

BESTBUDDIES® Programs

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.

Integrated Employment



Secures jobs for people with IDD, allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes, and continuously and independently support themselves.

Leadership Development



Educates and empowers people with and without IDD, to become leaders, public speakers and advocates.

BESTBUDDIES. Middle Schools, High Schools and Colleges

Creates an inclusive school environment for students with IDD during times of social and emotional development.

BESTBUDDIES. Citizens

Helps adults with and without IDD develop meaningful friendships and become more involved in their local communities.

e-BUDDIES.

Offers an e-mail program, in which a participant with IDD communicates online with a friend without IDD.

BESTBUDDIES. 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.

An estimated 85% of adults (18+) with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community. 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.

BESTBUDDIES. Ambassadors

Offers people with 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, workplaces and government.

BESTBUDDIES. Promoters

Empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD and help open new Best Buddies chapters and programs by organizing special events that promote awareness to the disability rights movement.

BESTBUDDIES.ORG