

2024

BESTBUDDIES® ANNUAL REPORT

Gisselle, Lily and Caroline, Eunie's Buddies

BEST BUDDIES®



BEST BUDDIES®



MISSION PILLARS

One-To-One
Friendships

Integrated
Employment

Leadership
Development

Inclusive
Living

Family
Support



Table of Contents

04

Message From
Our Chairman

05

Why We
Matter

06

A Parent's
Perspective

07

2024
Highlights

08

Milestones

10

Our
Impact

11

Mission, Vision,
Who We Serve

12

Programs

13

One-To-One
Friendships

15

Integrated
Employment

19

Leadership
Development

21

Inclusive
Living

23

Eunie's
Buddies

25

International
Programs

27

Signature
Events

37

Financials

39

Board of
Directors

40

Executive
Team

42

Our
Supporters

48

Participating
Employers

51

State Year
In Review



Message From Our Chairman

Dear Best Buddies Family,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible progress we've made together in building a more inclusive world for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This year marked a major turning point for our organization, as we deepened our impact, expanded our reach, and launched powerful new initiatives that will transform the lives of countless individuals and families for years to come.

One of the most significant and impactful initiatives of 2024 was the introduction of Best Buddies Family Support, our fifth mission pillar. This program is designed to provide families raising children with IDD access to mentors and meaningful connections, critical resources, and a strong community of support. To officially announce this launch, I had the honor of joining Best Buddies Global Ambassador and Today Show host Savannah Guthrie for a live interview on NBC in May. Together, we introduced the world to Eunie's Buddies, our new initiative supporting families and caregivers and I could not be prouder of what this represents for the future of inclusion.

This year also brought extraordinary momentum from our corporate partners, whose generosity and commitment to our mission elevated our work on every level. Best Buddies and the global iconic brand The Coca-Cola Company entered a five-year partnership, with the company becoming the "Official Beverage Partner" of Best Buddies through its BODYARMOR and Coca-Cola brands. Their \$1 million grant will allow us to grow our supported employment program and place participants with IDD in meaningful jobs.

Our partnership with Jersey Mike's Subs also reached new heights. In just two days, their nationwide campaign raised \$5.3 million to benefit Best Buddies! Their continued investment in inclusive hiring supports our work toward an ambitious goal: 3,000 job placements for individuals with IDD over the next 5 to 7 years.

Thanks to your support, 2024 has proven what is possible when community, commitment, and compassion come together. We are not only changing lives, we are building a sustainable movement of inclusion that empowers people with IDD to thrive.

To our participants, families, staff, donors, and volunteers: thank you for your belief in this mission and for walking alongside us. We know there is still more work to do but with your continued support, we are rising to meet the moment.

Together, we are shaping a world where everyone is seen, valued, and included.

In Friendship,



Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International



Anthony K. Shriver, and Best Buddies participant Matt Davies at the 2024 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc.

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.

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.



Livi and William, winners of the 2024 Best Buddies Champion of The Year Gala: Central Texas



From left: Brent, Kai, Garrett, and Mitch

A Parent's Perspective

Mitch Holeve is a mentor in our new Eunie's Buddies program which offers families the support and resources needed to navigate the journey of raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Recently, Mitch was paired with Brent, a new dad just starting out on this journey. The two fathers and their sons, Garrett and Kai, had the chance to meet in person at MOD Pizza, where Garrett works in a job he proudly secured through the Best Buddies Jobs program.

"Supporting new fathers has been one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences I've had. I know from experience that the early days can be overwhelming and filled with uncertainty, questions, and emotions that you really did not expect. I also know that no dad should have to go through that journey alone, like I did 35 years ago with my son Garrett. Supporting new dads is not about me having the right answers; it's about offering empathy, encouragement, and connection during a time that can be a bit tough, and they may feel alone.

Every father deserves to feel supported, and every child deserves to have a father who feels supported—so that dad can do a great job.

As a father, having three grown sons has brought me the most joy. It is wonderful to see each one become his own man and contribute to society in a meaningful way. Watching them grow and enjoy their lives has been incredibly fulfilling.

In my view, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities bring their unique abilities and personalities to the world, each in their own way.

Becoming a mentor in the Eunie's Buddies program brings immense joy by allowing me to support another parent. I hope to share our family's unique and everyday experiences of raising Garrett. By sharing these experiences, we hope others will gain a little knowledge and a lot of optimism for their child's future. We also want them to know that their path, compared to ours, offers plenty of support and opportunities for their child to learn and grow."

