



BEST BUDDIES®



You're making a difference.

Thank you!

BEST BUDDIES®



Message From Our State Director

As we reflect on 2024, we want to thank you for being a part of our journey. Your trust, partnership, and commitment to impact the developmental disability community as our friends have been invaluable in our shared success.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting our mission-of creating friendships, finding jobs, learning self-advocacy and creating the most productive futures for our Best Buddies.

Wishing you a wonderful start to 2025 as we prepare for the work ahead in the New Year!

In Friendship,

Molly Whalen
State Director



Virginia
& D.C.

Here's what we've accomplished,
Because of your support in

2024



One-to-One Friendship Program

42 Cities | 29 Counties

102

Total Chapters

19

Elementary Schools

12

Middle Schools

55

High Schools

13

Colleges

2

Citizens Chapters
433 Participants

3,700

Total
Participants

35,000

Impacted



One-to-one
Friendships

Meet Izzy and Alex

“ Izzy is very thoughtful, kind and supportive. All of the above! She does a really nice job of checking in with me just randomly, even if we don't have anything planned.

-Alex

[Read their story](#)



Integrated Employment Program

43

.....
Participants

23

.....
Employer Partners
working with us in
Virginia & DC



Integrated
Employment

Meet Hannah

“ I take the metro and the bus on my own to work every day of the week. I love meeting new people... I love working alongside my team. They've helped me grow so much.

-Hannah



Leadership Development Program

65

Ambassadors
Participants

726

Promoters
Participants
In 40 Schools

50

Transitions
Participants



Meet Zayd and Reyan

“ I loved learning how to give an elevator pitch and having the opportunity to present my pitch to my peers.

-Zayd

“ I really enjoyed learning about what my options are after high school – I didn't know there were so many!

-Reyan

Leadership
Development

[Read their story](#)



BEST BUDDIES



BEST BUDDIES
FRIENDSHIP WALK

Raised
\$400,000

Nearly **2,000** participants,
corporate partners and
community members walked
for inclusion in **Richmond, VA**
and **Washington, DC!**



In July, 27 leaders from all over Virginia & DC, both with and without IDD, attended our 33rd Annual **Best Buddies Leadership Conference**. They participated in personalized trainings that develop the skills needed to organize and lead a Best Buddies chapter!

BEST BUDDIES

CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



Raised
\$310,000

700 supporters came together for our annual Gala in celebration of the collective efforts of our nine Champions who raised funds and awareness to support our mission!



“ Heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary. -Gerard Way



Thank
you!

MAKE A FRIEND | DONATE | VOLUNTEER
[BESTBUDDIES.ORG/VADC](https://www.bestbuddies.org/vadc)