

# A Sister Story

## HOW OUR RELATIONSHIP STARTED

**Big:** A friend, Sonja Rhodes, invited a representative from Big Brothers Big Sisters to speak at our church about BBBS's Amachi program. I enjoy working with children and thought it was a great opportunity to give back to the community, so I signed up.

**Little:** The first time we hung out occurred about 10 years ago. My mom was getting me ready to go somewhere with Consuelo. She didn't tell me where. I just knew my brother wasn't going. At first I was a little shy because I didn't know her. She told me we were going to Carowinds. I was so excited. That was my second time ever going to Carowinds.

## HOW OUR RELATIONSHIP GREW

**Big:** Our relationship has grown from me reaching out to her, to her reaching out to me. In the beginning, I would always reach out to her and ask, 'Do you want to hang out, let's do this, how are you, etc.' Now it's reciprocal. She texts me, 'Guess what, are we hanging out today, can we go...., etc.'

**Little:** Our relationship grew because Consuelo continued to reach out to me. We hung out at least once a week.

## WHAT KIND OF IMPACT IT HAS HAD ON ME

**Big:** Mentoring Kemryn has allowed me to 'pay it forward.' My parents were functional addicts (alcohol and drugs). They were loved and revered at work and in the community, but at home they were absentee parents. God used several people from church, school, our neighborhood and community to mentor me. These people took me under their wings and exposed me to a positive environment: field trips, family outings/vacations, birthday parties for their children, community events, church services and activities, camp, etc. As a result, I'm a two-time college graduate, very involved in my church/community and work for an amazing company. I wanted to help a child like I was helped.

**Little:** Having Consuelo as a mentor has had an amazing impact on me. All the time, she encourages me to try new things. When my mom was too scared to teach me how to drive, she gave Consuelo permission to teach me. Most importantly, my Big Sister encouraged me to get more involved in school and take more challenging classes. First, honor classes and then AP classes. She has helped me and guided me through applying to all of my choice colleges. For about four months, we met once a week to work on college applications and scholarships. I've been accepted to five (colleges). If it wasn't for Consuelo, I probably wouldn't be as focused in school as I should be.

## WHAT I ENJOY DOING WITH HER

**Big:** We met 10 years ago, and have shared so many great experiences with one another. It's hard to narrow it down to one. Our most recent endeavor has been applying to colleges and for scholarships. I love how she lights up every time she gets accepted into a different college. Her heart is set on attending Spelman; we are still waiting to hear from them. Her second choice is NC A&T; she has already been accepted there. I'm looking forward to her making her final decision and attending orientation with her.

**Little:** When I was younger, Consuelo used to always let me help her cook. I enjoyed those times a lot. I enjoy going to the movies with her and hanging out. Every year, we go to McAdenville to see the Christmas lights.