



Gainesville Roller Rebels, Inc. (GRR)

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Roller derby team makes giving back a priority

In last bout of the season, Gainesville Roller Rebels play the Tallahassee Rollergirls on Sunday

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Roller derby can be a rough sport—there’s a reason for the helmets, mouth guards and knee pads. But players for the Gainesville Roller Rebels (“GRR”) still have a soft spot for those in need. In addition to the hours of grueling practice each week, GRR players also find time to help support other non-profits.

This season, the team has partnered up with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida for the “Little Rebels” skating program. Once a month, GRR skaters host skating sessions with area children. “A lot of the kids are really shy, and afraid of falling at first. You hear ‘I can’t do this’ when they first get there,” GRR skater Adrienne “Rage-rienne” Fagan said. “Most of it comes down to encouraging the kids that they can do it and empowering them as learners.”

Other charities GRR has worked with over the years include Peaceful Paths, Girls Place, Lori Aid and Wounded Warrior. The team also participates in the “Adopt-a-Highway” program, maintaining a stretch of road on Main Street. This season the team also endowed an injured skater fund to help uninsured skaters with medical expenses from derby-related injuries.

GRR’s next bout, the last home bout of the season, is Sunday, November 6, 2011, and will feature a raffle supporting Spread the Love, whose mission is to raise awareness about the risks and prevention of cervical cancer. The charity was started by Tallahassee Rollergirl teammates in memory of Stephanie “Danger S.” Little, who played for the team and died of cervical cancer at the age of 35. When Little was battling cancer in November 2009, GRR raised \$1,100 to help with her expenses.



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“Stephanie would sometimes come to practice with GRR,” GRR President Miriam “Stocky Balboa” Hill said. “She was the kind of person who you feel you’ve known for a while after just meeting them. Her story certainly raised awareness on our team on the importance of prevention.”

GRR will play the Tallahassee Rollergirls on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at Skate Station Funworks, 1311 N.W. 76th Blvd. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the bout starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are available before the match for \$8 at Sweet Dreams Ice Cream, BrownPaperTickets.com, or your friendly neighborhood roller rebel. Tickets are also available at the door for \$12. Kids 12 and under get in free.

For information about GRR, visit www.gainesvillrollerrebels.com



Photo Credit: Dana John Hill

Gainesville Roller Rebels jammer Torrie “LeBrawn Maimes” Higgins stands on the toe stops of her skates while waiting for the whistle that gives her the go-ahead to start skating.

Hi-res version available at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/danajohnhill/6296455254/in/set-72157627889606767>



Photo Credit: Dana John Hill

GRR blocker Lauri “Grizzly Madams” Frierson, right, keeps an opposing team’s skater at bay during a recent roller derby bout in Gainesville.

Hi-res version available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/danajohnhill/6296617628/in/set-72157627889606767/>

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