



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2018

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida announces Agency Big Brother of the Year –
John Armentrout**

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida announces that Big Brother John Armentrout has been named as Agency Big Brother of the Year. John was chosen for his dedication and love for his Little Brother, Joe.

John and Joe have been matched since November of 2010 when Joe was 10 years old. In their seven years together, the two have enjoyed all types of activities from go karting to attending monster truck shows. By day, John is the owner of a muffler and auto repair shop. “I wanted a Little that likes cars a lot,” John shares.

“I have learned a lot from Mr. John from cars to how to move along in life,” Joe says. “Since I have known Mr. John, I’m a straight A and B student with a better attitude towards people. If I didn’t meet him I may be doing things that wouldn’t be so good.”

“I got interested in becoming a Big after seeing a segment on Good Morning America where the Big was 95 and the Little pushed him in his wheelchair,” John laughs. “At that time, I was in my early 60s and thought I could do this.”

All parties involved in this match share how much John has helped Joe over the years. “Mr. John has passion for giving Joe his wisdom on what to do in life and go about it,” says Joe’s mother, Rose. “Mr. John is well-rounded, an outstanding listener, peaceful, loving, charismatic, and full of life.” The pair’s Match Specialist, Liza Hawkins agrees. “John has done a great job of teaching Joe about civics and the importance of volunteering,” Liza says. “He owns his own business, is in Rotary, and volunteers with his church in addition to being Joe’s Big Brother.”

“We are so thankful to have John as one of our incredible and dedicated volunteers,” says Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida President & CEO Paula Shell. “The two really are a great match.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida has been the area’s leader in one-to-one mentoring for 29 years by serving children ages 6 to 18. Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida served 616 children in Northwest Florida.

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Photos attached.