

# BEST BUDDIES



#### MISSION PILLARS

One-To-One Integrated Leadership Inclusive Friendships Employment Development Living

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# Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International

# Message From Our Chairman

Dear Best Buddies Family,

Best Buddies had a remarkable year in 2023, with our events and programmatic activities coming back stronger than ever, both nationwide and globally. As the year concluded, we became even more convinced of the critical and transformative role that Best Buddies programs play in fostering connections and building a more inclusive world for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

In 2023, Best Buddies formed strategic partnerships with several major corporate partners that will have a profound impact on our organization and the people we serve. BODYARMOR became the official water and sports beverage partner of the Best Buddies Challenges, providing hydration products for the organization's national cycling events. Best Buddies also launched a new partnership with our friends at Jersey Mike's Subs. To kick off the partnership, the company generously pledged \$1 million to support the organization, inviting their customers to donate via a round-up campaign at checkout on their mobile app. In 2023, we also welcomed the Boston Celtics' Al Horford, the Atlanta Falcons' Chris Lindstrom, and Celebrity Chef Buddy Valastro as official Best Buddies Global Ambassadors. In these roles, they will use their star power, resources, and connections to promote our mission.

The strength of our business model, combined with our loyal and expanding supporter base, the dedication and focus of our talented employees, and the growth opportunities we see ahead, all reinforce my confidence in our ability to drive towards our long-term growth.

Thank you for contributing to a better world for individuals with IDD. Your continued support will be critical as we strive to move our mission forward, recognizing that there is still much work to be done.

Together, we will rise to the occasion to change lives through the power of inclusion.

In Friendship,

Anthony K. Shriver,

Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International

# Why We Matter

Society has made undeniable progress in improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Yet, we still have a long way to go. Many people with IDD remain unemployed and do not experience the simple joys of genuine friendships and a significant portion of the IDD community still faces access barriers, pervasive social isolation, and discrimination.

This is where Best Buddies International plays a vital role as a model of inclusion and catalyst for change. Best Buddies is the world's largest organization committed to ending the social, physical and economic isolation that 200 million individuals with IDD often experience. For those within the IDD community, Best Buddies represents a pathway to forging lifelong friendships, securing gainful employment, achieving independent living and gaining the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves.

An estimated 84%\* of adults (18+) with IDD do not have a paid job in the community. This is where the Best Buddies' Jobs program steps in. The Best Buddies Jobs program has participants employed full time who each have the potential to earn a total income upwards of \$1mm over 30 years and contribute \$250k in taxes back into the economy, rather than costing the government approximately \$750k each in Federal SSI and Medicaid support during that time period.

This is just one of the countless ways Best Buddies improves the lives of individuals with IDD while simultaneously improving whole-of-society outcomes. Through the cultivation of meaningful one-on-one friendships, the pursuit of integrated employment, the provision of inclusive living arrangements and the nurturing of leadership skills, Best Buddies is fostering a world that is full of opportunity for individuals with IDD.

For more information, please visit BESTBUDDIES.ORG

Together, we can build a world where everyone belongs.



# Hunter with his father William Hunter. Best Buddies Global Ambassador

# A Parent's Perspective

"Being a part of my kids' lives has given me the most joy as a father. Watching them navigate the ups and downs of life, seeing them become close siblings and good human beings who contribute positively to society, brings me immense joy.

Hunter, my son, is one of the friendliest and most positive people I know. He has a huge heart and genuinely cares about others. Hunter loves music and can identify songs and artists just by hearing the beginning of a track. He is also passionate about sports and dreams of visiting every MLB park, especially those in Pittsburgh, where I grew up. Hunter will give me a rundown of all the scores. Who needs ESPN when you have Hunter?

Best Buddies has profoundly impacted both my life and Hunter's. They came into our lives when I was really worried about Hunter, who spent a lot of time alone in his room. Best Buddies showed Hunter that he could have friends outside the family who care about him and want to spend time with him. Now, he has many events that keep him busy and happy. I no longer worry about him making friends or finding his place in life.

The greatest gift people with disabilities have is their uniqueness and ability to accept others for who they are. As Hunter says, autism is his superpower.

Whether you need a friend or want to be a friend, Best Buddies is the place for you. Everyone needs a space outside their family where they feel loved for who they are. I honestly couldn't say what Hunter's life would be like without Best Buddies."

William Hunter, father of Best Buddies Global Ambassador
 Hunter Huff

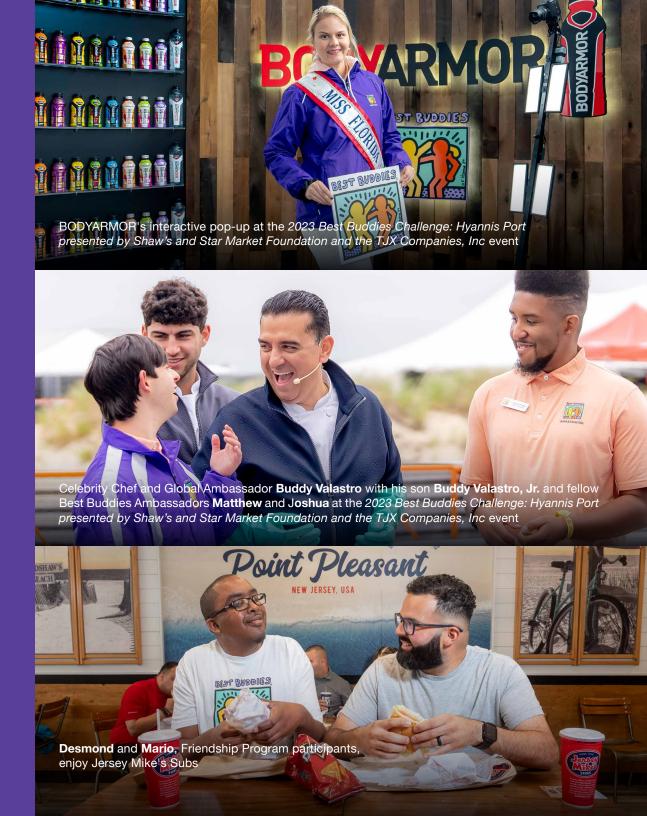
# 2023 Highlights

#### Launches

 In October, in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), Best Buddies hosted the 5th Annual Corporate Partner Summit at the Accenture offices in Chicago. This event brought together corporate leaders to promote inclusion and featured sessions led by Accenture, i4CP, InsightGlobal, and Shutterfly.

#### **Partnerships**

- BODYARMOR became the official water and sports beverage partner of the Best Buddies Challenges. The company will provide all water and hydration products consumed by athletes across the organization's national cycling events as part of their sponsorship.
- Jersey Mike's Subs generously pledges \$1MM to support Best Buddies to kick off the new partnership and invites their customers to donate to the organization via a roundup campaign at checkout to amplify the financial support.
- The Boston Celtics' Al Horford, the Atlanta Falcons' Chris Lindstrom, and Celebrity Chef Buddy Valastro became official Best Buddies Global Ambassadors.



