

FOCUS AREA: EDUCATION

COMMUNITY BASED MENTORING PROGRAM



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF YORK & ADAMS COUNTIES

My name is Angel, and I have been a part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program since I was nine years old. I was raised by a single mother of three. My parents were divorced, and my father was active in my life, but they recognized that without a positive role model, my siblings and I had a high probability of getting into trouble.

I was matched with my Big Brother and Big Sister in 1985, who were quick to open up their hearts and minds to my family and I. They are still a big part of my life and definitely played an important role in making me the man that I am today. They were positive role models that cared about my family and people in general. They taught me to be respectful and responsible and about being positive and high ethics. They taught me to strive for greater things, by receiving an education, and to not give up when things got tough. They were there for me in some of my darkest days as a teenager and mentored me through those times, without giving up on me. Without their help, I do not believe that I would be the man I am today. They stuck with me through thick and thin and were always there to applaud me for my accomplishments. Graduating from high school, graduating from Marine Corps boot camp, and in graduating from not one, but two police academies.

If I had three words to describe them it would be hope, fun, and love. Hope because they became that voice that taught me how to overcome situations no matter how bad they were. Fun because every day with them was an adventure – going to the park and the movies, playing softball and bowling. I especially loved the fall festivals, and can still smell the apple cider to this day. Lastly, I use the word love. Their love intervened through the turbulent times, and guided me into the good times. When you have someone that has nothing to gain from you that pours into you unconditionally without asking for anything in return, that describes my big Brother and Big Sister.

They were and are true angels in my life, and I love them, and honor them for that. I thank God for sending them into my life and I pray that other little's can be as fortunate as I have been. In a world full of negative peer pressure, children need mentors that will lead them and guide them.

I am a witness to what the Big Brothers Big Sisters can do. Today I am a respectable man and adhere to the principals and ethics that I learned from Dick and Sharon. I am a senior detective with the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. I am married with two children, and I teach my children and other children I come in contact with, life principals that I learned from my big brother, and big sister, Dick and Sharon Giblin.

Thank you for your support!

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