



# OPERATIONS

## OF THE INTERNATIONAL

### YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

2022 Edition



# YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL CONSTITUENTS

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

The Young Leaders Council (YLC) is a diverse group of leaders with all abilities who bridge the gap between the participant's perspective and staff experience for Best Buddies International initiatives. Individuals conceptualize, design, and execute unique initiatives that apply to all aspects of the Best Buddies ecosystem: Friendship, Leadership, Jobs, and Inclusive Living. The YLC is dedicated to leaders' education, engagement, and empowerment in Best Buddies through peer-to-peer support and innovation.

## EXPECTATIONS:

- Annual In-person meeting at Leadership Conference
- Responsible for the goals and responsibilities set forth by the council
- Active participation with council hosted events
- Members serve a 2-year term

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- A leader in Best Buddies: High School, College Chapter, a State/National/Global Ambassador, SAB member, etc.
- Strong commitment to the Best Buddies mission
- Proven leadership, strong communication, and organizational skills
- Self-motivated leaders
- Ability to attend Leadership Conference

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS:

- Held a leadership in Best Buddies
- Able to speak and write in English
- \*General availability between 12:00 am UTC - 3:30 am UTC

\*For inquiries pertaining to availability, please email the YLC

# CONNECT WITH THE COUNCIL

## COMMUNICATION:

- Email: [ylc@bestbuddies.org](mailto:ylc@bestbuddies.org)
- **LINKTREE:** [HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/BESTBUDDIESYLC](https://linktr.ee/bestbuddiesylc)
- Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn & YouTube
- Subscribe to our monthly Newsletter, for resource updates, leader highlights and to stay connected with the council!

## YLC RESOURCE ACCESS:

Program Library: Under the YLC section you can find workshop recordings, accessibility, mental health/suicide prevention, student advisory board (SAB), employment and many more resources for both participants and program managers to support in furthering the mission of Best Buddies.

Links to access the YLC section within the Program Library and all essential links pertaining to the YLC can be found on our Linktree.

Chapter Leadership resources can be found on Best Buddies University, or [HERE](#)

## FREQUENTLY USED LINKS:



YouTube



Newsletter



Blogs



Linktree

CLICK ON THE ICONS



# YLC EXECUTIVES

2022 - 2024



## GARETT TOMASEK | CHAIR

*Accomplishments:* Established 9 Texas Chapters, 2018 Pacesetter, 2019 Chapter President of the Year (Texas), 2019 Most Outstanding Chapter of the Year (Texas Nominee)



## MADDIE QUIGLEY | CO-CHAIR

*Accomplishments:* Cybersecurity Analyst, EWG High School Chapter Co-Founder and 2019 Champion of the Year Candidate



## MARGO MELEY | CO-CHAIR

*Accomplishments:* Best Buddies Connecticut State Ambassador, BBLC 2018 closing ceremony speaker, Champion of the Year candidate, Spirit of Courage award



## SOFIE DALTON | CO-CHAIR

*Accomplishments:* Co-president of Yorktown High School, Co-president of James Madison University, Co-Chair 2021 Virginia/D.C. Friendship walk



# APPLICATION PROCESS:

The YLC reviews applications once per year. Applications open annually in July, the week of Leadership Conference.

1

## PAPER APPLICATION:

All applicants applying for the YLC will need to fill out a paper application, that will have a wide-ranging of questions allowing the council to assess the leadership skills and the type of advocate each applicant is. Once the application window closes (**July - August**), the YLC members will score the applications. At this point, applicants will be notified if they will advance to the next round.

2

## PHONE INTERVIEW:

YLC members will coordinate with applicants to schedule a phone interview. These interviews serve as a way for the YLC to better understand an applicant's goals, background, and overall fit for the council. The interviews will be two on one (two YLC members and one applicant).

Following the final round of the application, members of the YLC will aggregate the scores from each round and will notify applicants of their acceptance status. Once new members have been selected, their term will officially begin at the first training, Council Camp.



