

# BESTBUDDIES®

Friendship, Jobs, Leadership, Living & Family



BEST BUDDIES®



**Gracie and Carmen,**  
Friendship program participants

# We are **BESTBUDDIES**®

Best Buddies is the largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower people with IDD to form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure jobs, improve communication and advocacy skills, and live independently, while also offering support for their families.



One-To-One Friendships



Integrated Employment



Leadership Development



Inclusive Living



Family Support

## Mission

Best Buddies International 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, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

## Who We Serve

Best Buddies serves individuals with IDD and their families. The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, and other undiagnosed disabilities.

## Programs

Best Buddies programs sit on the five key mission pillars below:

- One-to-One Friendships
- Integrated Employment
- Leadership Development
- Inclusive Living
- Family Support

## One-To-One Friendships

Builds friendships between people with and without IDD, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded.



**BESTBUDDIES.** Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, and Citizens

Creates an inclusive community for students and adults with IDD, helping them become socially integrated with their peers at every age.

**e-BUDDIES.**

Provides opportunities for participants with and without IDD to form virtual one-to-one friendships, create connections in the e-Buddies social platform, and attend social events online.

## Integrated Employment

Secures jobs for people with IDD, empowering them to earn an income, pay taxes, and independently support themselves through their professional accomplishments.

**BESTBUDDIES.** Jobs

Matches skilled, qualified individuals with IDD with businesses seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees. Through the Jobs program, Best Buddies develops partnerships with employers, assists with the hiring process and provides ongoing support to the employee and employer.





## Leadership Development

Educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers, and advocates.

### **BESTBUDDIES**. Ambassadors

Offers people with and without IDD the opportunity to gain the public speaking skills, self-esteem, and confidence needed to successfully advocate for themselves, their peers, and Best Buddies in communities and workplaces.

### **BESTBUDDIES**. Promoters

Empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD and helps chapters organize special events that promote inclusion and bring awareness to the disability rights movement.

### **BESTBUDDIES**. Transitions

Offers a combination of classroom-based training, experiential learning, and corporate mentorship to help students with IDD explore post-secondary options, prepare for independent living, and identify career ambitions.



## Inclusive Living

Provides an integrated experience in which people with and without IDD are active, contributing citizens – living independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.

### **BESTBUDDIES**. Living

Offers individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live together in a vibrant, educational community that supports all residents in advancing their employment, financial literacy, continued education, and life skills as they work to achieve their personal goals.



## Family Support

Provides families access to individual connections and community resources that assist them on their journey of supporting a family member with IDD.

### Eunie's **BUDDIES**.

Connects families who are expecting or have a young child with IDD to experienced parents of a child with IDD, encouraging a genuine relationship rooted in mentorship, resource-sharing, and guidance.

Best Buddies Ambassador **Daniel** and  
Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Cindy Crawford**



“ For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Best Buddies is a lifeline to the joy of having and being a friend.”

- *Cindy Crawford*



MAKE A FRIEND | DONATE | VOLUNTEER

To find your local Best Buddies office, visit:

**BESTBUDDIES.ORG**