– Mitch Holeve, Eunie's Buddies Mentor

2024 Highlights

Launches

- In 2024, Best Buddies launches its fifth mission pillar BESTBUDDIES® Family Support, to offer families access to individual connections and community resources that assist them on their journey of raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- On May 21, Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Best Buddies International, appeared on NBC's Today Show in New York City for an exclusive interview with Best Buddies Global Ambassador and Today Show host Savannah Guthrie. They discussed the impact of Best Buddies' mission to foster inclusion for the IDD community and officially announced the launch of Eunie's Buddies, the organization's new initiative supporting families raising children with intellectual and developmental disabilities

New Partnerships

- **The Coca-Cola Company** amplified their BODYARMOR hydration sponsorship with a more comprehensive 5-year partnership that encompassed soft drinks and made them the "Official Beverage Partner" of Best Buddies. Coca-Cola soft drink products and branding were featured across Best Buddies Challenges, Breakaway Camps, and the Miami Gala. Additionally, they announced a \$1MM grant to expand Best Buddies' supported employment program, providing job opportunities for participants with IDD during FIFA World Cup activations.
- **Jersey Mike's Subs** launched a 2-day campaign donating 20% of nationwide sales to Best Buddies, raising \$5.3MM overall. In its second year of partnership, the brand continued to advance inclusive hiring initiatives through the Best Buddies Jobs program, aiming for 3,000 placements in 5-7 years.
- **Miracle Recreation** committed to developing Best Buddies commercial playgrounds and Buddy Benches, designed to provide a new standard of best-in-class inclusive and accessible playground equipment for all ages and abilities.
- **Shutterfly** partnered with Best Buddies to highlight the magic of the Friendship Walk through a national photo scavenger hunt, encouraging participants to capture authentic moments of connection. Winning photos and Leadership Conference videos were shared on social media on July 30 to celebrate International Friendship Day
- **Sky Zone** welcomed Best Buddies as a national "Do-Good Partner", committing to host a series of private "Friendship Tuesday" events exclusively for program participants at 6 trampoline park locations annually. BOGO coupons were also furnished for national Best Buddies distribution, so that program participants across the country could enjoy their local park with peers at their convenience.



Jonathan and Veronica with son **Benjamin**, Eunie's Buddies program participants



Kiontis Gallion, Best Buddies Global Ambassador

Desmond and Mario, Friendship Program buddy pair, enjoying Jersey Mike's Subs



Best Buddies participants **Lena, Charlie, Isla and Mia**

Milestones

1987 - 1996

- In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches **BESTBUDDIES®** 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.

1999 - 2011

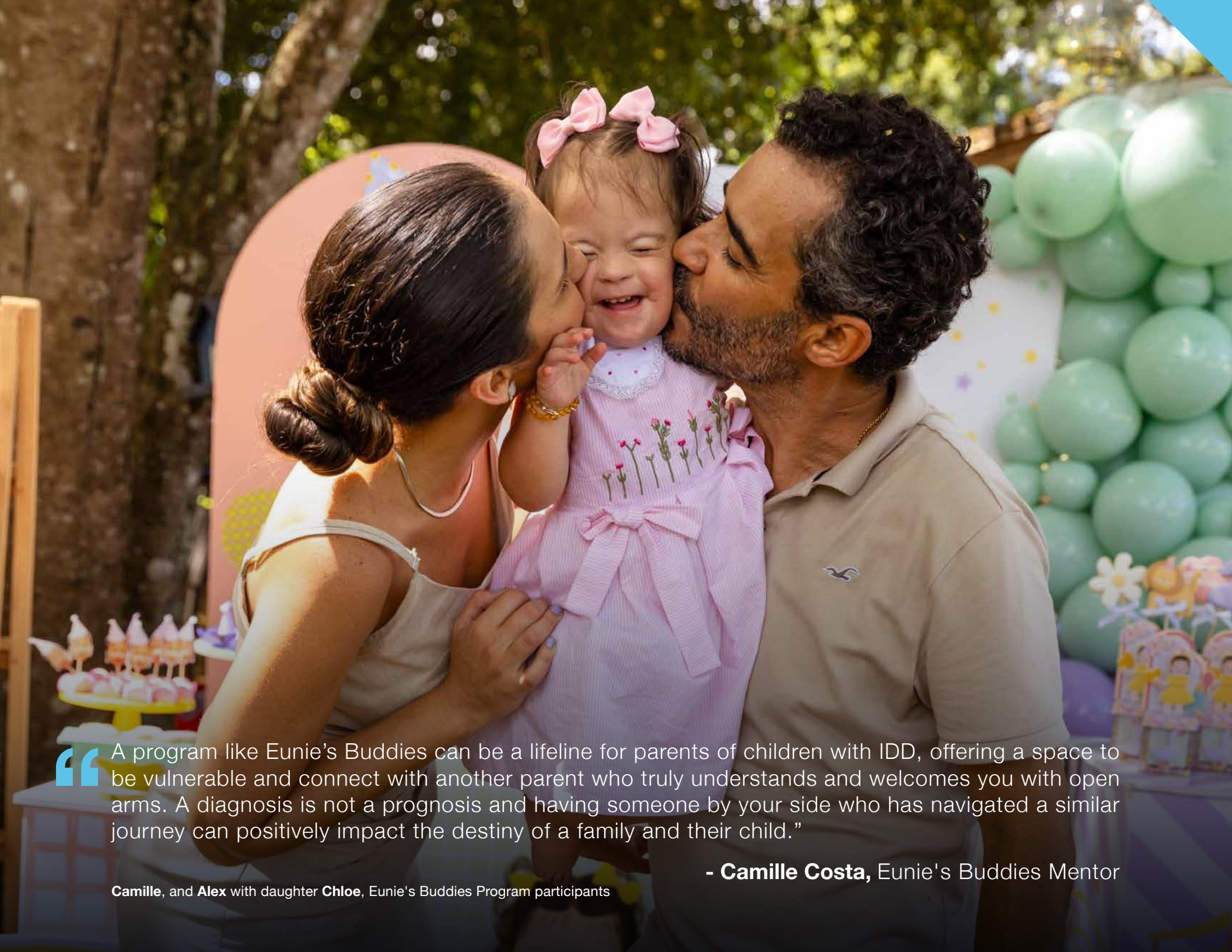
- In 1998, Best Buddies hosts the first *Best Buddies Miami Gala*.
- In 1999, Best Buddies launches **e-BUDDIES®**, a cutting-edge online friendship program.
- In 2000, Best Buddies holds the inaugural *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, a 100-mile bike ride from Boston to Hyannis Port.
- In 2003, 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 **BESTBUDDIES®** Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.