# COUNCIL GEOGRAPHY

2022-2023

2

1

1

4

1

5

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

- Amy Gibson (Texas, USA)
- Benjamin Haworth (California, USA)
- Danielle Tran (California, USA)
- Eleanor Hawkins (D.C., USA)
-  Garrett Tomasek (Texas, USA)
- Grace Elmore (New York, USA)
- Isabelle Hughes (Texas, USA)
- Jada Thompson (Illinois, USA)
- Jamie Galvin (Tennessee, USA)
- Kendall Liesching (Rhode Island, USA)
-  Maddie Quigley (Missouri, USA)



Margo Meley (Connecticut, USA)

Marina Rouse (Massachusetts, USA)

Matias Gonzalez (Arizona, USA)

Maya Ali (Texas, USA)

Michelle Raitman (Ontario, Canada)

Nathan Moldavsky (Wisconsin, USA)

Paul Brooks Jr. (Nevada, USA)



Sofie Dalton (Virginia, USA)

Stephanie Smith (Ontario, Canada)

Vanessa Ocana (California, USA)

William McLennan (Virginia, USA)

Zach Siegel (Texas, USA)

Zane Landin (California, USA)



Chair



Co-Chair



# COUNCIL STRUCTURE

**Chair**  
Garett Tomasek

**Staff Liaison**  
Holly Goshin

**LEADERSHIP**  
Co-Chair  
Maddie Quigley

**RESOURCE**  
Co-Chair  
Margo Meley

**OUTREACH**  
Co-Chair  
Sofie Dalton

Initiative  
LEAD

Initiative  
LEAD

Initiative  
LEAD

General Members



# COUNCIL STRUCTURE

## DESCRIPTIONS

The staff liaison serves as the bridge between the Young Leaders Council (YLC) and Best Buddies International (BBI) Headquarters to work collaboratively on BBI-related interests.

As the participant representative on Best Buddies International Boards of Directors, the chair of the council is responsible for providing support to co-chairs and members by strategically deploying YLC-originated ideas and resources to local, state, national, and international staff.

Each co-chair leads a unique cohort: cohorts include leadership, resources, and outreach. Each cohort has a set of initiatives that are designed to further develop Best Buddies International programs.

Initiative LEADs are tasked with keeping the initiative on track during meetings and advocating to chairs for any support the initiative needs throughout the term. This leadership role provides members the opportunity to lead groups between 4-6 individuals.

Each member will work on an initiative(s) based on their personal strengths and passions. The placement of member assignments will be determined by the YLC Chair, Co-Chair, and the staff liaison. The initiatives and their respective purposes are to be determined and defined by the members of the YLC.



# WHAT IS AN INITIATIVE?

A project YLC members work collectively on to conceptualize, design, and execute ideas that further develop the mission of Best Buddies International. Through targeted outreach, material development, and collaboration, members combine feedback to make these developed ideas a reality.

## INITIATIVE COHORTS

### LEADERSHIP

Initiatives:

- Student Advisory Boards (SAB)
- Fundraising

### RESOURCES

Initiatives:

- Mental Health & Wellness
- Employment
- Accessibility

### OUTREACH

Initiatives:

- Social Media
- YouTube
- YLC Blogs





# TERM TIMELINE

**Members are expected to serve their full term of 2 years. All members have the opportunity to run for council leadership (Chair or Co-Chair) for a max of 2 years and 1 year of transition. The max an individual can serve on the YLC is 5 years.**



Members officially start their term in September during Council Camp (Training)

Members join their initiative for the year (October)

Members attend their local/state Gala (October/November)

Work collaboratively with members on the initiative to achieve their long-term goals. (October - February )

Members support state staff with Back 2 Best Buddies (January)

Members present their initiative report to their State Directors and BBI staff (January/February)

Members attend their local Friendship Walk (Spring)

Members attend and assist staff with Best Buddies International: Leadership Conference (July)

YLC begins annual applications. Members gain experience scoring applications and conducting interviews (February - March)

Members assist in leading their local/state Leadership Conference (August/September)



A day in the life...

# LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Members attend the annual Leadership Conference at Indiana University. In years past, the YLC has held many prominent roles, such as speaking on the main stage, leading breakout sessions, assisting Best Buddies staff in organizing the four-day weekend, and many more opportunities.



MEMBERS  
SERVE  
TWO YEARS

## INITIATIVES

Throughout a member's term of two years, they work collaboratively on a variety of different initiatives. These projects can range from the 'Council Breakdown' show to the Mental Health initiative producing suicide awareness resources and our employment initiative strapping participants with information on how to navigate their local public transportation system.

Members work from September to February on their initiatives to achieve the long-term goals that were created at the beginning of the term. They will then present their findings or resources to their state directors and any Best Buddies HQ staff who have an affiliation to the resource being produced!

