

## CORPORATE BIG PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: MERRILL LYNCH - THE HARTY CARPENTER GROUP

Hodges Harty began volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters in 2014 when he was matched with a Little from Prichard Preparatory named DeAndre. They loved playing football together and Hodges helped him with classwork. Several other coworkers from Merrill Lynch were matched along with Hodges and



they made visiting their Littles at Prichard Prep each week a group event. In late 2016, Hodges relocated to Merrill Lynch's Fairhope location but before changing offices, Hodges made certain his Little DeAndre was matched with one of his fantastic coworkers at Merrill Lynch. Once settled in Fairhope, Hodges was matched with a new Little Brother, Logan, in 2017.

As a professional, Hodges holds the title of Senior Vice President and is the founding member of Merrill Lynch - The Harty Carpenter Group. Giving back to the community is not only important to him personally, but he has also incorporated stewardship into the culture of his office at Merrill Lynch. The ability to balance work, family, recreation, and volunteerism is something Hodges has modeled personally and professionally throughout his career.



For this three time Big Brother, to be a positive male role model in a child's life has been a top priority for Hodges. He enjoys encouraging athleticism, academics, and uses his gifts to teach his Little appropriate social skills and etiquette. Recently, his third Little Brother, Braxton, said he enjoys spending time with Hodges because he is so much fun to be around. They are both looking forward to having a great year and have set goals to work toward!

While Hodges and Braxton are still a new match and are getting to know each other, their friendship is important to them both. They enjoy spending time together and make it a priority to focus on quality time each week. Hodges makes each visit count by finding out what Braxton's interests are and allowing him to decide what they should do together. Whether he is having a good or bad day, Braxton knows Hodges will be there for him, show him kindness, and support.



As you can see, our Corporate Partners are the lifeblood of our School-Based Program. With leaders like Hodges, we are able to make an impact in the lives of the children we serve and their families throughout South Alabama! Join us and Hodges as a Corporate Partner to "Walk the walk and talk the talk" today!

To learn more about our elite Corporate Big Program that Merrill Lynch is a proud member of, please visit [www.bbssa.org](http://www.bbssa.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@bbssa.org](mailto:aimee@bbssa.org) for more information.