# Milestones

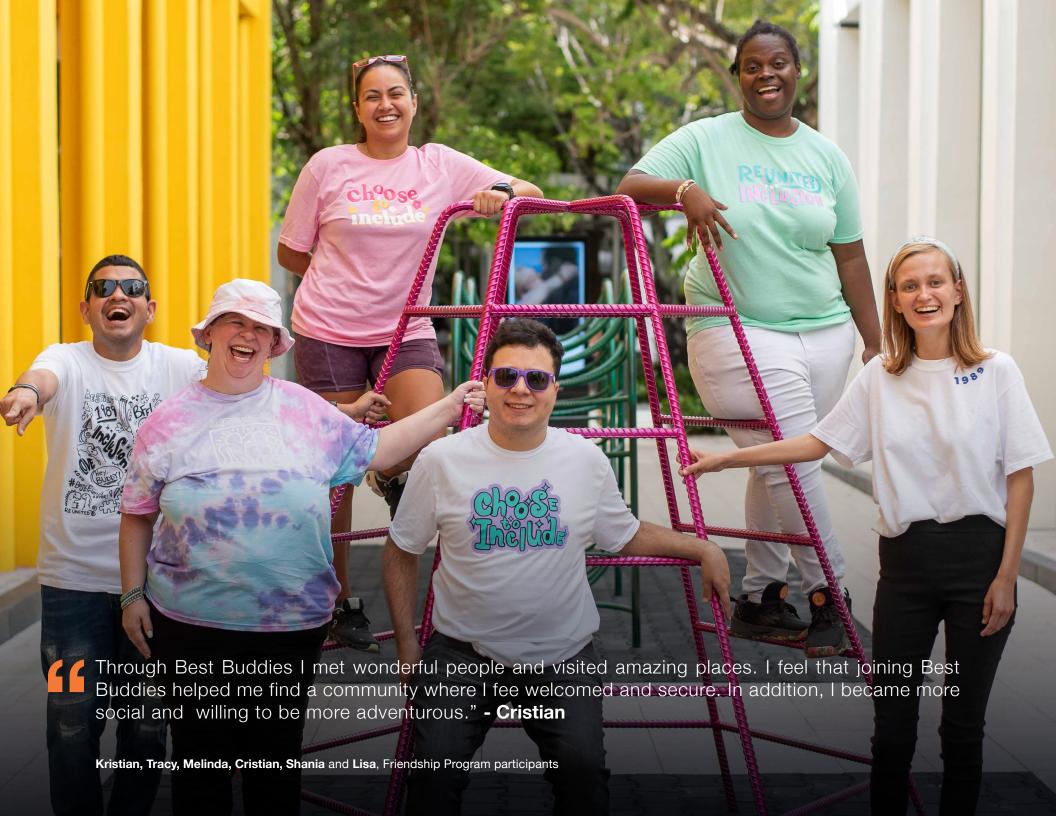
- In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Colleges by founding the first Best Buddies chapter at Georgetown University.
- In 1988, the iconic Best Buddies logo was donated to Best Buddies by legendary pop-artist, Keith Haring.
- On January 19, 1989, Best Buddies is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, becoming America's first national, unified, social and recreational program for people with IDD.
- In 1992, Best Buddies Global Headquarters office moves to Miami, FL.
- In 1993, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Citizens to pair adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with their working peers who do not have disabilities.
- In 1994, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Jobs, a supported employment program targeting high-paying, corporate jobs for people with IDD.
- In 1995, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> High Schools to pair special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- In 1996, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Middle Schools to pair students with IDD in one-to-one friendships with middle school volunteers.
- In 1998, Best Buddies hosts the first Best Buddies Miami Gala.
- In 1999, Best Buddies launches e-BUDDIES<sub>®</sub>, a cutting-edge online friendship program.
- In 2000, Best Buddies holds the inaugural *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, a 100-mile bike ride from Boston to Hyannis Port.
- In 2003, Best Buddies has participants in all 50 states on the US.
- In 2004, Best Buddies launches the nationally televised inaugural *Volvo Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle*, a 100-mile bike ride along the Pacific Coast Highway.

# 2009 - 2019

Current

2020

- In 2009, Best Buddies launches Best Buddies Friendship Walk.
- In 2010, Best Buddies has programs in 50 countries around the world.
- In 2011, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES® Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.
- In 2014, Best Buddies celebrates its 25th anniversary and also celebrates 25 years of the *Best Buddies Leadership Conference*.
- in 2017, Best Buddies holds the first Best Buddies Breakaway Camp:
   Malibu and hosts the inaugural Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers
   in Malibu, CA, with Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and her
   daughter, Kaia Gerber.
- In 2019, Best Buddies launches its fourth mission pillar, BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Inclusive Living, to provide individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow and thrive.
- In 2020, Best Buddies introduces BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Ventures, with
  the first launch being BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> X Rosetta Bakery in Miami,
  FL, creates jobs for individuals with IDD and operates as a profit
  center via a bakery and coffee shop partnership.
- In 2020, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES® Transitions to help prepare young adults with IDD for independence and inclusion in their communities as they move from school into adulthood.
- In 2022, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES<sub>®</sub> Elementary Schools to teach inclusion to a younger age group to create a lasting effect on societal norms for the next generation.



# Our Impact

3,535

137,346\*

Chapters

Participants

Impacted





Participants Employed

**Average Total Participant Stats** 

High Schools

42,697

\$6,058,903

\$30,294,517

Colleges

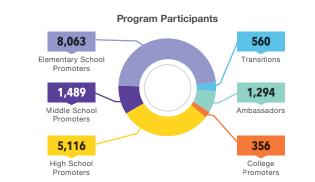
Yearly Hrs. Worked Yearly Taxes Paid

Avg. hrs worked per week 20.40, Avg. hrly wage \$14.48 (in the U.S.).

#### Leadership **Development**



Promoters Chapters

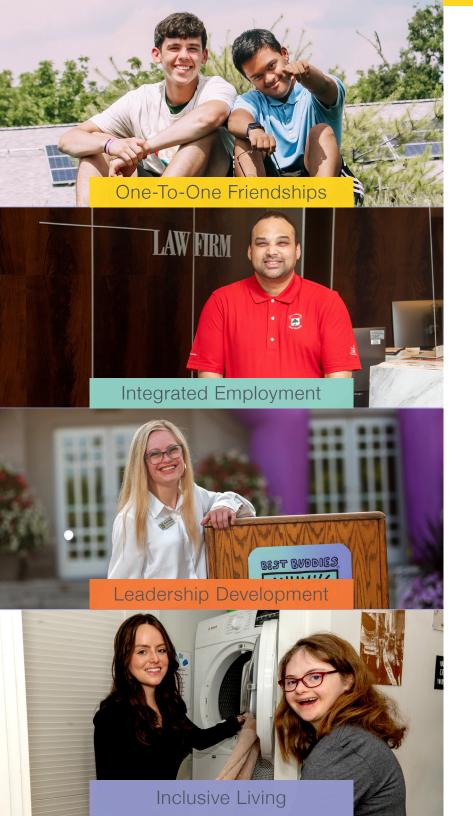






All program stats are as of 12/31/2023, and reflect the most recent Best Buddies program year (July 1, 2023 - June 30,2024). \*Total number of participants does not include residents in Living location(s), not listed





#### 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.

#### 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, and inclusive living, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

#### Vision

To put Best Buddies out of business. Best Buddies envisions a world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces, and communities that its current efforts and services will be unnecessary. Until that vision becomes a reality, the organization will continue to educate middle school, high school and college students, community members, corporations, and employers about the emotional, functional, and natural needs and abilities of people with 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 four key mission pillars below:

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

# 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.

#### BEST**BUDDIES**. 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.

#### BEST**BUDDIES** 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.

#### BEST**BUDDIES** Transitions

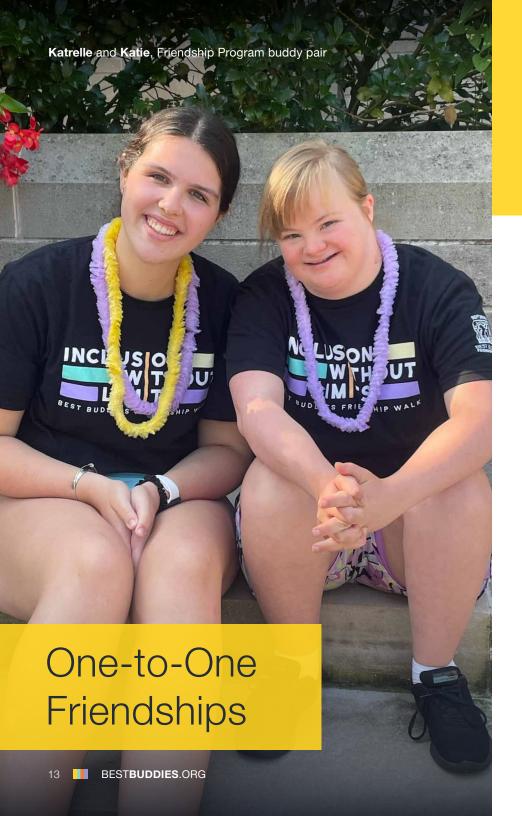
Offers a combination of classroom-based training, experiential learning, and corporate mentorship to help students with IDD explore post-secondary options, prepare for independent living, and identify career ambitions.

# Marclusive 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.

#### BEST**BUDDIES** 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.



Without love, support, and friends, life may feel isolating – this is a reality people with IDD have faced throughout history. Best Buddies offers people with IDD the chance to have a friend, gain self-confidence and self-esteem and share interests, experiences, and activities that many other individuals enjoy.

# BESTBUDDIES. Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools & Colleges

Best Buddies offers students with IDD the opportunity to have a friend and enjoy common interests, experiences, and social activities in the Middle School, High School, and College programs. Each friendship pair commits to speaking and spending time together every week throughout the year. These programs create lasting friendships and help facilitate an environment of inclusion throughout the school and in the community.

#### BESTBUDDIES. Citizens

For people with IDD, the absence of meaningful friendships extends into adulthood. Best Buddies Citizens pairs adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with adults without IDD in corporate and civic communities. Citizen buddy pairs commit to a one-year friendship in which they will talk once a week and see each other twice a month. These relationships commonly grow into friendships that last a lifetime.

#### e-BUDDIES.

This program creates social inclusion and friendships for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in a virtual space. Technology is an integral part of society and by participating in e-Buddies, participants can develop the skills needed to communicate across a variety of platforms.



