

BEST BUDDIES

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CHAMPION  
OF THE  
YEAR

A purple laurel wreath is positioned behind the text 'OF THE YEAR', with its branches extending to the left and right sides of the word 'YEAR'.

YOU'VE BEEN NOMINATED!

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***Best Buddies' Mission***  
*is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

Dear Nominee

**Congratulations!**

On behalf of the New Jersey Best Buddies' Staff and Advisory Board, we are pleased to inform you that **you have been nominated as a 2019 Champion of the year Candidate!** This honored nomination allows you to compete in the upcoming Champion of the Year fundraising competition which celebrates individual, professional and community philanthropic trailblazers throughout the New Jersey community.

The twelve-week competition starts with a kick-off party in August and culminates with the Champion of the Year Gala where all candidates will be honored and the Champion of the Year will be crowned.

**We truly hope that you formally accept this nomination.**

In an effort to select our final group of candidates in a timely manner, we ask that you complete and return the attached forms to Best Buddies New Jersey by September 20th, 2019.

Attached you will find information about the guidelines and criteria for Champion of the Year. If you have any questions regarding the application process or expectations of being a Champion of the Year candidate, please contact Matthew Fernandes, BBNJ State Director.

In Friendship,

Best Buddies New Jersey

## OUR BEST BUDDIES MISSION

**Best Buddies®** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Best Buddies programs engage participants in each of the 50 United States, and in 54 countries around the world. Best Buddies' nine formal programs — Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies®, Jobs, Ambassadors, Promoters, and Inclusive Living — positively impacts more than 1.25 million individuals with and without disabilities worldwide.

**Our champions raise the funds needed so that everyone can have a best friend.**

## CHAMPIONS FOR INCLUSION

### WHY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR?

It is often said that we are the product of the company that we keep. Given a choice, we surround ourselves with people who challenge us, comfort us, lift us up, and make us feel at home.

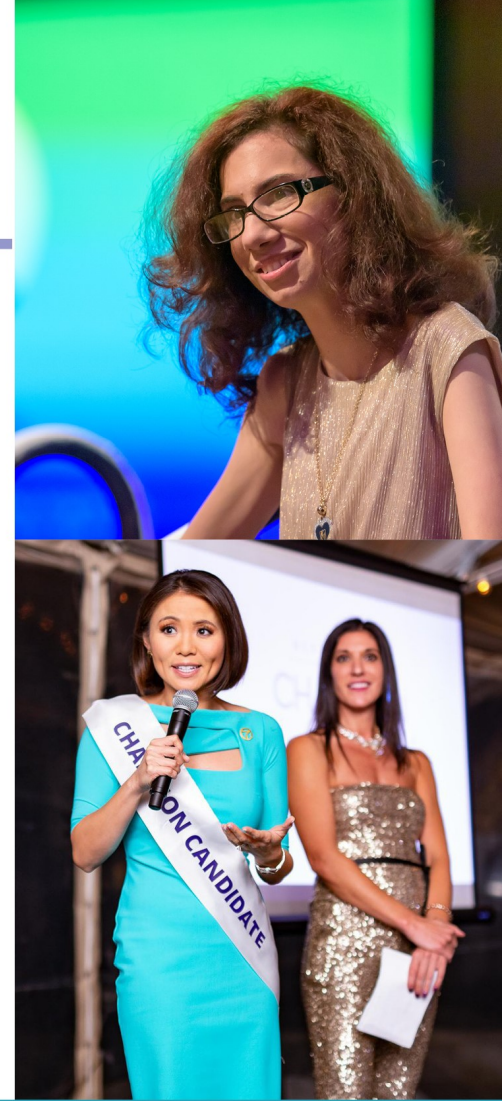
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), however, don't often have this choice. Years of isolation in school and in the community contribute to overwhelming loneliness as they struggle to find where they fit. **Having a disability does not change the deep desire to be known by a true friend, and to be one in return.**

**Best Buddies' programs allow students and adults with IDD to take part in age-appropriate social activities through one-to-one friendships with their peers.**

Through monthly group activities and talking with their new friend at least once a week, people with IDD get to experience friendship that we might take for granted — all while building a life-giving social network outside of their families and service providers.

