Best**Buddies**® **Initiatives**

**Best Buddies Month**

During the month of March, Best Buddies participants from around the world are invited to commemorate the Best Buddies vision and mission and to celebrate the friendships, leadership, and jobs they enjoy through our global impact. Best Buddies Month is a valuable time to bring together current members, community partners, families, and future participants to learn more about our mission and engage in inclusive events that promote our goals and impact.

Click here to view the Best Buddies Month Calendar (calendar attached in e-mail)

**Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day**

September 25, 2010 marked the first annual Global Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day, a celebration in memory of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics, long-time support and board member of Best Buddies International, and leading international advocate for the rights of people with IDD.  Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day is celebrated annually around the world in a number of ways, from sporting events to general acts of acceptance and inclusion by making a difference in the life of someone with an IDD.  By committing acts of inclusion, acceptance and unity for and with people with IDD, we will continue to build on Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s legacy.  So mark the calendar and join us in celebrating Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s value and life mission by learning the joy and increased understanding that comes from interacting with people with IDD. Visit [www.eksday.org](http://www.eksday.org/) for more information

**Spread the Word to End the Word**

An ongoing effort by Best Buddies International and Special Olympics, along with our supporters to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word “retard(ed)” and encourage people to pledge to stop using the R-word.  Respectful and inclusive language is essential to the movement for the dignity and humanity of people with IDD.  However, much of society does not recognize the hurtful, dehumanizing, and exclusive effects of the word “retard(ed).” It is time to address the minority slur “retard(ed)” and raise the consciousness of society to its hurtful effects.

The campaign created by youth is intended to engage schools, organizations, and communities to rally and pledge their support at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org/). Most activities are centered annually in March, but people everywhere can help spread the word throughout their communities and schools year-round thru pledge drives, youth rallies, and online activation.  For more informationon how to get a chapter involved please visit [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org/).