I love to go out to lunch with my buddy, Yasmin, and play games in the cafeteria like Headbands, Spot It, and Jenga." - Aiden

## **Yasmin & Aiden**

#### One-To-One Friendships

# Thomas A. Edison High School Alexandria, VA

From their smiles, easy conversations, and evident friendship, watching Aiden and Yasmin at the *Best Buddies Friendship Walk* with their high school team perfectly illustrates the Best Buddies mission in action. As seniors at Thomas Edison High School, Aiden and Yasmin have been matched in a one-to-one friendship since freshman year, and Best Buddies has made a lasting impact on their lives. Their commitment is clear through Yasmin's leadership as Chapter President and Aiden's role as Buddy Director over the past two years.

Aiden loves being friends with Yasmin, sharing, "I love to go out to lunch with my buddy, Yasmin, and play games in the cafeteria like Headbands, Spot It, and Jenga." Yasmin fondly remembers their first *Best Buddies Prom*, which was also their first prom ever, as one of her favorite memories with Aiden.

Best Buddies has profoundly impacted the Edison High School community through various events organized by the chapter, including Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the *Spread the Word to End the Word* campaign. Seeing so many friendships between people with different abilities from across Virginia and D.C. reminded Aiden and Yasmin that they are part of a welcoming and cherished community.

As Aiden and Yasmin prepare to graduate this year, they have messages for their fellow students. Aiden encourages, "everyone at Edison to keep up the good work," while Yasmin urges members to "stay involved with the Best Buddies community – it is simply the best!"

- Aiden and Yasmin, Best Buddies Friendship Pair



Best Buddies Jobs assists participants in finding meaningful employment, earning a competitive income, receiving benefits, and working alongside others in the community. The program offers people with IDD the opportunity to become financially independent, removing the need for government assistance or parental support. A focus on competitive, professional opportunities is what sets the Best Buddies Jobs program apart from other employment services.

#### BESTBUDDIES, Jobs

Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with IDD into the community through supported employment. The focus is on facilitating competitive, integrated job placements that allow participants to earn an income, pay taxes, and work in an environment alongside their peers in the community, leading to full inclusion and independence. Coaching is provided in essential job interviewing skills, and once employment is secured, there is assistance with on-the-job training.

The Jobs program prides itself on developing employment opportunities in professional environments and focuses on white-collar jobs such as receptionists, mail room assistants, file clerks, office assistants, front desk assistants, and retail associates. Employers range from some of the top law firms and talent agencies to well-known retail businesses and luxury hotels.



For people looking to expand their hiring to include people with IDD, the single biggest piece of advice I could give you is: don't overthink it." - Michael Paley, Chief Operating Officer, Klingman & Associates

#### Robin

#### Integrated Employment

#### Klingman & Associates, LLC.

#### New York City, NY

Robin currently works as an office manager at Klingman & Associates, LLC, a wealth management firm, in New York City. She has been with the company for over five and a half years, starting as an intern in January 2019 and transitioning to a full-time role after two months.

At her job, she uses her administrative skills, collaboration, Microsoft Office, customer service, and organizational skills. She has also learned to use programs like Tamarac CRM, a web-based client relationship management system, book travel arrangements, manage multiple calendars, and continues to acquire new skills as she works. Robin works 40 hours a week and enjoys a comprehensive benefits package that includes paid vacation, medical care, a retirement plan, dental care, vision care, and sick days.

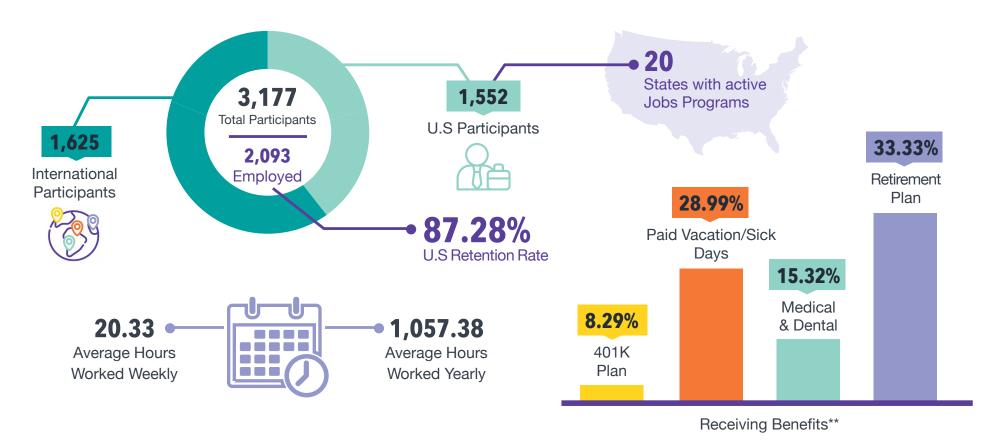
Since securing her job, Robin has been able to experience more of the city and travel, feeling supported by her job and close-knit colleagues at Klingman & Associates, who feel like family to her.

Robin's daily responsibilities include scanning and uploading checks into the system, preparing conference rooms for clients and the team, printing and scanning documents for colleagues, and mailing documents to clients and wholesalers. Before joining Klingman & Associates, she worked at the local Pet Health Store.

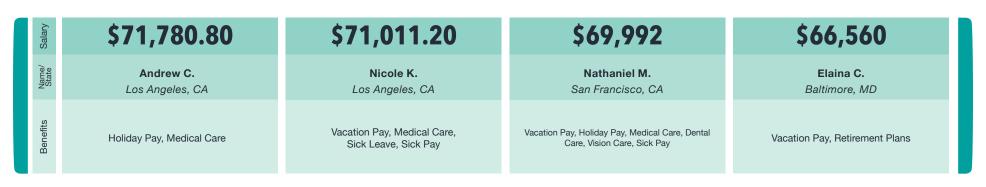
Before getting involved with Best Buddies, Robin explored different career paths and job opportunities and was referred to the Best Buddies Jobs program by Access VR, a program that helps individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain employment.

Her future goals include taking courses to further her education, running another marathon or half-marathon, traveling more, learning different languages, and learning how to play golf. Robin looks forward to continuing her education, both in financial planning and other fields.

#### **Key Jobs Program Stats**



Top 4Jobs Participants Highest Salaries With Benefits



#### Top 5 Jobs Participants Highest Hourly Rates



#### Best Buddies Jobs Around The World





<sup>\*</sup> Global jobs stats are calculated based on total jobs participants and U.S. Average hours and wages.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Represents benefits received by US BB Job participants.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> All Jobs Program stats are as of 12/31/2023



Best Buddies educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and change agents. Through the Ambassadors and Promoters programs, participants inspire their communities to build a more inclusive world for people with IDD.

#### BESTBUDDIES. Ambassadors

Best Buddies Ambassadors is a program that provides training for participants with and without IDD in speech writing, public speaking, and self-advocacy. Ambassadors develop the skills to share their life stories, promote Best Buddies programs, network, and, most importantly, advocate.

Ambassadors participate in trainings focused on the art of public speaking and advocacy. Once trained, they share their stories and become more involved and empowered as citizens. Ambassadors are encouraged to speak about opportunities for people with IDD, present at recruitment fairs and Best Buddies events, and develop partnerships in the community.

#### BESTBUDDIES. Promoters

Best Buddies Promoters empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD by organizing and attending special events that promote inclusion. Students attending a school without a special education program can join a Promoters chapter to develop connections with people with IDD or can start one by contacting their local Best Buddies state office.

Each Promoters chapter is led by a chapter president from the student body and a faculty advisor and is assigned a Best Buddies staff person who offers regular support and guidance. Once formed, Promoters chapters host events, activities, and fundraisers where they advocate for people with IDD, and promote the Best Buddies mission.



# Best Buddies has given me an outlet to spread even more love. From the Jobs program to the Ambassadors program to the Best Buddies Friendships Walks to hanging out with my buddies, Best Buddies has given me the biggest bright side I've ever had." - Fran

#### Fran

#### Leadership Development

### Global Ambassador Dallas, TX

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Flava Fran! Autistic rapping Jew, overcomer, future homeless shelter founder, and Best Buddies Global Ambassador. I live in Dallas, Texas where I work at a preschool, thanks to the Best Buddies Jobs program and my jobs coach, Cheyenne. It is the most amazing job in the entire universe! I hope more people with disabilities will see it is possible to achieve their dream job, and that employers will give us a chance. My job brings so much light to my life and I hope to make your life brighter.

I believe the world is butterflies and rainbows! People try to tell me that it's not, but I try to see the bright side in every situation. When I said I was an overcomer it was because I'm a survivor of 18 years of physical abuse. During my struggles, I learned to find joy in the little things like flowers and pretty colors. Another bright side is that my rough past gave me the drive to help others. A good way to find bright sides is through music. I love to write and perform uplifting raps to spread love and positive messages. Best Buddies has given me an outlet to spread even more love. From the Jobs program to the Ambassadors program to the Best Buddies Friendships Walks to hanging out with my buddies, Best Buddies has given me the biggest bright side I've ever had.

