

# **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY**



## *Tony & Kamaii*

When Nikki enrolled her son Kamaii in Big Brothers Big Sisters, she hoped that he would find a strong, positive male role model to help guide him through life as he grew into young adulthood. "He's literally in a house full of beautiful women and girls, so having him bond with a male figure was important for him to have as a young man growing up," Nikki shared. Describing Kamaii as "introverted, but can talk a lot with the right person," she added that he's naturally curious and especially drawn to electronics. Nikki knew that with the right mentor, Kamaii could thrive—and that's exactly what happened when he was matched with Tony. For almost two years now, Kamaii and Tony have been building a strong, meaningful relationship through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Nikki has been thrilled to witness his transformation firsthand. "He is a lot more outspoken, talking more, things of that nature. Tony has helped him with that, and he's also helped Kamaii have more confidence in his spelling and reading," she shared. She's deeply grateful for the impact Tony has made: "The match is going really good, and I love how they can talk on their own a lot about certain things." Watching Kamaii come into his own, supported by someone who genuinely cares, has been incredibly meaningful for her.

Kamaii joined the program and was excited at the thought of having a new friend and mentor. "I just wanted a male I could get out and do fun things with, since I live with all girls," he said. Outside of school, Kamaii enjoys playing video games like Fortnite and Roblox, staying active with sports and workouts, and watching movies. But his greatest passion? Football. Over the past two years, Tony and Kamaii have bonded deeply over their shared love of the game. "My favorite sport is football, and Tony and I play it a

lot. We also work out together at the gym," Kamaii said. Tony has helped Kamaii sharpen his football skills and build up his self-esteem. "When I'm down in a situation he helps put a smile on my face" Kamaii shared. Looking ahead, he aspires to become a wide receiver in the NFL—and he knows Tony will be continue to support him on that journey. Though he doesn't have one single favorite activity they have done together, he says every moment with Tony is a great one: "Everything we've done has been a fun memory."

Tony's journey to becoming a Big was inspired by his wife, who also served as a mentor. Driven by a desire to "give back to the younger version of himself," Since being matched, he as been amazed by Kamaii's growth. "I've loved seeing him grow in every category, and try to support him whenever I can," Tony said. He brings a thoughtful approach to mentorship, guiding Kamaii through four key pillars: mindset, skillset, relationships, and habits. They check-in regularly on goals and progress in each of these areas. Tony is committed to being someone Kamaii can always count on—someone he can trust, ask questions, and lean on whenever life gets tough. Tony, who once played college football, cherishes when they are able to play together—whether it's on the field, in the pool, or at the beach. "Kamaii loves football and I actually played college football, so we love playing catch anywhere, in the pool, at the beach!" he said. One of his favorite memories is of the two of them playing football on the beach, a moment that perfectly captures their connection. Reflecting on their journey so far, Tony said: "I am excited to continue to watch him grow, evolve and accomplish all of his dreams."