

Big Brother

Overview: Mentoring Young People

I became a Big Brother years ago following a setback professionally. I decided that instead of feeling sorry for myself, I should help someone else who had far bigger challenges. I met a young man of 6 whose parents were incarcerated for drug offenses. He was living in the NYC projects with a younger sister and his grandmother. Our goal was for him to graduate from high school, not be a father at graduation, maybe college, and become a taxpayer. It wasn't easy but he achieved all four goals.

My wife and I were invited to his wedding last year, 30+ years after I met him. He actually met and married a woman whose mother is a good friend of my wife, something we didn't discover until the wedding. He now lives about 10 miles away in eastern Long Island, a place he didn't know existed when we met.

To paraphrase Emerson, to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived is to have succeeded. After a lifetime in finance, I consider this the one accomplishment that makes me most proud.

- **Greg Herschell**
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