



Sheila faced the daunting challenge of her son Joseph's depression and social isolation while homeschooling during COVID-19. Joseph was reserved and alone, with no friends.

**Enter Dan, a caring volunteer mentor whose impact went far beyond mere guidance.**

"Dan took him out to talk and have lunch together. He even introduced him to biking and bought him a bike, which we didn't have at home," Sheila shared. **Every day became a treasure as Dan became a friend who took time to understand Joseph.**

"He is more outgoing now, open to new experiences, and working on his self-esteem," Sheila observed, witnessing Joseph's transformation. **"Everything has gotten so much better."**

**Now Joseph is in college and thriving.** He's majoring in Computer Sciences and has made new friends.

Thank you for supporting our mission to provide human services and training programs to improve lives and strengthen communities. **Bergen Volunteers crafts moments of connection, illuminating the journeys of those who need it most. Just ask Joseph and Dan.**

