

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY SUCCESS STORY



“JeJuan & TraQuan”

In 2021, Little Brother TraQuan’s mother, Denise, began to consider the importance of having a positive role model in her son’s life. TraQuan excelled academically and took pride in his excellent grades, and he needed some help in the social aspects of his life. Denise reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry program with the hopes that with the help of a Big Brother he would overcome his shyness and develop stronger social skills. This decision would lead Traquan to a life-changing friendship with his dedicated Big Brother, JeJuan.



JeJuan and TraQuan first bonded over a shared passion for sports, despite their intense Clemson/Gamecocks rivalry. On their first outing, they engaged in a basketball match with each claiming their own version of the story of who won the game.

Initially, TraQuan struggled with initiating conversations due to his significant shyness. Recognizing this, JeJuan focused on fostering an active bond between them. They spent time playing games, attending sporting events, exploring mini-golf courses, and trying out different restaurants. Through these activities, TraQuan gradually grew more comfortable around JeJuan and began to open up.

For JeJuan, being a Big Brother means providing guidance and support while still allowing his Little Brother to pave his own path. “I like having a Little Brother because I can give him a sense of direction. I don’t have to put him where he is going. He just tells me where he wants to go and I give him continuous support so that he feels like he accomplished it on his own. That is the biggest fulfillment I receive: seeing him reach his full potential,” said JeJuan.

TraQuan appreciates the impact that JeJuan has had on his life. He credits his Big Brother for helping him break out of his shell and learn how to engage with others. As the oldest child in his family and the only male in the household, TraQuan always longed for a big brother figure to talk to, play with, and engage in activities that are typically associated with male bonding.

Traquan said, “Having a Big Brother helps me to get out of my shell, instead of staying silent and not talking to anyone. I am grateful for JeJuan’s support when I am feeling down. JeJuan is kind and his support helps others, including me. He helps me talk to other people and he is always there for me.”

Together, JeJuan and TraQuan have set goals to plan TraQuan's future beyond high school. They have attended conventions and events focused on college readiness and explored options in the military. Their upcoming college tours this fall will provide further insights into TraQuan's potential future paths. JeJuan always aims to expose his Little Brother to diverse experiences and opportunities, allowing him to gain a clearer understanding of his aspirations and purpose.

JeJuan shared, "My hope for TraQuan's future is that he is successful in whatever he wants to do and for him to know his purpose in life early on. I want him to engage in everything that he can now to broaden his horizons so that knows what he wants to do. I want him to find his purpose in life and I want to be there to support that."

JeJuan encourages TraQuan to actively explore various fields and engage in different activities to discover his true passion. He is committed to providing unwavering support throughout TraQuan's journey, helping him find his purpose and achieve his goals.