



Corporate Big Partner Highlight: Hargrove Constructors + Engineers

What could be cooler than having a Big Brother who is super smart and shares your love of sports? One who is committed to mentorship and spreading the truth about making a positive impact. If you're looking for a gold standard in mentoring, then look no further. Because Al Wiggins could be your poster-kid for #GoalsinMENToring.



Meet Al Wiggins- husband, father of 2, Hargrove engineer, and Big Brother to Kavion. Al came to us eager to give back some of what had been poured into him as a young man. He was grateful for the village of positive male role models, like his dad, who gave to him what so many of our youth today need: hope and representation of what success could look like. In June of 2019, Al reached out to his coworker and fellow Big, Jalisa - BBBS's Corporate Big liaison at Hargrove, expressing a desire to volunteer.

And by fall, Al was matched and well on his way in this new journey. In the past two and a half years, Al has not only become an amazing Big Brother but an advocate and somewhat of a spokesman for our mission at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Al began as an excited, bright-eyed, clean-cut, man-about-the-business-of-mentoring and he still is. Initially he was a little nervous about how to keep Kavion interested, and he wondered if he was doing enough. However, Al was a quick learner and was great about leaning on his match specialist, Alecia, for support and advice on how to navigate his new match. Al showed from the beginning that he was interested in learning how to respond and be fully present with his Little Brother. Al was not shy about asking questions and doing research of his own to find answers on best practices when mentoring. During the pandemic-related school closures, Al even took an interest in anime at the leading of Kavion in order to incorporate it into their proctored Zoom-call conversations. Al has shown that he was willing to adapt and meet Kavion on his level to relate to his Little Brother, and it's those little things that make a BIG difference.



Not only is Al winning in his mentorship, he is knocking it out of the park with his overall assistance and recruitment efforts. From saying "yes" to a promotional photoshoot in the height of the pandemic, to insisting to help break down our Back-to-School Bash event, to organizing a Lunch & Learn just last week for male volunteers after he heard about our need for male Bigs, Al is always there to lend a helping hand and to spread our mission. There are countless times where he has shared with Alecia how he was

somewhere speaking to a friend or a random stranger about his experience in the program and how it has changed his life. And as you may know, word-of-mouth advertisement is an invaluable asset to a non-profit agency. Recently, Al was asked to sit on a committee for the BBBS 250 Club. And of course, he said "yes."

Al's impact is far-reaching. Kavion, now in middle school, recently initiated a conversation with Al about his future goals of wanting to be a gamer and an engineer. Al has been adamant about getting Kavion to come up with his own goals and holding him accountable for manifesting them, and Kavion is learning to step up to the plate just like his Big Brother. That's a huge accomplishment for a teenager! And from that Lunch & Learn just last week, one of Al's coworkers has already submitted an inquiry to begin his journey in our School-based program, and we are excited to have him. **But none of this would be possible if it weren't for our workplace partners like Hargrove and for the willingness of our volunteers like Al and many, many of his teammates over the past decade who refuse to allow hardships, the pandemic, work demands, or just life in general be a reason not to volunteer, to get uncomfortable, to grow and embrace the wildly rewarding role of defending the potential of the next generation.**



So, to Hargrove, Al, and all of our volunteers, THANK YOU for all that you do to generously give back to our community and know that you are truly making a BIG impact!

To learn more about our elite Corporate Big Program that Hargrove has been a proud member of since 2010, please visit www.bbbsa.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@bbbsa.org for more information.