

has programs in 50 countries & all 50 United States. Best Buddies offers seven programs – Citizens, e-Buddies, Colleges, High Schools, Middle Schools, Jobs, and Ambassadors. Visit [www.bestbuddies.org](http://www.bestbuddies.org) for more information.

## **What is the Citizens Program?**

The Best Buddies Illinois Citizens Program provides opportunities for one-to-one friendships for adults (18+) with and without IDD. Buddy Pairs commit to one year of friendship, get together 1-2 times each month, and share communication each week.

## **Does it cost anything?**

Once matched, participants are responsible for their own costs when on an outing.

## **How are matches made?**

Matches are based on same gender, location, common interests, and similar age.

## **Who is in the match?**

Each friendship consists of a:

*Citizen Buddy*

- Before meeting potential participants, a Program Manager will conduct a Screening Interview by phone with the volunteer or Sponsor to determine if a person is appropriate for the Citizens Program.

### Home Visit

- The Program Manager will come to the potential participant's home for an in-person interview. This is scheduled at your convenience. When meeting with a Buddy, the Sponsor also attends this meeting.

### Buddy Search

- After completing the Home Visit, the future participant is placed on the Wait List while the Program Manager reviews waiting Citizen Buddies or Buddies and recruits new ones. *This process may take time.*

### Match Meeting

- This meeting allows the Buddy, Sponsor, & Citizen Buddy to determine if they feel compatible. The meeting is always held at the home of the Buddy. If the meeting goes well, the match is made!

*\*Applicants who are unable to participate in a mutually enriching friendship, who are not independent in personal care tasks, who have severe behavior or anger management issues, and/or have a criminal background are not appropriate for participation.*

## **How else can I get involved with BBIL?**

- e-Buddies® is an online pen-pal program that