JOIN  
INITIATIVE

WORK ON  
INITIATIVE

PRESENT  
TO STAFF

ATTEND  
LC



# A day in the life...

The YLC provides the opportunity to network with leaders, participants, and staff across the international Best Buddies community. To learn the essentials of professional etiquette and decorum as members demonstrate themselves as both leaders and individuals with inspirational character at Best Buddies International.

## TASKS:

MEMBERS TASKS INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO; NOR DO ALL MEMBERS WORK ON THE FOLLOWING TASKS

- ☁ Writing professional emails to Best Buddies staff and fellow YLC colleagues
- ☁ Attending video calls with Best Buddies staff and YLC members
  - Researching information needed for resources
  - Collection and analysis of data needed for resource creation
  - Developing and generating resources
  - Graphic design/video editing
- ☁ Attending "Council Hangouts"
- ☁ Attendance at yearly training calls, "Council Camp"
  - Attendance at Leadership Development council calls
    - Members provide initiative progress with an open floor on idea suggestion
    - A presentation/speaker for leadership development skills (Ex: Teamwork/ Self-care /Time management/ mental health)
    - And/or small group discussions on relevant topics
  - Time commitment:
    - Can vary throughout a member's term
    - Factors that can increase an individual's time commitment:
      - The number of initiatives one signs up for (average is 2-3)
      - The length of time to produce their product (i.e, resources/videos/posts)
      - How often a product is needed to be made.

COUNCIL-WIDE PARTICIPATION. ALL YLC MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THESE TASKS

# LEADERSHIP



## STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)

Best Buddies Student Advisory Board (SAB) bridges the gap between the staff perspective and participant experience for local/state Best Buddies initiatives. Members of the SAB will work together to conceptualize unique initiatives dedicated to the education and empowerment of Best Buddies. The role of the YLC is to support established boards, provide resource generation for the board members, and encourage states to adopt a SAB program.



**BEST BUDDIES**  
STUDENT ADVISORY BOARDS  
YLC INITIATIVE

## FUNDRAISING

This initiative works to strategically raise funding for the council for growth, invest in innovative opportunities to generate resources, and support local chapters in their influence of spreading the mission of inclusion.



# RESOURCES



## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

This year, the Mental Health & Wellness initiative aims to collaborate with the Blogs/YouTube initiatives to create posts/videos about self-care, or the Jobs initiative to teach employees to advocate for their own mental health. Last year, the Mental Health & Wellness initiative focused on raising awareness for mental health. This year, we hope to expand beyond awareness and educate on consistently caring for your mental health, so we can minimize the number of individuals reaching the crisis stage.

## EMPLOYMENT

The purpose of the employment initiative is to improve workforce accessibility for individuals with disabilities and assist with job retention. We seek to motivate employers to be more understanding of the various unique needs people with disabilities have and transition their hiring process to be more accommodating.



## ACCESSIBILITY

The purpose of the initiative is to educate the Best Buddies community on the importance of accessibility and to improve and develop resources that foster more accessibility within Best Buddies. Our long-term goal is to create a toolkit for making Best Buddies events and websites more accessible.



# OUTREACH



## YLC BLOGS

The YLC blogs utilize the members writing creativity to further spread the mission of Best Buddies. The initiative is striving to increase viewership and coordinate more posts on Best Buddies University.

## YOUTUBE

The YLC YouTube channel is home to a variety of short and long films highlighting leaders in the organization, the impact chapters are having on the mission, and of course, our outstanding YLC members presenting a diverse set of topics.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media platforms consist of Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and updating our linktree. Social media is how we stay connected with participants across the Best Buddies world to inform you about the wonderful advocacy, the council is doing on your behalf.





# WHERE THE MONEY GOES



100%

TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE YLC

In 2022, the YLC was able to purchase polos for council members to wear at the annual Leadership Conference. For future donations, we are hoping to provide scholarships to chapters, scholarships to participants for higher education, and purchase supplies to further equip the members of the council.



