more opportunities for girls and improve an already-stellar organization. To be a part of an organization that has the power to make such a positive difference in the lives of local families makes me feel good.

## Have you been influenced by any women mentors in your own life?

I have had a few excellent women mentors, including our former news director, Jennifer Street and a former colleague in Seattle, Debbie Horne. They both helped me navigate

# Big Sister's High School Mentoring Academy



**T**he High School Mentoring Academy matches sophomore and junior girls from Boston Latin Academy with second and third grade girls from the Trotter Elementary School in Dorchester. Big Sisters participate in a staff-led leadership program for one hour before meeting with their Little Sisters. In the 2012-2013 academic year, 47 Little Sisters were served through the High School Mentoring Academy.

High School student and Big Sister Stephane discusses her relationship with her Little Sister Nijah and her future plans, now that she is a high school graduate.

**You have lived in Boston for only eight years, where are you from originally?**

I lived in Haiti until I was ten. There are a lot of differences between Haiti and the United States. However I attended schools like Boston Latin Academy that were extremely diverse, which helped with the transition to a new country. Boston is filled with people who have different accents so I never felt out of place.

**You were a Big Sister for two years. What made you decide to join the High School Mentoring Academy?**

During my junior year of high school I saw a flyer in the guidance counselor's office about Big Sister. Junior year is a really stressful time because you are starting to think about college and taking the SAT's. But, it sounded like such a great opportunity I decided to commit to it. A Big Sister staff member interviewed me and then matched me with my Little Sister Nijah. She was the perfect fit for me. We are so different but

our differences made us closer. Nijah is super hyper and happy all the time; and I am more reserved.

**You said Nijah was the perfect fit for you. What did you like most about being matched with your Little Sister?**  
I've loved watching her grow. For instance, she

*"Watching someone grow and mature and knowing you are a part of that growth can take your breath away."*

was so scared of multiplication tables and now they are easier for her to do. Nijah is growing up with only brothers and she has a hard time getting her voice heard in her family. During that one hour we spend together every week, she has someone who listens to her. The fact that I remember something she said to me the previous week is impactful. Watching someone grow and mature and knowing you are a part of that growth can take your breath away.

**How has being a Big Sister changed you?**

I think I am more open-minded and outgoing because of Nijah. Becoming a Big Sister was a risk for me, so I am more open to try new things. Of course it was scary at first (balancing, school, work, and being a Big Sister) but I loved having one hour a week that I could relax and enjoy my time with a younger girl.

**You received a four year scholarship through The Foundation To Be Named Later Peter Gammons Scholarship Fund. Can you tell us about that?**

The Big Sister facilitator of the program, who works with us on our leadership skills, gave me the application and encouraged me to apply. I worked really hard on the application and practiced the interview questions so I felt prepared. I was interviewed by some great people including Paul Epstein!

**What was your reaction when you found out you won the scholarship?**

I was on the train and it was early in the morning. It was one of those days where it looked like nobody wanted to be on their way to work. I got a call from Paul Epstein who congratulated me on winning the

scholarship. I started crying on the train and told him that he was my new best friend. People were looking at me strangely. My parents are proud because I am the first person in my family to go to college.

**You will be using the scholarship to attend Tufts University in the fall. What are you most excited about? What are your goals for after college?**

With this scholarship and the scholarship I received from Tufts, I now can go on a full ride. This is huge because I hope to continue my education by attending medical school. That's a lot of schooling and money! My other goal is to apply for a Fulbright Grant. Because of Big Sister I want to continue to grow myself and help others along the way. It is a great investment to give of yourself for others.

## 2013 MATCH MAKER CLUB

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations made non-event related gifts of \$100 or more to Big Sister Association between January 1, 2013-June 30, 2013. Thank you for your generous support!

### Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
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### Individuals

#### \$1,000+

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Katherine Jaspon  
Michael Kaufman  
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Deborah Re & Peter Reinhart  
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Eneida Roman  
Barbara Shapiro & Daniel Fleishman  
Nancy Smith  
Gretchen Underwood  
Joann Vargus  
Marilyn Wright

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Natasha Barrientos  
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Karen Voci  
Christy Walsh  
Frances Webster

## Support Big Sister on September 28



On Saturday, September 28, Big Sister Association will participate in the annual **Rodman Ride for Kids**, a charity event that raises funds for more than 40 children's social service agencies in Massachusetts, including Big Sister. The Rodman Ride is a 25, 50, or 100-mile non-competitive bike ride through scenic southeastern Massachusetts. After riding, participants enjoy a barbecue, and the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes. This year, each rider will be participating in honor of a girl on our wait list. Sign-up to help her get matched!

September 28 is also the second annual **Boston.com Running with the Bridesmaids**, a one-mile fun run through Boston Common that benefits Big Sister. Post-race, runners clad in old bridesmaid dresses will kick up their heels at a brunch reception, where they will enjoy great food, drinks and prizes. For more information on both of these exciting ways to support Big Sister email Kira Ross at [kross@bigsister.org](mailto:kross@bigsister.org) or 617-236-5304.

