

# Funded Program Community Based Mentoring



*"It really invests myself into someone else. I'm learning a lot." - David, an adult mentor*

Every child needs a mentor. Whether it's to play a game, share a story or get help with homework, each child needs that special person to count on. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands provides that essential connection by matching Omaha area youth with a pre-screened volunteer adult mentor who can inspire them as they grow. For David and Jerrod, it's about gaining a new perspective on life. "I've learned so much about myself as an adult," said David, an adult mentor to Jerrod. "I'm acting like a kid more when I'm around him. Seeing how much I've changed and how positive I feel about the world, it's been a great experience."

As a mentor, it's not about spending money but spending time. David and Jerrod look forward to simple activities the most. "When it's nice out, we're doing walks around the lake. We also play a lot of board games. We're just hanging out, passing time, talking and getting food." Jerrod is a fan of the yearly holiday parades.

United Way  
of the Midlands



Their time together is about friendship, a special bond that has inspired Jerrod in his everyday life. "It's changed a lot in the past years. He's been helping me with school and I'm doing a lot better. It's fun to have a Big Brother because it's fun just passing time with somebody that you like to have fun with," says Jerrod. Jerrod will be starting middle school next year, and David is excited to be there for that transition. "It's going to be an incredible change, and I'm really excited to be there to help him through that." And this is just one of the many success stories from Big Brothers Big Sisters. Every day, they work to pair mentors with children in need of a little guidance. David and Jerrod are proof that, with determination and a few hours a month, a lasting friendship can begin that helps both Big and Little realize their potential.