Before I conclude, I want you all to know that a big bright side is coming. When I introduced myself at the beginning of the speech I said future homeless shelter founder. My dream is to one day build a homeless shelter and call it the Bright side Homeless Shelter. That's my dream, but I want all of you to know I believe in your dreams, and whether you have a disability or not, you can make your dreams come true; and looking on the bright side sure does help!

Best Buddies is the biggest bright side! Thank you all so much.

- Fran, Best Buddies Global Ambassador



Supporting and empowering individuals with IDD to live as integrated, contributing members in the larger community is the next frontier in the movement to create a more inclusive society. Best Buddies Living fosters a dynamic environment where people with IDD can learn, grow and thrive.

#### BESTBUDDIES. Living

The Best Buddies Living program encourages people with and without IDD to live together in a vibrant community that focuses on supporting residents in accomplishing their life goals and dreams.

The Best Buddies Living program supports inclusion by:

- Developing programs that foster an opportunity for residents to experience living with friends and colleagues. Programs include weekly shared meals, fitness classes, cultural events, holiday parties, social activities, and sports.
- Offering an environment that encourages the development of independent living skills, life-changing relationships, and educational pursuits in connection with a college or university. Through an affiliation with a nearby school, all residents can immerse themselves in campus life, attending sporting events and enjoying fitness and dining facilities alongside their student peers.
- Matching people with and without IDD in a residential experience, and providing a supportive environment that encourages full-time or part-time employment.



# Others should join Best Buddies Living to experience independent living and discover more about themselves. You will know how it feels to live on your own and have the opportunity to develop your independent living skills." - Rubin

### Rubin

#### Best Buddies Living Resident

#### Miami, FL

Before joining Best Buddies Living: Miami in January 2024, Rubin lived with his grandmother, sisters, niece, and nephew. In his new home, Rubin has his own room and bathroom and shares a living and kitchen space. The apartment building is just blocks from the University of Miami, providing residents with access to the campus and all events through a partnership between the school and the program. Residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), like Rubin, are also taught independent living skills by an on-site residential manager.

Rubin's favorite aspects of being a resident at Best Buddies Living: Miami includes going out, bonding with his roommates, helping others, and cooking. He enjoys game nights, playing pool, joking and laughing, and having conversations with his housemates. Through the program, Rubin has learned important life and independent living skills. "Through the Best Buddies Living program, I've learned how to be on my own, make better decisions for my life, and how to become a better person," said Rubin.

Since joining Best Buddies, Rubin's life has changed for the better. He became more involved with the organization, including serving as a state ambassador, a role that empowers individuals with IDD to become leaders, public speakers, and advocates. Best Buddies also helped him secure a job with the Hialeah Fire Department. In this position, Rubin supports his boss Nikita with administrative tasks and assists the entire department with their day-to-day duties. He also enjoys greeting people and helping with fire reports. His salary has doubled since being hired, and he receives benefits including paid time off, health insurance, and a 401(k)-matching plan.

Rubin encourages others with intellectual and developmental disabilities to join the Best Buddies Living program:

"Others should join Best Buddies Living to experience independent living and discover more about themselves. At Best Buddies Living, you basically live on your own. You will know how it feels to live on your own and have the opportunity to develop your independent living skills," said Rubin.

# International Programs

In 2023, Best Buddies' International Programs (IP) department set out to establish new regional and global partnerships to enhance revenue, improve departmental and country operations by refining protocols, processes, and tools, and strengthen country programs while expanding global presence. Throughout the year, significant strides were made towards these goals. IP supported 28 international participants to attend the 2023 Best Buddies International Leadership Conference (BBLC) in Bloomington, Indiana and increased attendance at its annual Global Staff Forum (GSF) by 40%. Additionally, IP successfully opened programs in Cyprus, Dominica, El Salvador, Portugal, and Switzerland.

International Programs' compliance for accreditation saw a 17% improvement, and we received grants amounting to \$30,000 from the U.S. Embassy in Macao, \$50,000 from the Philippines, and \$20,000 from Switzerland. IP hosted 12 webinars for 163 attendees covering topics such as Champion of the Year, country highlights, and various program management strategies. The Best Buddies Living Program was extended to country programs, and the department continued forming partnerships with multinational corporations like JLL, Amazon, and Colgate-Palmolive. To promote inclusivity, all content on BB University was translated into Spanish, benefiting the Spanish-speaking community both in the U.S. and internationally. The IP department also met with the U.S. Ambassador in Spain to explore potential collaborations, and Best Buddies' domestic expansion team, which resulted in a unified global expansion strategy, increasing IP support and accreditation revenue.

#### **Goals and Vision for 2024**

Looking ahead to 2024, IP's primary goal is to centralize data and training and provide tech solutions such as Salesforce and a training platform, along with more consolidated support to global staff. By centralizing data, enhancing training, and focusing on sustainable growth, IP is confident in its ability to achieve these ambitious goals for 2024.



## Best Buddies Around The World

46 Countries & Territories



**5** Continents





# BEST BUDDIES CHALLENGE. HYANNIS PORT GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP GROUP Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc.

# Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port

June 2-3, 2023 | Boston to Hyannis Port

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc. returned to Massachusetts for its 24th year. The Challenge weekend kicked off Friday, June 2 with a dinner reception at John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum & Library. On Saturday, June 3, hundreds of riders took to the start line at the JFK Library for the picturesque 100-mile ride portion of the event, from Boston to Hyannis Port. The Challenge was capped off by a celebratory clambake where Celebrity Chef Buddy Valastro presented Best Buddies with a gold medal cake to commemorate the achievements of participants who completed the weekend's bike ride. The event also included a special musical performance by Emmy and Grammy Award-winning Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.

# Best Buddies Challenge: California

October 13-14, 2023 | Marin County, CA

The Best Buddies Challenge: California, presented by the Safeway Foundation returned to California for its 20th year. The event kicked off with the welcome reception at the iconic Summit Skywalker Ranch on Friday, October 13, where guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and a program hosted by Best Buddies International Founder, Chairman & CEO Anthony K. Shriver that highlighted the achievements of the Best Buddies Global Ambassadors and key supporters. During the welcome reception, singer and longtime Best Buddies celebrity supporter Lisa Loeb entertained the crowd. On Saturday, October 14, hundreds of cyclists took to the starting line for a 38- or 72-mile ride through the Marin countryside led by professional cyclists Thomas Pidcock and Magnus Sheffield. The event was capped off with a gourmet lunch, wine tasting and live entertainment.



# Professional Cyclists Magnus Sheffield, Cameron Wurf and Four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome (center) leading the pack at the 2023 Best Buddies Challenge: Miami, chaired by Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund and presented by Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation and Mack Cycle & Fitness

# Best Buddies Challenge: Miami

November 17, 2023 | Miami, FL

The Best Buddies Challenge: Miami, chaired by Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund and presented by Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation and Mack Cycle & Fitness, was led by Four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome and professional cyclists Magnus Sheffield and Cameron Wurf. The world-class 80-mile cycling event took over closed roads with a motorcycle police-escorted peloton. The Challenge was followed by the Best Buddies Miami Gala that evening.

# Best Buddies Miami Gala

November 17, 2023 | Miami, FL

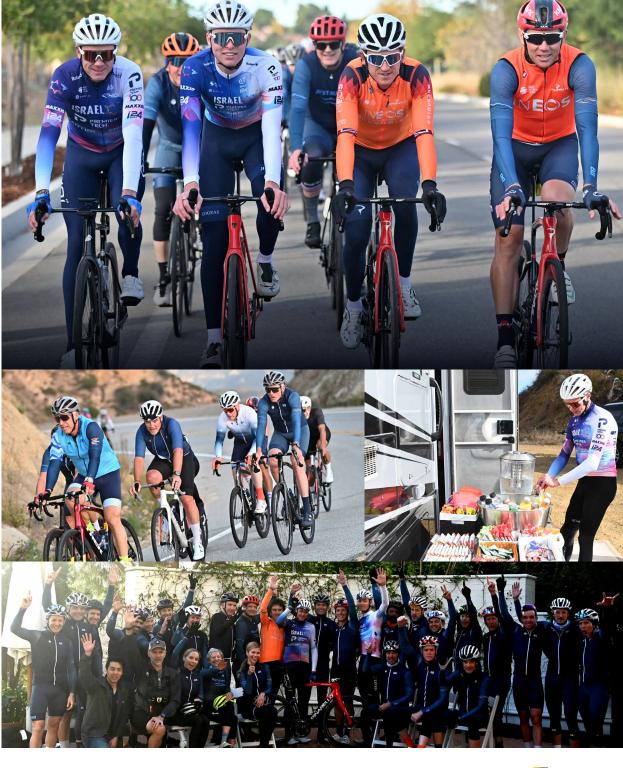
The 25th Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala celebrated Best Buddies' programs in Qatar and honored Global Ambassador Tom Brady with the 2023 Spirit of Friendship Award, Best Buddies' highest accolade presented to distinguished luminaries who have shown great leadership, generosity, and spirit in supporting the organization's mission. The event also featured a fabulous cocktail hour, a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and a live performance by Nelly.