**The following Big and Little Sisters celebrated match anniversaries between January 1, 2013-June 30, 2013. Congratulations to all on your lasting friendships!**

### 13 Years

Ellen DePaul Fisher & Thelma

### 11 Years

Katherine Potter & Angel  
Kelly Henry & Angelica  
Jessica Sandland & Rachel  
Erica Greany & Sherly

### 10 Years

Lelia King & Deidre  
Julie Sablins & Samantha  
Nancy Christiansen & Angelique  
Judy Dombrowski & Ashlyn

### 9 Years

Susan Rosa & Caprice  
Linda Hughes & Emily  
Jamie Doyle & Jalisa  
Michelle Dolan & Mabel  
Jessica Healy & Kimberly

### 8 Years

Julie Plunkett & Ana  
Lindsey Lohwater & Rosemary  
Mary Dundee & Heather  
Ellen Royalty & Alyssa  
Tamara Johnson & Jazmyne  
Dina Pradel & Shanice  
Meagan Walker & Ashley  
Andrea Bernard & Myeisha

### 7 Years

Karen Angrisano & Genesis  
Michelle Danis & Jennifer  
Angela Seay & Asia  
Lenora Clark Epps & Andrea  
Laurie Boucher & Lacey  
Heather Ferguson & Emma  
Meagan Belanger & Mara  
Alexa Kontes & Chimene  
Angela Gomes & Ashley  
Irene Shui & Kiara  
Leah Hart Tennen & Christina  
Kayla Celani & Javienne  
Meredith Hubbell & Jovanna  
Regina McNally & Cindy  
Katie Basilotto & Jessica  
Angelica Vargas & Paola

### 6 Years

Lisa Pontes Siniawski & Ajaria  
Allison Rogers & Sierra  
Barbara Utaro & Tatiana  
Emily Culler & Amber  
Kathleen Cruickshank & Hannah  
Debbie Schwartz & Natasha  
Stephanie O'Leary & Victoria  
Lisa O'Connell & Makayla  
Julia Barrett & Victoria  
Rimi Chakraborty & Jennifer  
Erin Sunderland & Alexandra  
Kathleen Hewitt & Kari  
Renee Gallagher & Nelly  
Alison Little & Tatiana  
Aime Friend & Khadija  
Kathleen Cross & Stephanie  
Meagan Copithorne & Lily  
Laurie Speranzo & Selena  
Leslee Parker & Aleysia  
Anne Bost & Ranajia  
Susan Jones & Elizabeth

Sondra Korman & Samantha  
Stefanie Smith & Cheyenne

### 5 Years

Jillena Furr & Ja'Najia  
Jessica Vaverchak & Kiayra  
Zoe Agnew & Tamauri  
Tina McDavitt & Teyasia  
Colleen O'Connor-Wise & Serina  
Nancy Zabe & Jasmine  
Christy Dole & Kaleigh Ann  
Sarah Wood & Edna  
Amanda Thompson & Taquasha  
Lucy Bezdek & Destiny  
Lisa Northrup & Kaitlin  
Kristine McKinney & Fannie  
Patricia Layne & Brittney  
Kristy Kirby & Jenna  
Juliana Gamble & Jaedah  
Maureen Connelly & Laree  
Paula Gentile & Kassandra  
Lisa Florenzano & Juliana  
Mindy Reiser & Ashly  
Ashlee Yates & Abiona  
Cameron Borgasano & Malaysia  
Jennifer Baker & Hannah  
Crystal Rizzo & Yu Gin  
Alyssa Moskos & Makayla  
Eva Woodward & Lullia  
Lori Kauffman & Kenya

### 4 Years

Monica Mancuso & Yanitza  
Brenna Downing & Amaia  
Maura Stanton & Mariah  
Stefanie Magner & Mariana  
Michelle Kwasny & Nia  
Amy Garatin & Serina  
Megan Lodde & Jessica  
Kendalle White & Jazmyne  
Kristin Prescott & Jazmin  
Kate Bell & Teanna  
Kristin Stashenko & Sabrina  
Sandy Stutsman & Reina  
Amanda Marshall & Taina  
Kate Ellis & Demetra  
Kathryn Eisnor & Kourtney  
Brenda Anthony & Haley  
Catherine Schaefer & Shelby  
Kara Conceison & Anna  
Paula Carnelli & Brittney  
Laurin Macios & Kassandra  
Angela Teixeira & Jenny  
Linda Antonucci & Elaine  
Audrina Warren & Cefixia  
Valerie Kesaris & Jade  
Claudia Rodriguez & Selena  
Francesca Gordon & Carol  
Jessica Dunner & Natalia  
Kondeleye Ross & Alshun  
Diane Ivey & Tiffany  
Jeanine Hall & Deylisa  
Jia Herr & Kevonna  
Brooke Thomas & Casandra  
Betty Chu & Melissa

