

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY MATCH SUCCESS STORY



“Sharon and Shaniyah”

Mother, Tymesha, wanted a mentor for her daughter, Shaniyah, someone she could learn from and confide in. In July 2023, Shaniyah was matched with Big Sister Sharon. Over the last 11 months, Shaniyah has most certainly come out of her shell and gained loads of confidence.

When enrolling her daughter in the program, Tymesha described Shaniyah as shy and humble. “But if you put her on a stage,” she explained, “She is the loudest person. She loves to perform! She is an actress and an all-around entertainer.” Tymesha believes her daughter can do anything she puts her mind to because “she has many talents and always wants to care for everyone else!”

The confidence Shaniyah has gained from her experiences with her Big Sister is evident in her growing love for theater performance and in her developing career goals.

Shaniyah may not recall the exact reason she desired a mentor, but the joy she experiences during her outings with her Big Sister is undeniable. She doesn't have a favorite activity yet, as she “enjoys them all equally.”

Sharon has broadened her Little Sister's horizons by introducing her to a variety of activities, such as visits to parks and historic museums. In her leisure time, Shaniyah enjoys drawing people and doing TikTok dances. As for her future, Shaniyah is currently considering a career as an actress, a cosmetologist, and an entrepreneur with her own makeup brand.

Sharon's decision to become a Big Sister was influenced by her involvement in her South Carolina State alumni club. She was drawn to the role of mentoring and the opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. She describes Shaniyah as “an outgoing, energetic, and inquisitive person.” Sharon hopes to be an enduring and supportive figure in Shaniyah's life.

Sharon's admiration for her Little Sister is best expressed in her recap of Shaniyah's recent theater performance. “She ended up playing two different characters in the same play! She projected her lines so well and had great expression. I do not think I could do what she does,” explained Sharon.

We continue to be excited to see how this Big-Little friendship grows and to see Shaniyah realize all her great potential!

