

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY SUCCESS STORY

"Aliyah and Yeakia"



Big Sister Yeakia and Little Sister Aliyah embarked on their mentorship journey through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry in the spring of 2021. Big Sister Yeakia, a Senior Project Manager at Boeing, became a mentor because of her vast interest in coaching youth. "I wanted to be able to impact one person consistently to see how they grow and develop throughout their life," said Yeakia.

When Aliyah and Yeakia first met, they had conversations about her interests and connected with Aliyah's mom to ensure their time together was enjoyable and enriching. Their first outing was at Riverfront Park. Yeakia knew that Aliyah loved art so she brought some paint and easels and they Googled photos of things they could draw. Although their paintings didn't turn out QUITE how they looked online, they shared plenty of laughter and created a cherished memory.



Their journey together has been filled with adventures from hockey games, volunteering in the community, exploring STEM events, and Yeakia attending Aliyah's school performances. Yeakia is dedicated to exposing Aliyah to new opportunities and helping her grow.

"I like having Yeakia as a Big Sister because she is nice, kind, caring, and she has fun with me. Yeakia takes me places I've never been, ever," said Aliyah.

Beyond the fun and laughter, Yeakia has been a positive influence on Aliyah's life. She teaches her valuable life skills like money management and provides academic support. Aliyah has blossomed since being matched with Yeakia, becoming more confident, outgoing, and eager to engage in the community.

Aliyah's mother originally signed her up for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry to encourage her to get out of the house and experience new things. Through her partnership with Yeakia, Aliyah has indeed discovered the joy of trying new things and the importance of having a caring mentor by her side.

As Yeakia points out, it's crucial for young women like Aliyah to have mentors who represent different backgrounds and experiences. These mentors help shape their potential and provide the inspiration they need to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

"For a young girl to see how a woman maneuvers through life is very important. It shapes who she can be and gives her the potential to tap into everything she has to become who she wants to be. It's important for young girls to have a positive representation of themselves," said Yeakia.

Yeakia and Aliyah's story is a testament to the positive impact mentorship can have on both the mentor and the mentee. Together, they are building a brighter future and embracing new adventures.