# Best Buddies Breakaway Camp Malibu, CA

November 29 - December 2, 2023

Led by cycling superstar Geraint Thomas and his teammate Cameron Wurf, the Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu provided athletes with a pro-level experience, offering a holistic approach to training. Set in the Santa Monica Mountains of Southern California, the camp hosted 19 cyclists and featured a comprehensive curriculum, including tips on riding efficiently, proper rider nutrition, post-training recovery, and building a foundation for a sustainable healthy lifestyle. Based at the Four Seasons Westlake Village, the camp received support from Pinarello bikes and included a full staff of licensed coaches, Tour de France mechanics, chefs, and massage therapists. This five-star camp helps raise funds and awareness for Best Buddies International and its global mission to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



# Holly Robinson Peete, an actress and advocate for individuals with IDD, surrounded by her family and Best Buddies supporters at the 6th Annual Best Buddies Celebrating Mothers event in Pacific Palisades, CA.

# Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers

May 13, 2023 | Pacific Palisades, CA

The 6th Annual Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers, presented by Cadillac, honored actress and advocate Holly Robinson Peete. The celebration featured a performance by Best Buddies Global Ambassador Olivia Culpo and her family, along with singer and Best Buddies Ambassador Marlana VanHoose. Attendees included Best Buddies Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford, NFL star Christian McCaffrey, Aurora Culpo, Sophia Culpo, Courtney Sixx, Garcelle Beauvais, and renowned photographer Brian Bowen Smith, who captured memorable moments from the event.

# Best Buddies Friendship Balls & Proms

Best Buddies Friendship Balls and Proms are celebrations of inclusion held across the U.S. While they may appear like any other dance on the surface, they are profoundly meaningful events. Thousands of teens and young adults, both with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, come together to laugh, dance, sing, and enjoy each other's company. These events are free from judgment, ridicule, or isolation, embodying pure joy, capturing the essence of genuine friendships between individuals of all abilities.





# Best Buddies Friendship Walk

The Best Buddies Friendship Walks continued to grow and expand, serving as a significant platform for raising awareness and funds in support of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

In 2023, over 41,000 participants across more than 69 cities joined the cause, collectively raising over \$5.4 million. These walks have positively impacted communities nationwide, creating spaces for new friendships, unlocking promising opportunities, and, above all, promoting inclusion for all.

# Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala

Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala is a competitive fundraising campaign that brings together and celebrates leaders of inclusion in local communities across the nation. Champion Candidates dedicate themselves to raising funds and awareness for Best Buddies during their campaigns. The culmination of these efforts is the Champion of the Year Gala, where the Champions are honored, and the individual who raises the most funds is named the Champion of the Year.

In 2023, Champion of the Year Galas achieved a record-breaking milestone, hosting 51 events nationwide, with over 425 Champion Candidates, exceeding the fundraising goal by raising over \$8.9 million for Best Buddies. This year saw the highest number of Champions in the history of the campaign, with five top Champions each raising over \$100,000. Tina Gulledge, with support from her Mission Partner Caroline Tyson from South Carolina, emerged as the National Grand Champion by raising \$142,588. Looking ahead to 2024, the goal is to recruit 500 Champions and raise \$9.8 million through 53 events, which will raise critical funds for Best Buddies, and empower community leaders to advocate for inclusion.



# Best Buddies Leadership Conference

July 21-24, 2023 | Bloomington, IN

The 2023 Best Buddies Leadership Conference (BBLC) marked a triumphant return to in-person conference with nearly 2,000 students at Indiana University from July 21-24, under the theme, "Reunited for Inclusion."

Throughout the weekend, participants engaged in a variety of educational sessions and interactive workshops, designed to equip student leaders with the tools to promote the Best Buddies mission in their communities. The conference also featured a TedTalk-inspired roundtable with notable speakers, providing attendees with innovative ideas to drive the mission forward.

A highlight of the event was the *Baller Bash* pep rally and integrated celebrity basketball game at Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall. The game featured performances by the Indiana Pacemates, Recording Artist Kid Quill, the Indiana RedStepper Dance Team, Ron Fulford Jr., and stars from All Elite Wrestling, creating an unforgettable experience for attendees.

The conference concluded with the Closing Ceremonies on Sunday night, celebrating the incredible impact of student leaders with and without IDD.



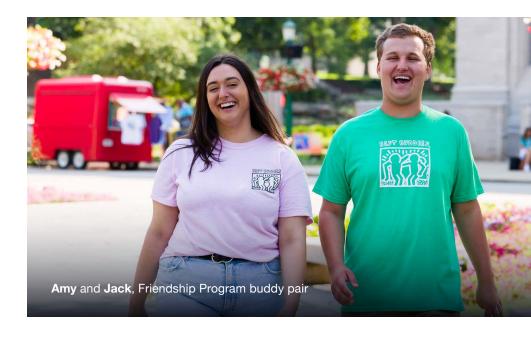


# **EKS Day**

Created in 2010, Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day serves as a unique opportunity to celebrate her legacy, indomitable spirit and life-long commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Even during a time when society did not, Eunice Kennedy Shriver believed in the abilities of people with IDD and led the effort to end the physical and social isolation they endured. EKS Day promotes a global call for individuals to commit to actions of change, inclusion, and acceptance for people with IDD. Across the United States and in 100 countries, EKS Day is celebrated with love, justice, faith, hope, and courage – her five key values. Activities included sports clinics, picnics, leadership trainings, and disability rights awareness efforts.

# March Best Buddies Month

What began as a one-day celebration of the Best Buddies mission evolved into a month-long festivity to reflect on the importance of inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities every March. In 2023, the celebration began with the annual *Spread the Word: Inclusion* campaign that encouraged participants to showcase how they promote inclusion in their communities. Throughout the month, participants hosted virtual chapter parties, awareness activities, and engagement campaigns to honor their unity in advancing opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and inclusive living.

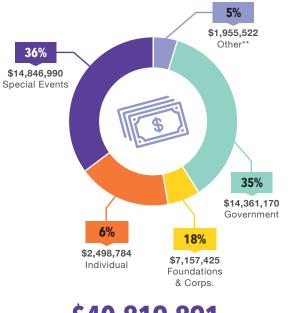




#### **Financials**

#### Consolidated Statement of Activities\* (as of 12.31.23)

#### Domestic Revenue



\$40,819,891

**Total Domestic Revenue** 

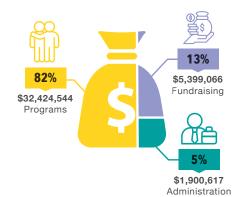
\$33,000,000

Total International Revenue\*\*\*

\$73,819,891

**Total Gross Revenue** 

#### **Domestic Expenses**



\$39,724,227

**Total Domestic Expenses** 

#### **Domestic Net Asset Summary**

Net Assets (beginning of year)

\$32,390,290

Change in Net Assets

\$1,095,664

Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments (2,118,877)

Net Assets (end of year)

\$35,604,831

<sup>\*</sup> Statement of Activities for calendar year 2023 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990

<sup>\*\* &</sup>quot;Other" represents revenue generated from a collection of sources including; Chapter Dues, Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, Investment Income and Cause-Related Marketing.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Gross consolidation of International Licensees that operate as their own NGOs

# Financials

#### Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.23)

#### **Assets**

Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		\$4,938,047
Investments		\$22,352,482
Accounts receivable		\$47,412
Contributions receivable, ne	t	\$1,043,261
Grants receivable		\$5,567,040
Inventory artwork		\$58,361
Prepaid expenses		\$838,526
	Total Current Assets	\$34,845,129
Property and Equipment		
Computers		\$461,647
Furniture and equipment		\$85,104
Auto		\$61,522
Land		\$1,152,473
	Total Property and Equipment, Cost	\$1,760,746
	Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$567,754)
1	Total Property and Equipment, Net	\$1,192,992
Right-of-Use Assets		
Financing lease right-of-use, net of amortization		\$75,598
Operating lease right-of-use, net of amortization		\$3,280,319
	Total Right-of-Use Assets	\$3,355,917
Other Assets		
Long-term contributions receivable, net		\$1,142,324
Security deposits		\$90,011
Investments - Rosetta Bakery x Best Buddies		(\$37,375)
	Total Other Assets	\$1,269,710

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$611,906
Deferred revenue	\$706,376
Compensated absences payable	\$173,682
Current portion of financing liabilities	\$25,922
Current portion of operating liabilities	\$1,376,971

**Total Current Liabilities** 

Long-Term Liabilities	
Line of credit	\$16,533
Security deposit	\$37,497
Long-term portion of financing liabilities	\$50,651
Long-term portion of operating liabilities	\$2,059,379
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$2,164,060
Total Liabilities	\$5,058,917

#### **Net Assets**

\$40,663,748

**Total Assets** 

\$7,752,624 With donor restriction \$27,852,207 Without donor restriction **Total Net Assets** \$35,604,831

> \$40,663,748 **Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

\$2,894,857



#### **Board of Directors**



Brad Blank
President/Attorney
Brad Blank & Associates, Inc.



