BEST BUDDIES ANNUAL REPORT

CHANPIONS

Joshua, Madison and James, Best Buddies Ambassadors and actors from the film "Champions"



CHAMPINS



MISSION PILLARS

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

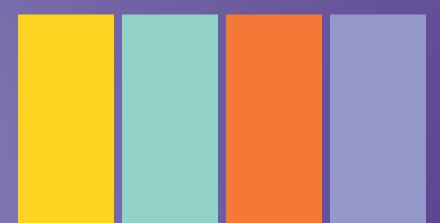


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One-To-One Friendships

Integrated Employment





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.

or Hand of

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.

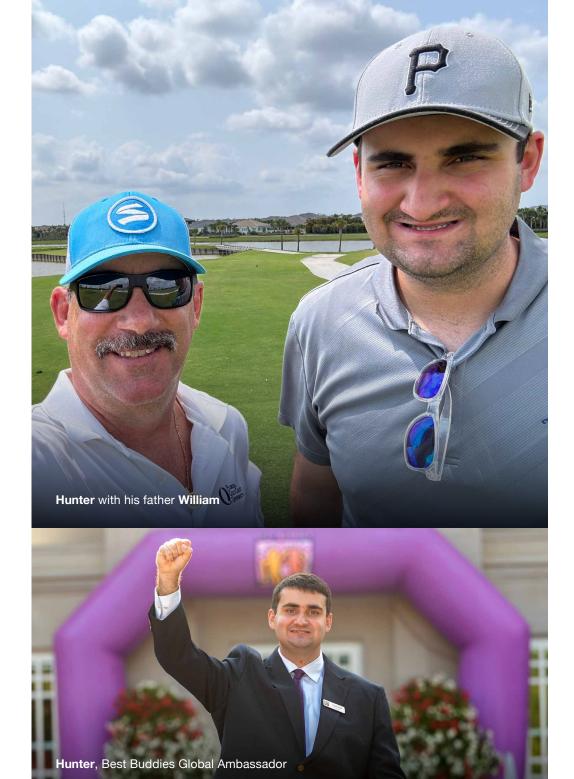
This is just one of the countless ways Best Buddies improves the lives of individuals with IDD while simultaneously improving whole-of-society outcomes. Through the cultivation of meaningful one-on-one friendships, the pursuit of integrated employment, the provision of inclusive living arrangements and 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.



Madison and James, Best Buddies Ambassadors and actors from the film "Champions"



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.

BODYARMOR's interactive pop-up at the 2023 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc event



ARMO

ST BUDDIES

Celebrity Chef and Global Ambassador **Buddy Valastro** with his son **Buddy Valastro**, **Jr**. and fellow Best Buddies Ambassadors **Matthew** and J**oshua** at the 2023 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc event

Point Pleasant

Desmond and Mario, Friendship Program participants, enjoy Jersey Mike's Subs

Milestones

2008

1

666

- In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches BEST**BUDDIES**® 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_® 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_® Jobs, a supported employment program targeting high-paying, corporate jobs for people with IDD.
- In 1995, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES_® High Schools to pair special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- In 1996, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES_® 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**_®, 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.

- 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 BEST**BUDDIES**® Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.
- In 2012, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES_® Promoters, the first Best Buddies program open to elementary schools; the inaugural of the Best Buddies Challenge: Miami takes place and the first Best Buddies Champion of The Year Gala is hosted.
- 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_® 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_® Ventures, with the first launch being BESTBUDDIES_® 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_® Elementary Schools to teach inclusion to a younger age group to create a lasting effect on societal norms for the next generation.

2020 - Current

2019

1

2009

Through Best Buddies I met wonderful people and visited amazing places. I feel that joining Best Buddies helped me find a community where I fee welcomed and secure. In addition, I became more social and willing to be more adventurous." - Cristian

