

MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Lauren & Jayda

Lauren was matched with Jayda when she was a student at the College of Charleston. Originally from West Virginia, Lauren initially felt like a fish out of water in a new city. She wanted to find a way to connect with her community and build a meaningful relationship with the people around her.

That's when she decided to become a Big Sister.

This was eight years ago, back when our program was still part of the Community Youth Development Center. As the youngest Big in the program at the time, Lauren was matched with Jayda, and what began as a mentoring relationship quickly grew into a built-in best friendship. Over the past eight years, they have grown up together and shared countless milestones and memories. One moment in particular captures just how much time has passed: Lauren remembers when Jayda used to help her study flashcards for her college finals, and now, years later, Lauren finds herself helping Jayda navigate the college preparation process. Their relationship is a beautiful reminder of how a meaningful mentoring bond can grow and evolve alongside the people in it.

In the middle of their match, Lauren moved to another state and worried about what the distance might mean for their relationship. She even told Jayda that if she wanted, she could be matched with another Big Sister. Jayda was quick to decline. She wanted Lauren to remain her Big. If anything, the distance only strengthened their bond. Through every change and challenge, they have continued to show up for one another, proving that being there for someone does not always mean being in the same place. Their connection has given them a constant they can rely on, no matter where life takes them.

Lauren and Jayda's story is a beautiful lesson in how much life can change. People grow, circumstances shift, and sometimes the path forward looks different from what we imagined. But when you have someone who remains a constant through it all, those changes become a little easier to navigate. Eight years later, their bond is stronger than ever. Their story shows that a true connection can withstand distance, change, and the passage of time. **When a relationship is built on trust, commitment, and simply being there for one another, it can truly stand the test of time.**