

Little Brothers-Little Sisters Have Experienced No Unhappy Moments

By Lori Grier
 Post Staff Writer

The conclusion of the Big Brothers-Big Sisters series focuses on the most important people in the program, Little Brothers-Little Sisters, who are assisted by their family and counselors.

"I like the program because it gives me a chance to go places (bowling, sight seeing) in Charlotte with a man," said Christopher, 10, a 5th grader who has been a Little Brother for 6 months. He added, "I can depend on Mr. Jarvis Cooper (Big Brother) to take me places when no one else will."

Christopher has experienced no unhappy moments with Jarvis, only good times, even when Jarvis wins all the tennis matches. He enjoys going to see "Jaws-3D," Freedom Bowling Lanes, and would like to go to Discovery Place with his Big Brother in the future. His hobbies include drawing, my ships and cars like the Pontiac Trans-AM. Christopher has a 12 year-old sister and a 5 year-old half brother. He encourages little boys to get a Big Brother, "If you don't have a father who spends time with you or you get bored at home."

"My aunt always wanted me to have a sister, because she always worked and didn't have enough time to spend with me," admitted Jacqueline (also called Jackie), 12, a 7th grader who has been a Little Sister for 3 months overall. "My former Big Sister let me down when it came to going places, but Mrs. Mary Brooks (Big Sister) doesn't let me down."

She can think of no unhappy moments with Mrs. Brooks, only the joys of going to church, picnics and meeting Mrs. Brook's family. Jacqueline's hobbies include going to Queens Park Theater where you pay \$1 to see a movie and attending sports activities. Jacqueline has a 6 year-old brother, and her girl friend is in the process of getting a Big Sister.

Fidell, 12, a 7th grader who has been a Little Brother for 1 year replied, "My mother was given information about the program from my counselor at



Christopher would like to go to Discovery Place.



Jacqueline - enjoys going to church and picnics.



Fidell - getting to do things he'd never done before.



Cammie - enjoys going to Carowinds, movies and pool parties.

school and was later interviewed by Mr. Woodall, director of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. He added, "I get to do things I've never done before, and I get to go places I've never been before with a man."

Fidell is the third participant who has experienced no unhappy moments but enjoys going bowling, to wrestling matches and Carowinds with his Big Brother (Master Sgt. Stanley White). Our future karate expert would like to go to the beach before summer is over. His hobbies include shooting pool, playing baseball and football. "These people (Big Brothers-Big Sisters) help you have a good time, and you can share activities with them." He has a 15 year-old sister who's glad he has a Big Brother, "so I won't follow her," he added. None of his friends have a Big Brother-Big Sister.

Cammie, 14, a 9th grader who has been a Little Sister for 5 years mentioned, "My third grade teacher told me about the program and helped me enroll in it. I get to go places I've never been before like Disney World." She added, "I finally got a Big Sister, someone I've always wanted."

She makes it unanimous that all of them have no unhappy moments with their Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Cammie and Miss Helen Parker (Big Sister) enjoy going to Carowinds, movies, eating, and just talking. Her hobbies include listening to music, dancing and going to pool parties. None of Cammie's friends have a Big Brother-Big Sister.

The mothers and guar-

dians of these lovely children allow them to participate in the program for various reasons.

"I have just one brother, my father is deceased, and we have a manless family. A friend of mine from Texas (also a Big Brother) told me about the program which I was looking for," informed Christopher's mother. Before the program, Christopher had no self-confidence, was down and out, and faced the possibility of being retained in the same grade. Since he met Jarvis, his grades have improved along with his patience level. "I give Jarvis 100 percent, because children need someone they can trust. I like the fact that he considers Jarvis his friend and knows that he doesn't have to share him with anyone. This is the program which provides trustworthy people," his mother concluded.

"My niece had a Big Sister for her daughter. I got tired of Jacqueline sitting in the house all the time, and I wanted someone older to spend time with her," explained Jacqueline's aunt and guardian.

Since she met Mrs. Brooks, Jacqueline enjoys herself more and really likes her Big Sister. "I think it's good for a child to have someone who's interested in them," concluded her aunt.

Fidell's mother's attraction to the activities which the children and the Big Brothers-Big Sisters share motivated her to allow him to participate. "His mind is more occupied on worthwhile activities now. He worries us to death when he is supposed to go some-

where with Stanley, and Stanley doesn't call right away," emphasized his mother.

His mother concluded, "One parent can't do everything for a child. The program is educational, fulfilling, and it gives me a piece of mind to know that he's able to learn how to grow as a little boy with the help of a male figure."

Cammie's mother is in the fifth month of her adoption of Cammie. "Cammie was in the program when I got her, and she enjoys it. I like Helen Parker," pointed out her mother.

Although she hasn't had Cammie long enough to notice any positive or negative changes since she became a Little Sister, she concluded, "It's good for all kids to have an older brother or older sister to

Miss Nancy Lammers and Mr. John Trombello are counselors at Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Miss Lammers has been a counselor for 2 years, and Mr. Trombello (former Big Brother for 4 years) has been a counselor for 1 year. Their duties include interviewing and screening the volunteers and children, making match-ups, introducing them to each other, keeping in contact with the family and volunteers, conducting workshops for the volunteers, and offering suggestions for any concerns.

The activities which they recommend for the Big Brothers-Big Sisters and children consist of picnics, fishing, hiking, going to the mall, park or cooking and

any other activities which would give them a chance to talk and not necessarily cost much.

Big Brothers-Big Sisters is such as success, because "We match people who have things in common and thoroughly enjoy each other so that they can build trusting relationships and a lasting friendship," said Mrs. Nancy Lammers.

"There's a need by the child for an adult friend. The little boys and little girls look forward to the companionship of an older person," said Mr. John Trombello.

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