

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Scott & KJ

Antoinette wanted a Big for her son KJ so he could build self-esteem, be around a positive male role model, and have someone to help guide him in the right direction. She describes KJ as very social and outgoing, deeply passionate about the things he loves—like drawing and building—and always determined to be the best. He's talkative, loves to laugh and joke around. Since being matched with his Big, Scott, Antoinette has noticed many positive changes: "He's said more positive things about himself lately, has more self-confidence, and tries new activities every time he is presented with something," like ziplining, visiting an aviary, and taking swimming lessons with Scott. She's excited to see what's next for KJ, who now dreams of working for Boeing or becoming an engineer. She even recalls the day her car started smoking—KJ guessed the issue was the brake caliper, and it turns out he was right! She looks forward to all the new experiences KJ and Scott will continue to share together.

KJ was most excited to get a Big "so I could do more fun activities!"—and that's exactly what he's been doing. He loves playing Roblox, going outside, drawing, making stop-motion videos, being in the water, and being a big brother at home. He's also a fan of older cars, especially Bugattis. Since being matched, KJ says Scott has helped him grow more confident by encouraging him to try new things—especially swimming. One of his favorite memories so far is visiting the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier at Patriots

Point, where he learned about history and saw old ships and planes. Another highlight? Driving through downtown in a Lamborghini. KJ is excited for a great school year, making good grades, and "making new friends, trying to reach out and find others that I belong with." He's looking forward to all the new adventures still to come with Scott!

Scott was inspired to become a Big after hearing how his daughter's boyfriend, a firefighter, helped kids during the holidays. With more free time now that his daughter is grown, he felt called to give back. Remembering a newspaper article he read years ago about BBBS, he decided it was time to volunteer. Since being matched with KJ, Scott says, "I think that he has really come out of his shell around me—I've seen him get really open with me about a lot. I feel I've brought him some stability and some experiences he wouldn't normally get—like ziplining and swimming." He's proud of the confidence KJ is building as he continues trying things he was once nervous about, including when JK bravely went on the zipline. Scott describes KJ as kind and friendly: "He's a great guy, sweet, and really kindhearted." They bond over their shared love of cars, airplanes, and computer/VR games. One of Scott's favorite memories is when he accidentally poured coffee on his pancakes at IHOP, thinking it was syrup—something KJ still teases him about! For Scott, being matched with KJ has been deeply rewarding, and he's so glad he made the decision to become a Big.