

## United Way of Sheboygan County unites for the education of everyone in our community.

A Little Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program was spending time in an outpatient mental health program as a result of an infraction with the law. In a conversation with his Big Brother of four years, they talked about the actions which led to his time in this program, away from home.



The Little talked about going to jail, and the Big explained "going to jail isn't 'normal'." That it isn't something he has to do. The Little asked how many times the Big had been to jail, which is none. He asked how many

people in the Big's family have been to jail, which is also none. They then had a conversation about 'normal' and that despite the Little having a father, uncle, and more family either currently in jail or previously incarcerated, that doesn't have to be his path. The Big realized what he thought was 'obvious' is not to someone exposed to incarceration as a 'norm' like his Little. He learned that he can use his time and mentor-ship to show his little life can be different and what healthy norms truly are.