Olivia Culpo Actress



Mark DeVincentis Managing Director Crescent Capital Group LP



**Tamsen Fadal** *TV Anchor, Executive Producer & Author* 



**Joshua Felder** Global Ambassador Best Buddies International



Robert Friedman
Partner
Holland & Knight



Aaron Gershenberg Managing Partner SVB Capital



Todd Michael Glaser Developer



Evan Hainey
Partner
Untitled Entertainment



Stephen T. Hearst VP & GM of Western Properties The Hearst Corporation



Alexander
Hernandez-Dessauer
VP, International Programs
& Special Projects
Best Buddies International



Jamie Hintlian Partner/Principal Ernst & Young



Michelle Klingman Chief Experience Officer & Senior Vice President, Human Resource Capital Management Jackson Health System



Gerard A. Klingman, CFP
President
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Carl Lewis U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist



Chris Lindstrom
Professional Football Player
Atlanta Falcons



James Lintott
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Sterling Foundation
Management



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Thomas Quick Philanthropist



Anthony Kennedy Shriver Founder, Chairman & CEO Best Buddies International



Eunice K. Shriver II

Philanthropist



Tom Sullivan
Founder
Lumber Liquidators



Garett Tomasek Young Leaders Council Chair Best Buddies International



Ralph Winter Founder Corestate Capital Group



Bernie Yuman President Bernie Yuman Mgmt.

### **Executive Team**



Jeremiah Angel Vice President Web Operations



John M. Carlin Senior Director Major Gifts & Planned Giving



Michael Collins Vice President, Best Buddies Challenges



**Lisa Derx** Vice President Government Relations



Alexander Hernandez-Dessauer VP, International Programs & Special Projects



Mark Lewis Senior Vice President Development, Marketing & Technology



Nicole Maddox Vice President Communications



Stephanie Moore
Vice President
State Operations &
Mission Advancement



Cary Ombres Vice President Expansion and Mission Advancement



**Lori Penaloza** Senior Vice President Finance & Operations



David Quilleon Senior Vice President Global Mission, State Development & Operations



**Jessica Schwartz** Vice President Marketing & Partnerships



Anthony Kennedy Shriver Founder, Chairman & CEO Best Buddies International



Julie Torres Vice President Human Resources & Operations



Scott Tracy Vice President Challenges, National Events & Special Projects



Mark J. Wylie Vice President Talent Relations

#### **Honorary Board Members**



**Eunice Kennedy Shriver**Founder, Special Olympics Int.



**Keith Allen Haring**Pop Artist, Creator of the Best Buddies Logo

# Our Supporters

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\$500,000 and Above

Jersey Mike's Subs Safeway Foundation

#### \$250,000 to \$499,000

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Fanatics Foundation/Michael Rubin Ansin Foundation/Channel 7 Foundation & WSVN/WHDH Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc. Sephora USA, Inc. Shaw's & Star Market Foundation The TJX Foundation. Inc.

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Marc J. Leder Sutter Health

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#### \$25.000 to \$49.999

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of

Massachusetts BNY Mellon, N.A. Braman Motors

Bursor and Fisher PA Crescent Capital Group, L.P.

Enterprise Holdings

Fort Partners/Surf Club Foundation/

Nadim Ashi General Motors Holland & Knight LLP

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MALS PALS

Mark Edward Partners LLC

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Ortholndy Foundation

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Ecker, P.A. Sonic Automotive Inc.

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Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield AP Benefit Advisors, LLC Aramark Global Business Services AT&T

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Blue Brook Management

BMO Harris Bank

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Association, Inc.

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**UNM Hospitals** 

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West Bank

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#### \$250.000 to \$499.000

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The Tina and Richard V Carolan Foundation

Tides Foundation

#### \$100.000 to \$249.999

Ann G. and James B. Ritchey Foundation **Drew Foundation** 

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#### \$50.000 to \$99.999

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The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

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The Pratt Foundation The Randall Family Foundation The Sharon D. Lund Foundation The Taco Bell Foundation, Inc. The Tepper Foundation United Way of North Central New Mexico

#### \$25,000 to \$49,999

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APT Family Charitable Foundation David and Leila Centner Charitable Foundation

Embassy of the State of Qatar Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Manpower Group Foundation Inc.

Nashville Predators Foundation New York Life Foundation

Smith Family Foundation TD Charitable Foundation

The 1111 Foundation

The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation

The Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation

The Columbus Foundation (CF) The Educational Foundation of

America

The Ernst & Gertrude Ticho Charitable Foundation

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation

The Merancas Foundation Inc. Thunderbirds Charities **UNUM Group** 

#### \$10.000 to \$24.999

**AEGON Transamerica Foundation** Albuquerque Community Foundation Alexander R. Tulloch Trust Arizona Community Foundation Arizona Covotes Foundation Austin Community Foundation **Boston Bruins Foundation** Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, Inc. **Bradbury Stamm Construction** CareSource Foundation Carl Anderson, Sr. & Marie Jo. Anderson Charitable Foundation Cedar Street Charitable Foundation Children's Brain Diseases Foundation

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#### \$500,000 and Above

California Department of **Developmental Services** Florida Department of Education Illinois Department of Human Services Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Alta Vista Regional Center Indiana Division of Disability and Security Department of **Human Services** 

#### \$100.000 - \$249.999

Arizona Department of Economic Security Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools California Department of Rehabilitation Central Valley Regional Center Connecticut Department of **Developmental Services** Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Ser-Indiana Department of Education Maryland Department of Health Massachusetts Department of **Developmental Services** McLean County, Illinois Miami-Dade County, Florida Office of Management and Budget Miami-Dade County, Florida Public Schools New York Office of Persons with **Developmental Disabilities** North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

U.S. Department of State Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

#### \$50,000 to \$99,999

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New York Adult Career & Continuing Ed Services, VR

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Concerns

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Westside Regional Center

Texas Education Agency

U.S. Department of Education

#### \$250,000 to \$499,000

Rehabilitative Services Iowa Department of Education New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Services San Andreas Regional Center Social Security Administration

The Bishop Family Foundation

#### \$25,000 to \$49,999

Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services Iowa Department of Education Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Human Services New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Council North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Services San Andreas Regional Center

Social Security Administration

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Bernalillo County, New Mexico College of New Jersey Franklin Board of Developmental Disabilities. Ohio Gilbert, Arizona Golden Gate Regional Center Indiana Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services

New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services New Mexico Division of

**Developmental Disabilities** North Carolina Developmental

Disabilities Council Regional Center of Orange County

Regional Center of the East Bay St. Louis, Missouri, Office of **Developmental Disabilities** 

Resources Tempe, Arizona

Washington, D.C., Rehabilitation Services Administration

#### \$5.000 to \$9.999

Butler County, Ohio Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Michigan Rehabilitation Services Peoria, Arizona Polk County, Iowa

#### **TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS**

#### \$250,000 and Above

Team Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)

#### \$100,000 to \$249,000

Team Eaton Vance/MSIM/Parametric Team Marks Buddies

Team Guardino

Team King James Buddies

Team MACK Cycle Team Natixis

#### \$50.000 to 99.000

Team Stanford Health Team Steptoe Team Webcor

#### \$25,000 to \$49,000

Team Current Builders Team Kates & Barlow

Team Macon Friends for Makin' Friends Team TCNJ!

