

Corporate Big Partner Highlight: Hand Arendall Harrison Sale

Patience and the ability to accept change are two great characteristics for anyone to possess. Little Sister Alayzhia possesses both of these characteristics along with many other wonderful qualities. She had already had two Bigs who had life changes that resulted in her matches with them closing early. Alayzhia's willingness to try again created the opportunity for a successful match with Big Sister Angela. Angela was familiar with change as well. She had a previous Little who changed schools which resulted in her match closing. Both could have easily enjoyed the experiences for what they were and not chosen to be rematched. Thankfully, they both felt compelled to stay with us, and little did we all know, something great was waiting for them-each other.



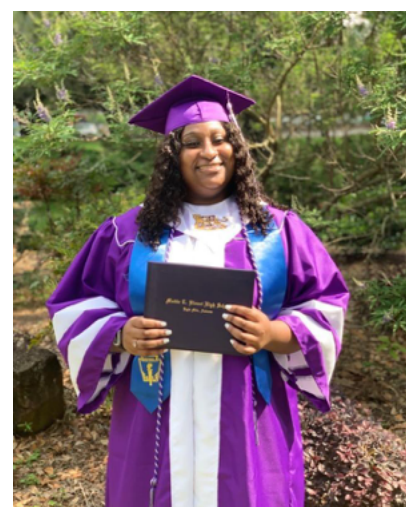
In the winter of 2015, we paired Little Alayzhia and Big Angela together at Brazier Elementary School. Brazier Elementary was the site for all of Hand Arendall Harrison Sales Corporate Bigs. At this time Alayzhia was a 5th grader, who presented herself as a reserved and humbled honor roll student. Despite never being shy and reserved, once she trusts you, she will open up and allow

you to see the world through her eyes. Angela was an Administration Assistant with Hand Arendall Harrison Sale for nearly a decade at the time she enrolled to become a Big. Their match is what we often call a hidden gem within BBBSSA. They don't want any recognition, they just want to exist and share space within the safe space of their long term friendship and are always appreciative of the support and opportunities we extend to them. Angela may tell you that Alayzhia was easy to mentor but Angela was only able to enjoy the fruits of her labor by building that trust and consistency with Alayzhia.

Transitioning from elementary to middle and then high school changed how they engaged and introduced the concept of growing together. Most School-based Bigs want to transition their match to the Community-based setting because it provides more community opportunities, but Alayzhia and Angela always enjoyed their visits during school and during the pandemic, Zoom calls.



Being able to get a glimpse of their interaction during their Zoom calls allowed their Match Specialist to see the magic, hear the laughter, witness the coaching from Angela, and the feistiness of Alayzhia that is not often visible.



Seven years later, to many what would seem like an end is really a new beginning. Alayzhia's graduation from Mattie T. Blount High School is not the end of their mentoring relationship. It is now about life after high school. Their relationship will now be between two adults, two friends. If we had to guess, we'd say it'll last a lifetime. This is just a brief glimpse into one of the hundreds of our amazing matches. And what we particularly love about it and our graduating Littles is when they recognize what a gift it is to have someone invest in

you and wish to do the same for others. Alayzhia has shared that when she finishes college, she is going to become a Big because she wants to give a child the same experience she had. When we defend potential, it creates a chain reaction. Those who were once defended become the defender. Please join us in congratulating Big Angela and Little Alayzhia on their journey and success!

To learn more about our elite Corporate Big Program that Hand Arendall Harrison Sale is a proud member of for the past thirteen years, please visit www.bbbssa.org.

DO YOU THINK YOUR COMPANY WOULD BE A GOOD FIT? The **Corporate Big Program** is a flexible School-based mentoring opportunity that measurably impacts the lives of the children we serve but also your company culture and the lives of our mentors, your employees. We pair each company with their own school in close proximity and the company allows those who want to participate and who qualify to leave work one hour a week for the duration of the school year to meet with their mentee at school, during school hours. Research shows employees-even those that don't volunteer-feel greater pride and loyalty toward an employer that supports a respected cause like Big Brothers Big Sisters and encourages employees to get involved. If you think this flexible volunteer opportunity that has a measurable impact would be a great fit for your company, visit our website to see a list of our current outstanding Corporate Big partners and call or email Aimee at 251-454-2233 or aimee@bbbssa.org for more information.