

**JIM MORA COUNT ON ME FAMILY FOUNDATION HOLIDAY CONTEST:**

Congratulations to the following contest winners:

**Jimmy Freels**, Henderson Middle School/AAASP Athlete -- Coach Mark Miller

**Brianna Little**, Matthews Boys & Girls Club Athlete -- Coach Dominique Oscar

**Katy Wilson**, Special Olympics Athlete -- Coach Heather Terrell (photo attached---Katy and Her Coach Heather)

**Honorable Mentions:**

Coach Lawson -- from Abubakar Garba, Atlanta Thunder Cats AAASP

Richard McIntyre, "Coach Mac"—from Douglas Johnston, West Georgia Wolverines, AAASP

Our coaching staff – from Todd Howard, Valdosta Special Olympics Athlete

Here are the winners' submissions:

## 1. My Hero: Coach Mark Miller

by  
Jimmy Freels  
Henderson Middle School  
DeKalb County Schools

Coach Miller works at Laurel Ridge Elementary School, which is a center for wheelchair kids. He is also a very good artist, husband, and father. Besides all that, Coach Miller coaches soccer, basketball, and football for the Adapted Sports Program. He has been dedicated to coaching for 18 years.

As a coach, Coach Miller gives up his Saturdays to go to the games with the kids. He teaches the kids how to play the games, and he shows us how to do certain plays. He always makes us feel like we are family. Coach Miller rides the bus with us to the games and back. Some of our games are far away like Muscogee County and Warm Springs, Georgia. He has to feed the kids because many of their parents are not at the games to help them eat. He also has to feed himself, but that doesn't usually happen. He usually is taking care of the kids, and then it's time to coach again. One time he was sick because he had the flu. He took us to the game even though he was sick. He didn't want us to be upset if we didn't get to go.

Coach Miller is a good friend to have. He always takes care of his players first instead of himself. He doesn't treat the kids like they are dummies. He treats them like they are people. He has a big heart for disabled kids.

## 2. *Coach Heather Terrell*

By: Katy Wilson

My name is Katy Wilson! I am a Special Olympics athlete, and I compete in gymnastics! I love my family very much, and I know I can always count on them to help me--but today I want to tell you about my gymnastics coach--Heather Terrell. Heather works hard all year round to help us get ready for our competitions. Right now, we are getting ready for the State Winter Games in January. She helps us practice to do our best so we can be winners. Heather encourages us to keep a positive attitude and to never give up. Heather has been a volunteer with Special Olympics for over 13 years. She even teaches and trains other coaches who want to work with Special Olympics athletes. I can always count on Heather to be there for me, as a coach and as a friend. She is very busy with her job at Gymnastix Training Center, and she has 4 adorable, little children to take care of--but she always still has time for me. She even asked me to be a godmother! I also felt very honored when Heather said I was a "role model" to her team girls at the gym. I felt proud of myself. So I would like to say: "Thank you, Coach Heather. You are the best coach and the best friend in the whole world! I know I can always COUNT ON YOU! Love Katy

### **3. Who Can You Count On?**

**By: Brianna Little**

At the Matthews Boys & Girls Club, we can count on Coach Dominique Oscar. Mr. Oscar is not only our teen director, he is our flagfootball coach, our basketball coach, he teaches street hockey, softball and anything else that he can get his hands on that will add light to the lives of the children we serve. He serves as a father, a big brother an uncle and a friend that as a listening ear, an open mind and a huge heart.

He never judges, he just listens, shares his life experiences and gives advice that will allow you to make your own decisions about whatever you are going through. Because he is always in teaching mode, you are blessed to have him in your life because you are learning with each conversation you have with him. While implementing a program, if you are not able to play properly or don't quite get the concept of it, he will assign a teen to take over the class so that he can take the time you need to give you a full understanding of what is going on and he will work with you until you understand and can play along with everyone else.

His sense of humor is outrageous just as his heart is filled with love, compassion and a deep commitment for the lives of the youth he touches each day. He is what makes this club a family and what keep our teens motivated to do well in school and to have positive plans for the rest of their lives. He is the best.