

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Malachi & Michael

Malachi, a lively 12-year-old, was eager to join the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, encouraged by his grandmother, who knew the positive impact a mentor could have. Malachi found more than just a mentor in Michael; he found a friend and role model. "I thank God because Michael is very blessed for him," says Malachi's guardian, Mary. "He motivates him to be the best version of himself." Their bond quickly grew, with Michael becoming an integral part of Malachi's life. "He listens to Michael and follows his directions—it's the best match," Mary shares. Whether it's cooking gingerbread cookies or enjoying a game of tennis, their time together has been full of memorable experiences. Malachi has even grown more confident, calling Michael first to check in, sharing his successes and challenges alike. "I trust Michael and pray they continue to grow together," Mary adds.

For Michael, becoming a Big Brother was personal. Having faced challenges in his own life, he knew the importance of having someone to turn to. "I wanted to be there for someone the way I wished I had support," Michael explains. Through their time together, Michael has helped Malachi find his authentic self, while also teaching him new skills in the kitchen, such as making bread and pizza. "Malachi is full of life and wears his emotions on his sleeve," Michael says with admiration. Their favorite memory? A trip to the museum, where they connected over shared laughter and even grabbed ice cream afterward. With

their connection continuing to flourish, both Michael and Malachi are excited for the future, each knowing that their journey together is just beginning.