

IMAGINE

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

LIVE UNITED®

Le'Mia moved to La Crosse when she was 16 years old. She, her two younger brothers, and her mom relocated here from Las Vegas after her mom took a new job at one of the local health systems.

The move was hard on Le'Mia. She was a straight-A student in Las Vegas, but her grades and mental health suffered as she tried to adjust to small town, Midwestern life. Le'Mia found it difficult to relate to her peers, and she longed to be back in a bigger city, where more people looked like her.

Le'Mia eventually made a couple of close friends, but La Crosse didn't start to feel like home until she met Britton. Britton is an Education Director at United Way funded partner Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse. Britton mentors Le'Mia and the other teens who participate in BGC's "Be Great: Graduate" program.

Britton has helped Le'Mia get back on track academically. They have focused on time management, study skills, and test prep. As a result, Le'Mia feels confident at school, and is once again earning straight As!

Le'Mia loves to share her success with Britton – she calls her first when grades come out – but more importantly, Le'Mia feels safe confiding in her when life gets tough. Even though they're focused on school, Le'Mia has found a trusted ally in Britton, who helps her maneuver all of life's challenges.

Le'Mia intends to stick with the Be Great: Graduate program, which will culminate with her high school graduation in 2022. The time she has left in the program, and with Britton, may be limited, but the lessons they have taught each other are for life. Of Britton, Le'Mia says "I'm going to keep everything she's ever told me with me."

While she has considered following in her mom's footsteps and becoming a nurse, Le'Mia currently plans to pursue a business degree. She has an eye for fashion and hopes to one day turn this passion into a career as a fashion buyer.

Imagine a Coulee Region where all teens have a trusted adult telling them that they have what it takes to *Be Great*. It's possible with a gift to Great Rivers United Way.

55%

The percent more likely young adults with an opportunity gap are to go to college if they have a mentor



Great Rivers United Way