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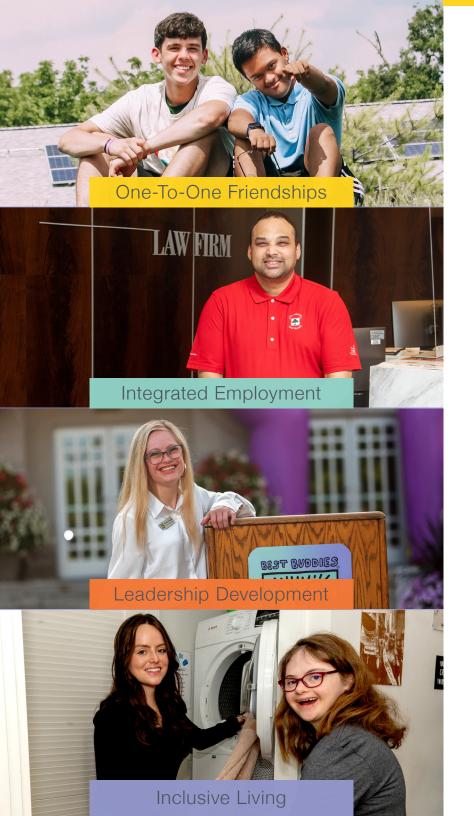
Kristian, Tracy, Melinda, Cristian, Shania and Lisa, Friendship Program participants

choose





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

Priendships 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.

An 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.

A 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.

BEST**BUDDIES** 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.

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.

Katrelle and Katie, Friendship Program buddy pair

One-to-One Friendships

INC

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

Anthony K. Shriver with Jersey Mike's Subs Founder & CEO Peter Cancro and Best Buddies participants

Integrated Employment

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 whitecollar 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.

Klingman & Associates, LLC

An Independent Registered Investment Advisor

Robin, Best Buddies Jobs participant Klingman & Associates, LLC

> 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.

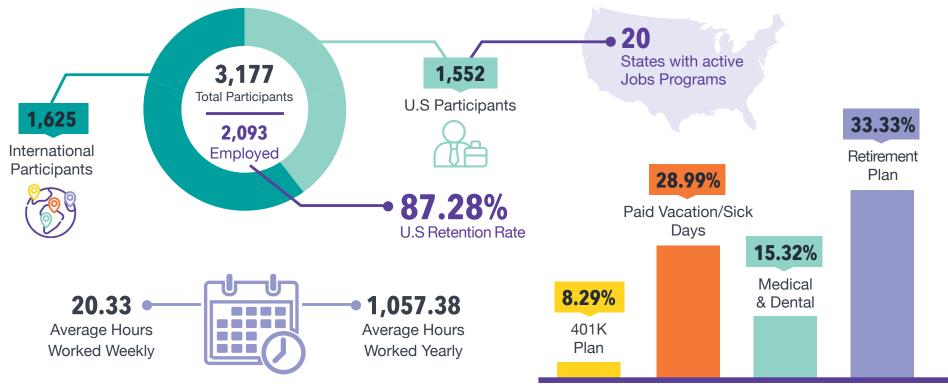
Since securing her job, Robin has been able to experience more of the city and travel, feeling supported by her job and close-knit colleagues at Klingman & Associates, who feel like family to her.

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



Receiving Benefits**

Top 4Jobs Participants Highest Salaries With Benefits

Salary	\$71,780.80	\$71,011.20	\$69,992	\$66,560
Name/ State	Andrew C. Los Angeles, CA	Nicole K. Los Angeles, CA	Nathaniel M. San Francisco, CA	Elaina C. Baltimore, MD
Benefits	Holiday Pay, Medical Care	Vacation Pay, Medical Care, Sick Leave, Sick Pay	Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Dental Care, Vision Care, Sick Pay	Vacation Pay, Retirement Plans

Top 5 Jobs Participants Highest Hourly Rates



Best Buddies Jobs Around The World





* Global jobs stats are calculated based on total jobs participants and U.S. Average hours and wages.

** Represents benefits received by US BB Job participants.

*** All Jobs Program stats are as of 12/31/2023

Elyse, Best Buddies Global Ambassador

Leadership Development

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

BES

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



Inclusive Living

21 BESTBUDDIES.ORG

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. 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 International program participants with Anthony K. Shriver at the 2023 Best Buddies Leadership Conference (BBLC)



Best Buddies Chile

participant at BBLC



Best Buddies Philippines participant at the BBLC



Global Staff Forum



Best Buddies Around The World





5 Continents



Revised 10.04.23

Signature Events

BEST BUDD

BEST BUDDIES

ALLENGE

Challenge

TEAM BUFFALO BUDDIES #/#

Yourself to Change

Anthony K. Shriver with Best Buddies riders Glenn Wright and Carey Daly; Best Buddies Global Ambassadors Christina and James; and Joey Shriver. The purpose of special events is to garner support, funds, and awareness for the Best Buddies mission. There are numerous ways to get involved with Best Buddies events including attending events, volunteering, and pursuing sponsorship opportunities.

Sangons Treas

-Foundation-



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 gournet 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.