Champions provide the necessary funding for us expand our vision to new schools and communities, bringing us one step closer to making sure that every student and adult with IDD gets to experience true friendship. The efforts of each Champion nominee create a lasting impact that extends far beyond the eight weeks of their campaign.

**Champion of the Year nominees turn this vision into a reality.**





## WHAT IS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR?

**Champion of the Year unites and recognizes the community's most active leaders in the name of inclusion.**

Through 8-12 weeks of raising funds and awareness for **Best Buddies**, our Champions will generate countless opportunities for friendships, jobs, and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the campaign's conclusion, we will join together to celebrate each other's accomplishments, honor the Champions' collective impact, and name the ultimate Champion of the Year!

## CHAMPION NOMINATION CRITERIA

Champion of the Year nominees are selected based on their individual, professional and philanthropic achievements as well as their passion for the **Best Buddies** mission.

**Nominees are compassionate, socially engaged, well-networked and dedicated to making a difference in their community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

## CAMPAIGN SUPPORT

Support will start during the candidate training and strategy planning session and will continue through the Champion of the Year Gala.

**Each Candidate will have the opportunity to appoint their own Campaign Manager to assist with their campaign.**

**A Mission Partner will be assigned to each candidate to help provide mission related support.**

**Local Best Buddies staff and Volunteer Planning Committee will provide support and encouragement to each candidate.**

**Candidate Training Workshop**

**Candidate Resource Guidebook**

## NOMINEE COMMITMENT

- Submit a signed nomination acceptance form.
- Attend a group candidate training/ strategy planning session in late September.
- Attend the Kick-Off Party and photo shoot on September 24, 2019.
- Attend the Champion of the Year Gala on November 15th, 2019
- Raise at least \$5,000 for Best Buddies during the campaign.
- Be creative, have fun and bring the Best Buddies mission to new audiences.

# CHAMPION INCENTIVE LADDER

\$20,000

Once Champions raise \$20,000 they'll receive an all-expenses-paid-trip to Best Buddies Leadership Conference 2020. Travel included!

\$15,000

Once Champions raise \$15,000 we'll invite them & 1 guest to a VIP sporting event, where they'll get to mix & mingle with other BB VIPs in a complimentary suite. Complete with car service!

\$10,000

Once Champions raise \$10,000 they & their plus one get to stay in a complimentary hotel room the night of the Gala, minutes from the venue!

\$7,500

Once Champions raise \$7,500 they get to treat their guests to bottle service, all night long, and all on us!

\$5,000

Once Champion Nominees raise \$5,000, they're officially a Champion, and have secured their table with seats for 10 of their guests!



## CANDIDATE ACCEPTANCE FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

*(as you would like to be listed in all materials)*

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and reviewed the Champion of the Year nomination letter and informational materials and hereby accept the nomination. I agree to raise at least \$5,000 for Best Buddies New Jersey during the 2019 Champion of the Year campaign.

To qualify as a candidate, I agree to:

- Submit a signed nomination acceptance form.
- Attend a group candidate training/strategy planning session in September, 2019.
- Attend the Kick-Off Party and photo shoot on September 24th, 2019.
- Attend the Champion of the Year Gala at the Bethwood on November 15th, 2019
- Raise at least \$5,000 for Best Buddies NJ during the campaign.
- Secure a "Legacy Nominee" for the 2020 Champion of the Year campaign.
- Be creative, have fun and bring the Best Buddies mission to new audiences.

I proudly accept my nomination for the 2019 Champion of the Year Campaign. I understand my contribution will benefit the Best Buddies school-based programs serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact: Matthew Fernandes / [matthewfernandes@bestbuddies.org](mailto:matthewfernandes@bestbuddies.org) / 973-903-7837

**Best Buddies New Jersey Office:** 70 Church Street, Flemington NJ 08822

**BEST BUDDIES<sup>®</sup>**



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**[BESTBUDDIESCHAMPION.ORG/NEWJERSEY](http://BESTBUDDIESCHAMPION.ORG/NEWJERSEY)**