



BESTBUDDIES®
Friendship, Jobs & Leadership Development

2017 EVENTS

Best Buddies Month: March 2017

Worldwide

What started 24 years ago as a one-day event has evolved into a month-long celebration commemorating Best Buddies' mission. **Best Buddies Month, which takes place each year in March, is a time for Best Buddies participants to reflect on the importance of friendship, jobs, and the development of future leaders. More importantly, it is a time to show the world the significance of these essentials in every individual's life. In March 2017, Best Buddies' chapters and individual volunteers will showcase their passion for Best Buddies by participating in community carnivals, regional dances, and school-wide assemblies.**

Spread the Word to End the Word Day: March 1, 2017

Worldwide

A global day of awareness for Best Buddies' and Special Olympics' *Spread the Word to End the Word* campaign, which is designed to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the R-word ("retard(ed)") and encourage people to pledge to stop using it.

Best Buddies Friendship Walk: South Florida: March 11, 2017

Museum Park

Miami, Florida

The Friendship Walk is the latest and greatest life-changing movement created by Best Buddies. Since 2009, more than 55,000 participants have walked in over 26 states and three countries, raising more than \$5 million for Best Buddies. This is where you can make a difference! You can promote community inclusion simply by **participating in this year's Friendship Walk. Walk for inclusion. Walk for friendship, Walk for a better South Florida community!**

Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port: June 2-3, 2017

Boston & Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

The *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, chaired by Tom Brady, is a 100, 50, or 20-mile cycling adventure from Boston to Hyannis Port, with an optional 5K run/ walk chaired by Olympian Carl Lewis. The event kicks-off with the *Tom Brady Football Challenge* and concludes with celebrity tandem races, a celebratory clambake, and a private concert by a special musical guest.

Best Buddies Leadership Conference: July 21-24, 2017

Bloomington, Indiana

This annual *conference* welcomes over 2,300 students and community leaders with and without intellectual and **developmental disabilities from Best Buddies' eight programs, and more than 200 staff professionals from** around the world, to a four-day conference that prepares students to lead successful Best Buddies chapters in the upcoming year.

Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle: September 8-9, 2017

Carmel & San Simeon, California

The *Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle*, is a 100, 62, 30, or 15-mile cycling adventure along the Pacific Coast Highway, from Carmel to the renowned Hearst Castle in San Simeon, with an optional 5K run/walk led by Olympian Carl Lewis. The event includes celebrity tandem races, a festive barbeque, and a private concert at the Hearst Ranch.



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Best Buddies North Carolina Gala: Fall 2017

Charlotte, North Carolina

The Best Buddies North Carolina Gala is the newest Best Buddies event, featuring sumptuous cocktails, a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions. Launched in 2016, the gala was a smashing success and allowed Best Buddies to officially launch programs in North Carolina. The gala, hosted by local Best Buddies supporters, will raise funds to support and promote our programs in the Tar Heel State.

Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Capital Region: October 14, 2017

National Mall, Washington, D.C.

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Capital Region is a powerful social movement that supports inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Open to all ages and athletic abilities, the Capital Region Walk has the energy of a big family gathering. More than 2,000 Best Buddies program participants, with and without disabilities, walk side-by-side to promote friendship and community inclusion.

11th Annual Best Buddies Dallas Gala: November 11, 2017

Dallas, Texas

The *Dallas Gala* is an incredible event, featuring a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and a private concert, with Jan and Jeff Rich serving as honorary chairs to help support Best Buddies endeavors in Texas.

Best Buddies Challenge: Miami: November 17, 2017

Miami, Florida

The Best Buddies Challenge Miami is a world-class cycling event limited to just 50 riders. This 62-mile ride features a Tour de France-style police escorted peloton with road and intersecting closures, support vehicles, and three fully **stocked rest stops**. **Lunch in the Marlins Park owner's suite ends the ride followed by the Miami Gala** that evening.

21st Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala: November 17, 2017

Miami, Florida

The *21st Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala* is a spectacular event supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities around the world. Each year, more than 800 prominent local and international guests attend this elegant event, including notable celebrities, athletic superstars, and incredible performers. Guests will celebrate Best Buddies while enjoying a gourmet dinner, a top-notch auction, and dazzling entertainment.



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Best Buddies Palm Beach Gala: Winter 2017

Palm Beach, Florida

Long-time supporters Michele and Howard Kessler, Mary and Mark Freitas and Best Buddies International Board Member Tommy Quick will co-chair the *Best Buddies Palm Beach Gala*, hosted at an opulent locale. The evening will include cocktails, dinner and an exclusive auction, followed by a live musical performance.