Team MAG

Team Mals Pals

Team Miami Country Day Upper School

Team New York Life NH

Team Real Fun Content Team ServiceNow

Team Smart & Horford

Team Sunshine Team Volvo

#### \$10.000 to \$24.000

Team 603 Pride

Team Academy of the Holy Names

Team Ashlee Coffman Courage Team Best Buddies Citizens (VA & DC)

Team Best Buddies Tampa Citizens '23

Team Bike Zone of Cape Cod

Team Blazing Saddles

Team Blue Brook Management

Team Bobcat Buddies

Team Boeing

Team Bonjay & The Funky Bunch Team Citizens Catch 'Em All

Team Cliff's Crew

Team Creekside High School

Team Cruzin' 4 Inclusion

Team Danielle & Coley's Buddies

Team Dome Construction

Team Dream Team

Team Dylan's Dominators

Team Gallo Team GOAT

Team Greenberg Traurig

Team Gunnison Consulting Group

Team Henry

Team Holland & Knight Mission:

Possible

Team Jacksonville Citizens Group

Team KIDS 360 Team Mali

Team Malo

Team Marlowe

Team Mea

Team Merck - North Jersey Team Nové p/b PROthirteen

Team Pirtle Construction

Team Plant High School

Team Ratchet and Clank Team Ravenwood High School

Team RockDJ

Team Seminole Ridge High School

Team Shulman Rogers Team Tavistock

Team Ten Pins - Cape Cod Cruisers

Team The James Gang Team THS Best Buddies

Team Tom

Team UF Best Buddies Team Wyatt - Domestiques Team Xcitebike Racing

#### PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

#### **Animal Services**

Bark Public Barking Bad Camp Bow Wow Doggie Daycare and More Mayfair Animal Hospital Nauset Canine Club Nova Animal Hospital Paw-some Dog Pet Resort Dallas Pet Smart

Pompano Pet Lodge The Barking Lot

**Urban Paws** 

Wags and Whiskers Stay and Play Zionsville Country Vet Clinic

#### **Argriculture**

A.R.C. Shellfish Hatchery Devil Mountain Nursery **Empower Farms** 

#### **Arts & Culture**

9/11 Museum Aurora Hill Library Blissful Seeds

Broadway at Music Circus **Bryant Park** 

Capital One Hall Georgia Aguarium

Houston Museum of Natural Science Lyric Opera of Chicago Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Museum of Contemporary Art Old Sturbridge Village Sacramento Childrens Museum

Shedd Aguarium

The Children's Museum of

Indianapolis Tradewinds Studio

#### **Automotive**

Advance Auto Advance Auto Parts Evanston Subaru

Tovota Land Rover Jaquar Lithia Subaru of Fresno Miami Lakes AutoMall Ocean Mazda

#### **Communications**

ActiveCampaign Atema Partners Civic Edge Consulting Conill Advertising DNI Corp

**Dupree Miller & Associates** Gannett Company, Inc.

Kel & Partners Kornit Digital

Kubik

Participant Media

Team One Williams Lea

#### Construction

Consor

Fortis Construction Inc Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson Lowe's @ Milford

Mas Tec Whiting Turner

#### Education

AAccreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Alcott Elementary School

Alexandria City High School Alpine Elementary

Ben Davis University High School Big and Tiny

Bishop Moore Catholic High School Bright Horizons Newton

Building Block Academy Catholic University

Childrens Lighthouse Allen City of South San Francisco-Siebecker Center

Clark County School District

Coleen Hoose Elementary Curley Academy Dana Middle School

Dean College

Dunlap High School Unit 323 Genesee Community Services Gordan Jewish Community Center Growing Garden Nursery School

Holy Spirit School

ISP Management at Northeastern University

Ivv Prep Early Learning Academy JRE Lee Educational Center -

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Kerman Unified School District

KinderCare

Learn Up Tutoring

Montessori School in Holmes Run Montgomery County Public Schools

New York Public Library

New York Public Library - 5th Ave

NYC Board of Education Port View Preparatory

Promise Child Development Center Santa Margarita Catholic High School

Scottsdale Unified School District Springstone Montessori

Sunshine School

The Learning Experience The Work Family Connection

UC Davis

UCLA Department of Intercollegiate

Athletics UMASS Lowell

Virtuous Inc. Wachusett Regional School District Worcester Public Schools

#### **Facilities Management**

ABM Industries - LA Ally Universal Security Amazon GREF

Anderson Security **CBRE Microsoft** 

Cushman and Wakefield Dayspring Janitorial

ESFM @ Google X Ibis Golf and Country Club

Lutheran Rehabilitation and Skilled

Care Center Modern Salon and Spa North East Security

PHD Services

Service Systems Associates-Zoo Miami

Sunnyside Country Club Vonachen Services, Inc.

#### Finance & Insurance

Amwins

Bank of America Boston Private Credit Union of Texas Crescent Capital Eaton Vance

Finaccess Advisors, LLC. First Citizens Bank - Tempe H.I.G. Capital, L.L.C. IMC Financial Markets

John Hancock

Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, LP

Klingman and Associates
Mapfre Insurance

Mastercard Worldwide

Morgan Stanley National Tax Group

Natixis Global Asset Management, L.P.

Navy Federal Credit Union

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network (PLAN) of Massachusetts and

Rhode Island, Inc.

Red Mountain Properties/Ocedan Properties/US Loan Servicing

Regions Bank

SCN Accounting and Tax Services

Sunstone Partners Management, LLC

#### **Fitness**

Blink Fitness Club Sport Fit Equinox

Four Seasons Health Club

LA Fitness

#### Food & Beverage

99 Restaurant

AARP

Amazon Fresh AMC Dine In Theater

Angel Foods Apple Bees

Aramark - ASU Tempe Bahama Buck's

Bertucci's Italian Restaurant Best Buddies X Rosetta Bakery Bickford Senior Living Home

Big Bowl

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Blaze Pizza Bubba's 33 Cafe Blu

Cafe Joyeux
California Pizza Kitchen - Wellington

Candified
Carrabba's Italian Grill

CAVA

Centerville Pies - Sandwich

Chartwell's Chick-fil-A Chili's Clean Juice

Constellation Culinary Group Culinart @ Brentwood School

Davios Denny's Dion's

E.B. Flatts Restaurant El Pinto Restaurant Elior North America

Enchanted Island Amusement Park

Fancy's Market

Fazenda Coffee Roasters

Fiji Water Five Guys

Flagship at Facebook Friends Marketplace Fruit Center of Milton

Fry's Giant Food Gundalow Gourmet

Hannaford Harris Teeter Harvest Sensations

H-E-B HMS Host Jersey Mikes

Jimmy's Famous Seafood

Katella Bakery Keke's Breakfast Cafe Kenny's Westside Pub Keurig Dr. Pepper

Kroger Kwik Star Lady Baker Le Petit Gateau

Levy Lidl

Lidl
Lost Dog Cafe'
Mahoney's Bar & Grill
Main Event - Gilbert
Market Basket
Market Street Allen

Maschio's Food Service

McAlister's Deli

McDonald's - Long Beach

Merck

Milam's Markets Misha's Cupcakes

Mod Pizza

Neighborhood Wal-Mart Market New City Microcreamery

Nouria Energy Corporation
OVG (Oak View Group) - PBC

Convention Center Pamilla Senior Living Pancho & Lefty's

Panera Papa Johns Paramount Group

PDQ Pick N Save Pieology

Pilo's Street Tacos Pilo's Tequila Garden

Pizza Hut Price Chopper

Provider Contract Food Service Provincetown House of Pizza Rail Trail Flatbread Co.

Rally's Ralphs

Restoration Pizza Rosetta Bakery Ruby Tuesdays Shooter McGee's

Sodexo Sonny's BBQ

Sprouts Farmers Market

SSA Group, LLC at Museum of the

Bible Starbucks

Stone Creek Dining Company

Stop & Shop Sunsof Corporation

Sweet Cup Taziki's

Tedeschi Food Shops
Texas Road House
The Cake Bake Shop
The Cheesecake Factory
The Merchant LB

The Paramount Group
The Virginian

Thomas Cuisine Tropical Smoothie Cafe Una Pizza Napoletana Uncommon Grounds, Students of

Georgetown Inc Val's Restaurant

Vons Wawa

Wayside Noodles

Wegmans Weis Wendy's

Whitsons Culinary Group

Wild Eggs

Wolfgang Puck Catering

#### Government

Accenture

Alexandria Library - James M.
Duncan Branch Library
Arlington Central Library
City of Bal Harbour
City of Baltimore

City of Coral Gables Adult

Activities Center City of Hialeah City of Indianapolis

City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of

Economic Opportunity City of Miami Beach

City of Miami Parks and Recreation

Department City of New York

City of South San Francisco-REAL

Program DDS

Department of Rehabilitation Department of Rehabilitation Employment Development

Department (EDD)

Exchange Nellis Air Force Base Federal Aviation Administration

Kane County Judiciary

Marion County Prosecutor's Office Massachusetts Developmental

Disabilities Council MVA- Annapolis

Office of Planning and Research (OPR)

Paramus Borough Hall State's Attorney's Office Truro Recreation Department

MAG Aerospace

Department of Rehabilitation Services

#### **Health Care**

Addgene Advent Health Auberge Autumn Oaks of Corinth Bickford Senior Living Cener Blaire House of Worcester