### 3 Years

Kathleen Flynn & Midori  
Kathleen Langlois & Liany  
Sara Cooney & Labria  
Phally Eth & Patricia  
Jessica Lee Menendez & Lesley  
Caitlin MacNeil & Brianna  
Jill Merna & Jacquelyn  
Shantell Smith & Abreah  
Andrea Contreras & Yanializ  
Sofia Lingos & Jennifer  
Karen Lincoln & Riley  
Emily Osgood & Katelynn  
Gabriella Priest & Valentina  
Rachel Vorkink & Lauren  
Julia Geisman & Mariah  
Katrina Holmstedt & Damoni  
Jaime Steele & Yandreimy  
Bree Rodrigues & Molly  
Raeha Blouin & Rayonna

Dalena Nguyen & Ashley  
Alanna Pildia & Tanesia  
Alison Kaplan & Tshana  
Mary Taylor & Shalimar  
Chelsea Jones & Iva  
Mariya Todorova & Shaniya  
Katherine Corteselli & Wanderley  
Jessica Caplice & Jasmine  
Colleen DeGuglielmo & Quinci  
Rana McLaughlin & Mia  
Amanda Dezak & Patricia  
Amanda Chan & Kelly  
Alexa Tegtmeyer & Ashley  
Erin Kelley & Keisha  
Peninnah Wanjeri & Othni  
Kimberly Koury & Katlyn  
Ayanna Pressley & Arianna  
Jovita Marcinkieviciene & Jessica  
Kelley Borer & Arielle  
Ashlee Yates & Abiona  
Cameron Borgasano & Malaysia  
Jennifer Baker & Hannah  
Crystal Rizzo & Yu Gin  
Alyssa Moskos & Makayla  
Eva Woodward & Lullia  
Lori Kauffman & Kenya

### 2 Years

Kelly Stebbins & Alana  
Jennifer Anderson & Malaysia  
Alexandra Washuk & Molly  
Melissa Nazar & Makela  
Amy Zimmerman & Jhobeyda

## Happy Anniversary!

Megan Hall & Thalia  
Lily Lynch & Kikayah  
Jennifer Neira & Franchesca  
Shanell Mosley & Kapri  
Heather Carbone & Desiya  
Erin Kelley & Jeshanah  
Judy Carter & Trinady  
Chinonso Azuakolam & Jahniece  
Carlene Roberts & Jahlissa  
Michelle Leeds & Tuleeka  
Andrea Bakal & Victoria  
Audrey Gaskins & Jamilex  
Maya Rosen & Karla

Stacylyn Dewey & Tiffany  
Joanna Lynn Maunder & Marilyn  
Danielle Erdmann & Yessenia  
Judy Player & Stacey  
Regina Butler & Kata  
Barbara Williams & Kenisha  
Diana Elise Araujo & Jailen  
Katrina McNeil & Amanda  
Adebimpe Dare & Chavelyn  
Michelle Leeds & Tuleeka  
Andrea Bakal & Victoria  
Audrey Gaskins & Jamilex  
Maya Rosen & Karla

Stacylyn Dewey & Tiffany  
Joanna Lynn Maunder & Marilyn  
Danielle Erdmann & Yessenia  
Judy Player & Stacey  
Regina Butler & Kata  
Barbara Williams & Kenisha  
Diana Elise Araujo & Jailen  
Katrina McNeil & Amanda  
Adebimpe Dare & Chavelyn  
Michelle Leeds & Tuleeka  
Andrea Bakal & Victoria  
Audrey Gaskins & Jamilex  
Maya Rosen & Karla

### 1 Year

Marlie Sarr & Priscilla  
Abigail Crossen & Daniela  
Erica Hirsch & Jazmin  
Sonja Yuhascove Cove & Chantalle  
Sydney Gray & Nathaly  
Sara Neuman & Mystique  
Stephanie Barounis & Cassidy  
Sharyn Clemente & Faith  
Elizabeth Woodcock & Annayanzi  
Julie Eisen & Abril  
Elizabeth Sheridan & Yara  
Karen Miller & Arly  
Nauchelle Martinez & Anastacia  
Lucinda Ryan & Genesis  
Isabel Black & Amaya  
Caitlin O'Gallagher & Nyzharee  
Lindsay Forsberg & Kayla  
Amy Wixon & Uche  
Tristan Goodall & Versashi  
Michelle Mardany & Genesis  
Margaret Glenn & Jennifer

Nicole Defonde & Mariah  
Heather Carolyn Cruthirds & Renee  
Elizabeth Conway & Prescesh  
Kelly Reardon & Juliana  
Yuki Tanaka & Akleel  
Catherine Cugno & Saleia  
Kate Strauchon & Aaliyah  
Karolina Haraldsdottir & Danashia  
Christie Bellamy & Paige  
Jacquelyn Bailey & Arlianna  
Meghan Blair & Jada  
Rebecca Lord & Breanna  
Elizabeth Giunta & Aurea  
Sarah Sallan & Lynaia  
Bianca Arcidy & Cecilia  
Molly Caldwell & Ileana  
Carol Wagborne & Olviah  
Suzanne O'Leary & Erica  
Lindsey Darling & India  
Kate Wilson & Ayadidea  
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