



United Way of Greater Houston

FOR BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT



Aaliyah and Debra's Story

A single working mom, April wanted her daughter to have another role model in her life and have opportunities to see and do things they weren't able to do as a family.

Through a United Way-supported mentoring program, April and her daughter, Aaliyah, met Debra.

Debra's own children are grown up and she wanted to do something to impact the life of a child. When she connected with Aaliyah, she got that chance.

For the last year, Aaliyah and Debra have been getting together once a week to exercise, play, and explore. They have been to museums, met monkeys, and swim, play tennis, and bowl every chance they get. It's not all fun and games, though.

In Debra, Aaliyah has another adult she can look up to and confide in. Aaliyah opens up to Debra about what is going on at school and at home. Debra helps Aaliyah understand her mom's perspective and work through challenges she faces.

"It has opened Aaliyah up a lot," April says. "And I think it is because she gets to experience things that we couldn't before as a family. Being a working, single mom, getting a mentor with United Way is like a dream come true."