Attendees of the 2023 Best Buddies Leadership Conference: Reunited for Inclusion



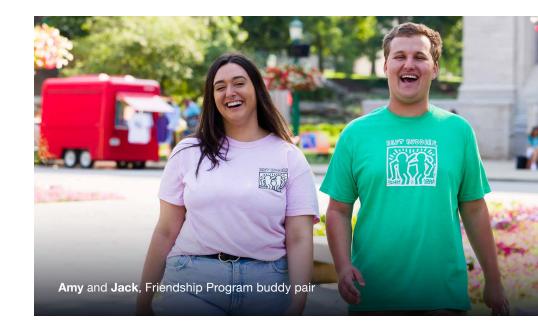


EKS Day

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

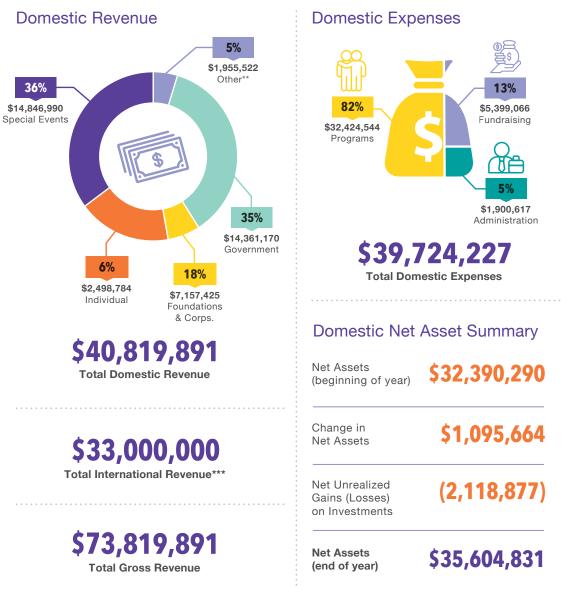
What began as a one-day celebration of the Best Buddies mission evolved into a month-long festivity to reflect on the importance of inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities every March. In 2023, the celebration began with the annual *Spread the Word: Inclusion* 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.



Stephanie, Best Buddies Jobs participant and **Bob Friedman**, partner at Holland & Knight and Best Buddies Board Member

Financials

Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.23)



* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2023 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990

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

*** Gross consolidation of International Licensees that operate as their own NGOs

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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, net		\$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)
	Total Property and Equipment, Net	\$1,192,99 2

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 Buddie	S	(\$37,375)
	Total Other Assets	\$1,269,710

Total Assets \$40,663,748

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	\$2,894,857

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

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

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





Rob Backus, EVP, Operations, East Région, Albertsons Companies and **Scott Powell**, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Wells Fargo & Company, with Best Buddies Ambassadors

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



Olivia Culpo Actress



Mark DeVincentis

Managing Director

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Group LP

Tamsen Fadal TV Anchor, Executive Producer & Author



Joshua Felder Global Ambassador Best Buddies International



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Jamie Hintlian Partner/Principal Ernst & Young



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tz Anthony Kennedy Shriver Founder, Chairman & CEO Best Buddies International



Julie Torres Vice President Human Resources & Operations



Mark J. Wylie Vice President Talent Relations

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Eunice Kennedy Shriver Founder, Special Olympics Int.



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

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\$500.000 and Above Jersey Mike's Subs Safeway Foundation

\$250,000 to \$499,000

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\$50.000 to \$99.999

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Midland National Life Insurance Company MoneyGram Foundation Pantheon Venture PcW US Group LLP Pfizer. Inc PwC US Group LLC PWG Charitable Foundation/Albert & Amelia Scaglione Southern Glazer's Wine And Spirits Charitable Fund Stanford Health Care State Street Corporation, State Street Eastern Bank Global Markets, LLC Sun Communities Operating LP Team Construction, LLC Texas Mutual The Boeing Company The Ferraro Law Firm/Jim Ferraro The Leavitt Corporation UBS Financial Services Inc. **UNUM Group** Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

