

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY



David & Jackson

When Bess signed Jackson up for Big Brothers Big Sisters, she “just wanted him to have someone consistently around that he could do things with — someone to talk to and have a male figure to guide him.” She describes Jackson as quiet and shy at first, but says once he warms up, “he’s comfortable, happy, and just a happy person in general.” Bess is thrilled that Jackson found such a great match in his Big, David. Jackson really enjoys the things they do together and the new experiences they’ve shared — including volunteering in the community by putting together bag lunches for people and helping with litter cleanups. Bess said, “He really seems to enjoy helping and volunteering for other people, and it’s been good for him.” Jackson loves “fishing and fishing and fishing... fishing is his favorite thing to do,” and he also enjoys spending time with friends. Bess is hopeful for his future and believes his kind, empathetic nature will lead him to something that helps others. She’s excited to see how his match with David continues to grow.

Jackson doesn’t quite remember why he wanted a Big, but he was excited about the process — and even happier when he met David. “David is very nice and fun to be around,” he said. The two have already been fishing together multiple times, which Jackson expressed was his favorite activity to do. “I’ve been a couple of times with David already. I caught a fish on our first time! It was a bull shark fish. I’d really like to go offshore fishing on a boat with him.” Jackson also enjoyed some of the different community

activities that David introduced him to, such as picking up trash on the beach and putting food together for those in need. He has been able to meet new people and have new experiences. One of Jackson's favorite memories so far is when they went fishing at Folly Beach.

David decided to become a Big because he had a lot more spare time, and wanted to give back and offer help. Since being matched with Jackson, he's noticed steady growth in their relationship and has seen Jackson be more talkative. When asked what he brings to the match, David shared, "Life experiences — I raised two girls, and I've been in Mount Pleasant a long time. I'm a resource for him and am here if he needs to talk. I'm also always getting him to try new things to help boost his confidence." David describes Jackson as a very kind child who genuinely cares about his family and others. "He wants to make sure they're doing okay — that's what stands out most about him."

Some of David's favorite moments with Jackson have been through shared activities like golf lessons at First Tee and volunteering with Rotary programs such as Beach Sweep and Backpack Buddies. "It helps him see that no matter what, we're very blessed and giving back is important," David said. And of course, David's favorite memory is their very first fishing trip: "We went fishing, the dock gate was locked, so we found a local spot — and LB caught a fish his first time out! That was very memorable."