

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY:

MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Mike & Omeir

Shaneikqua hoped a Big Brother would provide her son, Omeir, with a positive male role model and someone he could look up to, especially since he doesn't have any brothers. Since being matched with his Big, Mike, last May, she has seen Omeir grow his confidence, curiosity, and excitement. "He gets so excited and is always reminding me when he's going to see Mike," she shared. Whether they're baking cookies, playing games, or trying new activities, Omeir eagerly looks forward to their time together. Shaneikqua noted that Mike has been intentional about helping Omeir discover new interests and get more involved. "They have so much fun together," she said, adding, "I'm just glad he's able to get out of the house and have fun experiences with his Big." She has seen these moments positively impact Omeir's overall well-being and self-confidence and is excited to see how the match continues to grow.

Omeir was excited to join the program and shared that he really enjoys having someone to have fun with and learn from. He and Mike love playing sports together, including football and soccer, and Omeir is always eager to try something new. "I want to try baseball with Mike," he shared enthusiastically. One of his favorite recent activities was baking together. "We made chocolate chip cookies, and I want to make cookies with him again!" Omeir also shared that Mike helps him with reading when he needs it, making learning feel supportive and encouraging. Some of his favorite memories so far include going to the beach, getting ice cream afterward, and spending quality time cooking and playing together.

After retiring, Mike knew he wanted to give back in a meaningful way and decided to volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters because of his love for working with kids. He shared that Omeir was "a little standoffish at first," but has since blossomed into a confident, curious, and joyful child. Mike admires Omeir's resilience and enthusiasm for learning, noting that he enjoys trying new things and "bounces back quickly when things don't go his way." Mike is intentional about supporting Omeir's growth, often incorporating reading into their time and reading together on their outings. Mike also noted that Omeir often asks thoughtful questions about the future, including how long Mike will be part of his life. "Having fun together is meaningful," Mike said. "He's such a wonderful kid, and every day brings something new."