# HISTORY

FOUNDED IN 2012

2019

FIRST TIME A YLC CHAIR SPEAKS AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL EXPANDS TO 23



THE YLC LEADS BREAKOUT SESSIONS AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



2020

THE YLC LEAD & HELP ORGANIZE SESSIONS AT THE FIRST VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



2021

THE YLC EXPANDS INTERNATIONALLY, ADDING TWO CANADIAN MEMBERS



MODEL UN IMPACT AND BEST BUDDIES OFFICIALLY FORM A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP, FACILITATED BY THE YLC



2022

THE YLC EXPANDS FULLY INTERNATIONALLY  
YLC BEGINS ACCEPTING DONATIONS



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Nathan Moldavsky

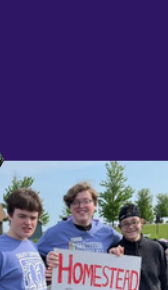


Through the YLC, I have not only gained an invaluable network of new friends, but **I have been able to enact tangible change** for the Best Buddies participant experience. I have **gained a new outlook on effective advocacy and collaboration**, which has significantly helped me with both improving my local Best Buddies chapter and solving problems in the professional setting.

I joined Best Buddies my freshman year of high school, and since then, I have made my way up to becoming the co-president of the Homestead High School Best Buddies chapter. Additionally, I am one of the co-chairs of the Best Buddies Wisconsin Student Advisory Board (SAB). Outside of Best Buddies, I am also the **founder of the non-profit organization Piano for Change**, which supports individuals with IDD through piano concerts and other musical events.



**Involvement/Accomplishments:** Co-President at Homestead High School, Co-Chair of Wisconsin Student Advisory Board. Led sessions at Wisconsin 2022 Leadership Conference, and produces/edits YLC blogs posted on Best Buddies University.

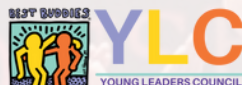






## Michelle Raitman

Toronto, Canada | 2nd Year



"The YLC has been nothing short of a fantastic experience. From collaborating with like-minded individuals as passionate about Best Buddies as I am, to being provided with professional opportunities I never thought I would experience. Prior to the council, I had not seen such a strong youth-led group, where ALL opinions are valued and support is always available. Because of the YLC, I have grown more confident and certain about my leadership abilities. I will forever be grateful I took a chance and applied."



## Matias Gonzalez

Arizona, USA | 1st Year



"The YLC has had a tremendous impact on me, from making new connections internationally to having an impact in my local community and bringing new ideas to my school's chapter which I am president of. The YLC has shown me the vast number of perspectives that we all have and bring to the table. When we work together with a common goal, no barriers are strong enough to stop us. I would highly encourage anyone who is passionate about their ideas in Best Buddies to apply to the YLC, it is truly a transformative experience which has taught me skills that I will take beyond my time on the council."





## Julia Mulof

Virginia, USA | YLC Alumni  
*Deputy Director, Best Buddies Living*



"One of my most transformational times as a student leader with Best Buddies was my time on the Young Leaders Council. The YLC surrounded me with other young leaders who saw no project as too big, daunting or challenging. My time on the council empowered me to be a better leader, advocate and person. Now, as a full time staff member for Best Buddies, I am continuously reassured that the future of this organization is in good hands as the YLC continues to shape our future generation of leaders."



## Ryan Hoffman

Ohio, USA | YLC Alumni



"I served on Best Buddies International YLC between 2019-2021. Best Buddies YLC helped me gain more experience through leadership by working as a team with other members. Before I joined, I wasn't skilled at working on a team since I didn't feel comfortable working between networks but preferred working by myself since this was familiar to me. I knew if I wanted to accomplish any goals in any career it would require me to be a team leader. If it wasn't for me joining YLC? I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you YLC for making me better who I am today."



## **Garrett Tomasek**

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### **Chair | Board of Directors Member**

"The YLC is a unique opportunity that I encourage all to apply to! You are constantly improving your networking, problem-solving and innovative skill-sets. It's an experience like no other, all while further improving the programs of Best Buddies."



## **Holly Goshin**

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### **Staff Liaison**

"Without question, one of the most fulfilling and validating parts of my role at BBI is having the opportunity to serve as a guide, support, and liaison for the YLC. This truly outstanding group of young leaders inspires me every single day."



## **Anthony Kennedy Shriver**

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### **Founder, & Chairman**

"The YLC was created to showcase the incredible diverse young leaders that volunteer their time and talent to help make the Best Buddies mission come to life. We are truly fortunate to have them."



## **David Quilleon**

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### **Senior Vice President, Global Mission, State Development and Operations**

"I am always incredibly impressed by the Young Leaders Council and their leadership to advance the mission of Best Buddies. The contributions and impact of their work can be seen throughout the organization, and I am thrilled to have them at the forefront of our programs setting the example for a world of inclusion."

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO BEST BUDDIES LEADERSHIP



**YouTube**



**Newsletter**



**Blogs**



**Linktree**