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\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Colliers International - WA Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Commonwealth Edison Company Continental Casualty Company Corebridge Financial Culinary Institute LeNotre Dade County Federal Credit Union DDA Services, Inc Deloitte Services LP **DHL Supply Chain** Domino's Pizza LLC Evolution Risk Advisors, Inc. Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa Flik Hospitality Florida Department of Education-Division of Vocational Rehab Florida Power & Light Company Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP Frontstream Fryd Robins PB LLC Golden State Warriors Goodman Campbell Brain & Spine Greenberg Traurig Guthrie's Garage, Inc. H.B. Fuller Company Foundation Hand2mind Learning Resources Hanover Reserve LLC Health Care Service Corporation Hilton Hinsdale Junior Womans Club Host Hotels & Resorts, L.P. IMC Financial Markets Institute for Corporate Productivity. Inc. Intel Foundation J.C. Edwards Corporation JM Family Enterprises, Inc. JOH Kids 360 Johnson Bank Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Engineering A Brighter Future Junior League of Indianapolis Kelly Services KFORCE Kramer Casev Enterprises Lawrence A. Moens Associates. Inc. Liberty Bank Foundation Lipscomb University L'Oreal Marriott International, Inc. MCM CPAs & Advisors LLP

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\$250,000 to \$499,000

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\$100,000 to \$249,999

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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Foundation

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GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

\$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 Texas Education Agency U.S. Department of Education

\$250,000 to \$499,000

Alta Vista Regional Center Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services Iowa Department of Education Security Department of Human Services New Mexico Developmental **Disabilities** Council North Carolina Vocational **Rehabilitation Services** San Andreas Regional Center Social Security Administration

\$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 Services 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

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Development

Delaware Legislature Harbor Regional Center Hawaii Office of Community Services Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns Nevada Governor's Council on **Developmental Disabilities** New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation New York Adult Career & Continuing Ed Services, VR Peoria Care and Treatment Board. Illinois Rhode Island Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner San Diego Regional Center State of Kentucky Texas Workforce Commission Utah Department of Human Concerns Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Westside Regional Center

\$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

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\$250,000 and Above Team Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)

\$100,000 to \$249,000 Team Malo 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 BuildersTeam ShulmaTeam Kates & BarlowTeam TavistoTeam Macon Friends for Makin' FriendsTeam TavistoTeam MAGTeam TCNJ!Team Mals PalsTeam The JaTeam New York Life NHTeam THS BTeam ServiceNowTeam WyattTeam Smart & HorfordTeam XcitebiTeam VolvoDADTICIDE

\$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 Meg 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

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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 Aquarium 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 Aquarium The Children's Museum of Indianapolis Tradewinds Studio

Automotive

Advance Auto Advance Auto Parts Evanston Subaru Toyota Land Rover Jaguar 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 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

Coleen Hoose Elementary

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 JLL 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 F.B. Flatts Restaurant El Pinto Restaurant Elior North America Enchanted Island Amusement Park Fancv's Market Fazenda Coffee Roasters Fiii Water Five Guys Flagship at Facebook Friends Marketplace Fruit Center of Milton Fry's Giant Food Gundalow Gourmet Hannaford Harris Teeter Harvest Sensations H-F-B HMS Host Jersey Mikes Jimmv's Famous Seafood Katella Bakerv Keke's Breakfast Cafe Kennv's Westside Pub Keurig Dr. Pepper Kroger Kwik Star Lady Baker Le Petit Gateau Levv 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 & Leftv's Panera Papa Johns Paramount Group PDQ Pick N Save Pieoloav **Pilo's Street Tacos** Pilo's Tequila Garden Pizza Hut **Price Chopper** Provider Contract Food Service Provincetown House of Pizza Rail Trail Flatbread Co. Rallv'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 Citv 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 Attornev'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 Dentistrv 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** Vallev 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 Lodae UCLA Housing & Hospitality Vierra

Law Firms

Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco Chasen and Boscolo Elder Law Firm of Kirson & Fuller Envov 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 Nurserv 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 Disnev 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 Lionsaate 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 Insiaht Rapid7 Snap Inc. тсс 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 Gallerv Sebco Books Sephora Distribution Center TDS Loaistics LLC Value Store It Value Store-It Self Storage



One-To-One Friendships Key Program Stats WA

Elementary Schools Middle Schools			High Schools	
6 18 Chapters Participants	1 Chapters	4 Participants	10 Chapters	160 Participants
Colleges	Citizens	e-Buddies	i	
3 121 Chapters Participants		54 Participants		
43 BESTBUDDIES.ORG/WASHINGTON				

Owen & Hannah One-To-One Friendships

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

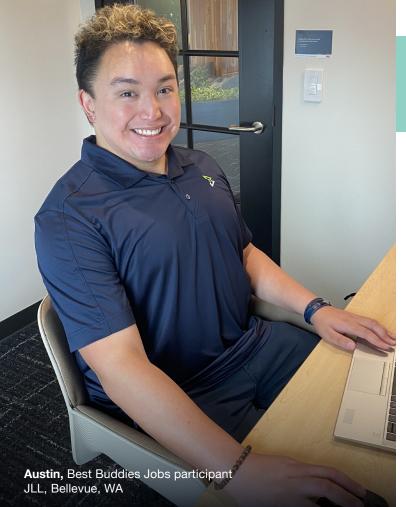
Hannah joined Best Buddies in 2015 and has been involved ever since. She was first introduced to Best Buddies when she started high school in Massachusetts, and her participation in the organization has lasted over 9 years and a move across the country. Hannah's motto is "just be happy and make new friends!"