Cambridge Nursing & Rehab Center

Cape Cod Hospital CB Orthodontics

Cecelia Place Assisted Living

Cleveland Clinic

Coastal Medical Transportation

Services, LLC

Community Regional Medical Center

CVS - FLW Scottsdale

Dr. Patricia L. Carolan, DMD, General

Dentistry

Dream Big Pediatric Therapy

edgeMED Enos Residence

Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital

Falmouth Hospital

Fort Harrison Senior Living

Grandview Alzheimer's Special Care

Center Healthstream Honeybee Health

IU Health Jackson Health System

Kaiser Permanente South Bay

Medical Center

Lake Country Landing - Northshore

Healthcare

Liberty Healthcare Corporation

Lifepoint

Morrison Healthcare

North Mountain Medical and Rehabilitation Center,

NSpire Healthcare

One HomeCare Solutions/Humana

Palm Beach Dermatology PharmaLink

Somerby Takeda Pharmaceuticals

TouchPoint

UC Davis Medical Center

UCLA Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital

Oakland UMass Memorial UNM Hospital Valley Life Verus Healthcare Walgreens

#### Hospitality

Aramark @ Fenway

Block By Block

Block By Block - Rose Kennedy

Greenway Bluewater Linen Century Rio 24

Chatham Bars Inn Compass Group Courtyard by Marriot

Elior North America (Trio Community

Meals)

**Embassy Suites** Flik Hospitality

Harvard Maintenance @ Google

Hilton

Holiday Inn Express Home Instead Hotel Albuquerque Jani King Cleaning

La Quinta

Live Casino Hotel Loews Coral Gables

Marriot MGM

Oakmont of Torrance Restaurant Associates Richland Country Club

Seaport Hotel SeaWorld Somerset Inn SunCommunities

The Gardens of Bellaire

The Lodge

**UCLA Housing & Hospitality** 

Vierra

**Law Firms** 

Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco

Chasen and Boscolo

Elder Law Firm of Kirson & Fuller

Envoy Global

Fried Frank Harris Shriver &

Jacobson

Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman

Holland and Knight Kates & Barlow Latham & Watkins

Manatt. Phelps & Phillips. LLP Pacific Workers' Compensation

Law Center Ravas Law Sevfarth Shaw Shuffield Lowman The Ferraro Law Firm **Manufacturing & Distribution** 

ABF Freight Amazon Baby K'tan BrandsMart USA

Brunswick Land and Sea Dove Equipment

Good 360

Independent Purchasing Cooperative

Lake Country Manufacturing

Northrop Grumman Park Street Companies Premiere Collectibles **Printing Partners** RDS Same Day Delivery

Sakura Finetek USA, Inc.

Telamon - Kem Krest The UPS Store

Tuuci

**Nonprofit & Foundations** 

**Best Buddies** 

Central Park Conservancy Chicago Park District

Community Connections, Inc.

Goodwill

Harbor Regional Center

Infant Welfare Society of Evanston

Baby Toddler Nursery

Los Angeles Habilitation House National Down Syndrome Society

Pride Industries

**QSAC** 

Second Muse

Special Olympics Northern California H-E-B St. John XXIII Catholic Community

Support for Families of Children with

Disabilities

The Mentor Network Westside Regional Center

**YMCA** 

**Real Estate** 

**Capital Properties** 

Network Community Management Starwood Capital Group, L.L.C.

Tavistock

Recreation

Cat Cay Yatch Club Disnevland Resort Marcus Theatre-2521 Mt Pleasant Ice Arena National Aquarium Presidio Golf Course Princeton University Athletics Sloomoo Institute

We Rock the Spectrum-North Miami

Retail

99 Cents Only Store (#266)

AEG/Merchandising- Staples Center

Albertsons Anthropologie Aventura Mall

Barnes & Noble Cool Springs

Bass Pro Shop Bath & Body Works Bath and Body Works

Big Y

BJ's Wholesale Club **Boot Factory Outlet** 

Bristol Farms-Santa Monica

Build A Bear (Store 9)

Burlington

**Burlington Coat Factory** Cost Plus World Market

Costco Crate & Barrel Dick's Sporting Goods

Dillard's Discount Welds Disney Store

Doug Russell Marine El Super

Goodwill Goodwill - Fresno (Blackstone / Sierra)

Goodwill Marietta Goodwill Whitestown

Gucci Home Deport HomeGoods Hot Topic

Hunters Creek- Once Upon a Child

Hv-Vee Jewel Osco Jewel-Osco Jondie

Kessler's Diamonds

Kohls 39 Kohls 483 Kroger

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston Planet Fitness, LB

Lowe's

Lowe's Home Improvement

Lululemon Mack Cycle

Macy's Furniture Gallery

Market 32

Market 32 @ Pullman St.

Market Basket @ Shrewsbury

Marshalls Meijer- Pewaukee

Michaels

Nike

Nordstrom- Espresso Bar

Nouria Energy Office Depot Office Max

Pemberton Farms Marketplace Price Chopper @ Webster

Primark Publix Ralphs Sam's Club Sephora

Shaw's Supermarkets Sierra Trading Post Smart & Final Sprouts T.J. Maxx Target

The Fresh Market - Delrav

Thrift on Blackstone (MCC Thrift Shop) Walt Disney Television

Trader Joe's

Urban Decay (L'Oreal)

Walgreens Walmart Wawa West Marine Whole Foods

**Sports & Entertainment** 

**AMC Theatres** Axe Hockey Group Charlotte FC D.C. United

**Entertainment Industry Foundation** 

Grand Ole Opry Lionsgate MLB

Monumental Sports & Entertainment

Nashville Sounds

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

New York Islanders

NewTV NFL

Prairieville Park Propagate Content

Round1 Bowling and Amusement

Sodexo Live

The Preserve at Eisenhower Golf

Course Topgolf Universal Studios-Orlando

Worcester Railers Worcester Red Sox

**Talent & Staffing** 

Career Group Companies

Job Options Inc. K Force

Kellv

William Morris Endeavor

**Technology & Telecomunications** 

Accenture

Accenture Federal Services

Avid Avnet CIC Boston CIC Cambridge Genentech Google Insight Rapid7 Snap Inc. TCC

Xactly Corporation

**Transportation** 

Briahtline

**DASA Transportation Dulles International Airport** 

Envov Air

Exotic Bus and Limo

FastPark

Fontainebleau Aviation Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Total Transportation Services, Inc.

Tower WAV

U-Haul Moving & Storage

Warehousing & Storage

Amazon

American Lumper Bollore D.S. Hull Company, Inc.

First Class Vending Imperial Freight Brokers Iron Mountain - Cerritos

Leadpoint LaserShip Park West Gallery Sebco Books

Sephora Distribution Center

TDS Logistics LLC Value Store It

Value Store-It Self Storage







# Oregon Year in Review

Everyday, hundreds of individuals with a disability spend hours alone, wishing they had a friend or someone to talk to. Others have friends, but don't have a job or steady income. We are on a mission to change that with Best Buddies Oregon. With a growing community of supporters by our side, we believe we will end the isolation of individuals living with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Our work this past year focused on new local community members and showing them the importance of why what we do, matters. As we reached new heights in Oregon, we also focused on caring for those in our schools and identifying new community partners. Our friendship program operated in 10 schools, including 1 elementary school, 3 middle school, 4 high schools and 2 colleges. Across our leadership development trainings, we were able to empower leaders in the Oregon community and name additional state ambassadors!

We continue to be inspired by our community of passionate supporters, fundraisers, influencers, and partners. In 2023, they grew stronger than ever with one of Oregon's signature event in the Spring, the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. This event brought over 100 people together in the name of inclusion and raised over \$10,000.

In the fall, we hosted Oregon's 3rd annual Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala. With the help of our community sponsors, volunteers and advocates the event raised over \$110,000 raised. With over 270 guests we surpassed out goal.

As we head into 2024, we intend to build on the momentum in the past year and grow our community and continue our efforts to create lasting partners and friendships.





# One-To-One Friendships Key Program Stats OR

Elementary Schools Middle Schools

3 19 3 40 5 50
Chapters Participants Chapters Participants

Colleges Citizens e-Buddies

1 47 20 27
Chapters Participants Participants Participants

# Sarah & Skylar

#### One-To-One Friendships

#### Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR

Sarah's journey with this IDD community began when she was just 13 years old, volunteering at an inclusive camp. It was the first time I really felt I had a gift.

Sarah's buddy Skylar has Phelan McDermid Syndrome, a rare genetic condition.

Together, Sarah and Skylar have shared unforgettable memories like traveling, indoor skydiving, attending school events, and countless car rides.

Skylar and Sarah enjoy listening to music, nature, adventuring around college campus and cities.

Sarah and Skylar are so happy to be apart of Best Buddies, a community that's all about making genuine friendships.

Sarah is Chapter President at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Sarah believes that together we all can make a different in the lives of those with IDD, the impacted population and our communities.

I have learned invaluable lessons in leadership, interdependence and grit through Skylar and am so thankful for our friendships and Best Buddies!" - Sarah





The Communications, Marketing and Strategic Development Department thanks Best Buddies International Headquarters, state offices, and International Programs staff for their collaborative effort in creating this report. Individuals listed below played a major role in its development:

#### **Copy & Editing**

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Rachel Engle, Director, Development & Marketing

#### **Global Statistics**

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Thank you,

Mark Lewis, Senior Vice President, Development, Marketing & Technology



MAKE A FRIEND | DONATE | VOLUNTEER

**BESTBUDDIES.ORG**