



The Mission Memo

Fall 2016

Back to School

Happy September and Back to School! Best Buddies loved engaging with many of you this summer at our 27th Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference where we celebrated friendships, leadership, and inclusion to be *All IN for Best Buddies*. We hope you remain energized and motivated to kick off the new year and prepared to make a lasting impact in your schools and communities.

As you begin the new academic year, don't forget to regularly visit the [Best Buddies Library](#) for new ideas, tools, and exciting ways to engage in our mission!

Trainings

All officers are required to attend their region's Leadership Training Day before November 1st. These inclusive trainings offer leaders the opportunity to network, understand state goals, develop specific tools and techniques to overcome obstacles, and meet expectations specific to their region. Connect with your program manager for dates and registration information.

All approved Best Buddies chapter leaders must participate in their chapter's [Global Volunteer Training](#) prior to being matched in friendship chapters or participating in promoter chapter activities. The training should be held following the chapter's organizational meeting and include peer buddies, buddies, and associate members. Training resources and notes are available on the [Best Buddies Library](#) (password buddy89).

Celebrations

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day (EKS Day) is **September 24, 2016**. [EKS Day](#) is an opportunity to celebrate the impact that one dedicated individual can have on the world. By committing acts of inclusion, acceptance and unity for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we will continue to build on Eunice Kennedy Shriver's legacy. Celebrate EKS Day by:

- Going out into the community with your buddy or chapter to showcase the Best Buddies mission
- [Sharing your story](#) of making friends with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Taking the pledge to [Spread the Word to End the Word](#) and to promote the principle of respect throughout your community
- Holding an event or fundraiser to promote our mission of inclusion and acceptance
- Joining a [Unified Sports](#) team, or even starting a team of your own!

Become an agent of acceptance and action throughout the world. Embrace the spirit of Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day!

Learning



Best Buddies is partnering with [The Family Next Door](#), a documentary film screened at the 27th Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference. Experience the first hand reality of autism and how one family's grace, patience and determination defy all expectations. This film embodies Best Buddies' mission of inclusion and is a great tool for promoting awareness and sparking action. [Click here](#) to learn how to screen the film at your school, or [contact Jessica Fuselier](#), Outreach Manager for The Family Next Door at (512) 489-0298.

Visit the Best Buddies Library for [dates and deadlines](#) to keep your chapter on track and your members engaged and [inspired](#).

Remember, all membership applications must be submitted and approved on Best Buddies Online, officers selected, and matches made no later than November 1st! The library has a [variety of resources](#) available to support you in meeting expectations, making the Best Buddies commitment, and sharing the mission with ease!

You are receiving this e-mail because our records indicate you are the chapter president for the Best Buddies chapter at Norcross High School.

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