Since 2021, Hannah has been a part of the University of Washington's Best Buddies chapter and for the past year has been matched with her buddy, Owen. They have instantly become great friends and Owen shared, "What I enjoy most about my friendship with Hannah is that she reminds me just how important it is to try new things! I'm definitely prone to remaining fixated in different areas throughout my life, but Hannah's commitment to trying new things has pushed me to try new things for myself too!"

The same can be said for Hannah. Hannah shared, "Before Best Buddies, I was very shy and it was very hard for me to make new friends." Since getting involved with the mission, Hannah said, "I have met so many new people and I stay in contact with them! My buddy Owen is such a nice guy, he is so kind, and he makes me happy when I see him!"

Their friendship and engagement with Best Buddies has inspired both to keep striving towards a more inclusive future. Owen said, "I've discovered just how passionate I am about furthering Best Buddies' mission to further increase awareness, opportunities, involvements, and friendships for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Best Buddies has taught me that if you want to really change the world, you CAN, and you WILL, change the world!" - **Owen**





Jobs

3 9 Participants Participants Employed

Austin Integrated Employment

JLL, Bellevue, WA

Austin has been a trailblazer for Best Buddies in Washington as a Champion for Inclusion, a member of our Advisory Board, and a State Ambassador, so it was fitting that he was also one of the first participants of the newly launched WA Jobs program.

When Austin began working with the Best Buddies Jobs team, he shared two goals for his future employment. He wanted to find an opportunity where he could develop a career rather than just a job. He also wanted to work in an environment where he could be an advocate for workplace inclusion, helping others with IDD build fulfilling careers.

Austin landed an interview with an amazing employer partner, JLL, and it was apparent from their very first meeting that it would be a great place to work! JLL shares Best Buddies vision of workplace inclusion and they were excited to hire Austin to join their team as a Facilities Coordinator in August of 2023. Austin shared, "I now have a career that I love where I earn a great salary and have the opportunity to be a voice for inclusion in the workplace for future generations."

Austin brings his Aloha spirit to the workplace every day and appreciates having a fulfilling career where he feels valued. It is clear Austin feels both supported and empowered by his team. He said, "I believe we all have the ability to succeed if we support one another and continue to be champions for inclusion."

I now have a career that I love where I earn a great salary and have an opportunity to be a voice for inclusion in the workplace for future generations."
Austin

My dream is to work for the State of California and move out. Having a disability does not stop you from working. Go for your dream. Employers need to hire more people with disabilities and Best Buddies is here to help." - Katina

BEST BUDDIES



TOBIAS CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM

Michael is a great advocate for inclusion and accessibility both in his own life and for others in his community. He has been involved in Best Buddies programs since 2020 and became an ambassador in 2023.

Michael

Leadership Development

Ambassador, Seattle, WA

Michael believes advocacy is how our society will become more accessible and inclusive. Michael shared that "I've had CP for 56 years and have now worked in the disability field for 28 years." With that being said, Michael's relationship with disability is still evolving. Initially Michael said he felt "like my disability got in the way of me," but after joining Best Buddies programs, he said "I realized that I wasn't a burden because of my disability. I see myself differently- it's a strength and not a burden."

Michael has participated in numerous ambassador events this year, from attending the Best Buddies Leadership Conference to speaking at a supported employment conference. He believes, "Being a self-advocate is how things get better." In the future, Michael wants to run his own business and be a consultant.

Michael has already done such great work to engage members in his community, both with and without disabilities, to strive towards a more accessible future. Michael shared that since joining Best Buddies, "It has made me realize that my disability isn't negative or a burden- it is something that can be celebrated."

Leadership Development Key Program Stats WA

Ambassadors	Promoters	
•	6	18
Ambassadors	Chapters	Participants

Michael, Best Buddies Ambassador

Being a self-advocate is how things get better" -Michael

Thank You!

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:

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Thank you,

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