2012 - 2019

- 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.

2020 - Current

- 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. In 2023, as part of the organization's 2030 Initiative to impact 4 million people globally, Best Buddies continues to partner with Global Ambassadors such as Tom Brady and Cindy Crawford to further expand its mission of inclusion and the 5-star **BESTBUDDIES®** X Rosetta Bakery.
- In 2024, Best Buddies launches its fifth mission pillar **BESTBUDDIES®** Family Support, to offer families access to individual connections and community resources that assist them on their journey of raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



“A program like Eunie’s Buddies can be a lifeline for parents of children with IDD, offering a space to be vulnerable and connect with another parent who truly understands and welcomes you with open arms. A diagnosis is not a prognosis and having someone by your side who has navigated a similar journey can positively impact the destiny of a family and their child.”

- **Camille Costa**, Eunie's Buddies Mentor

Camille, and Alex with daughter Chloe, Eunie's Buddies Program participants

Our Impact

3,738

Chapters

147,663*

Participants

1,476,630

Impacted

50

States

43

Countries



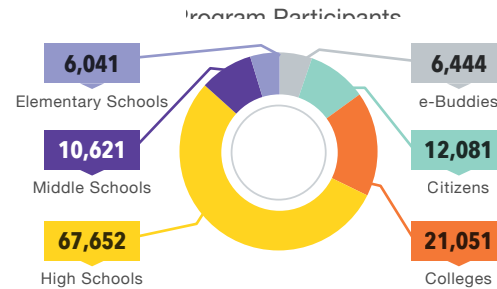
One-To-One Friendship

130 Elementary School Chapters

1,675 High School Chapters

513 Middle School Chapters

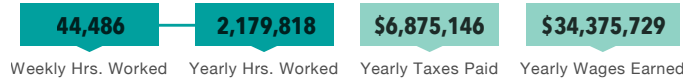
483 College Chapters



Integrated Employment

2,279 Participants Employed

Average Total Participant Stats



Avg. hrs worked per week 19.52, Avg. hrly wage \$15.77 (in the U.S.).



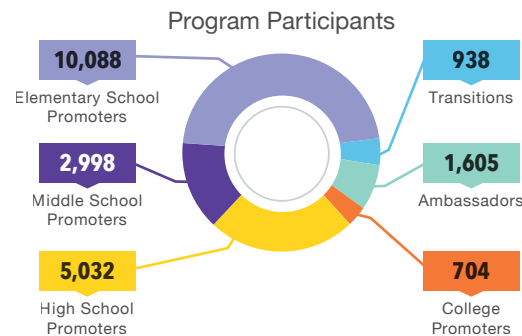
Leadership Development

455 Elementary Schools Promoters Chapters

172 Middle School Promoters Chapters

271 High School Promoters Chapters

39 College Promoters Chapters



Inclusive Living

10 Living Residences

71 Living Participants



Family Support

58 Eunie's Buddies Participants



Matilde and Antonio, Friendship program participants
Best Buddies Portugal

*All program stats are as of 12/31/2024, and reflect the most recent Best Buddies program year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).



One-To-One Friendships



Integrated Employment



Leadership Development



Inclusive Living



Family Support

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, while also offering support for their families.

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, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (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 five key mission pillars below:

- One-to-One Friendships
- Integrated Employment
- Leadership Development
- Inclusive Living
- Family Support

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, & 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.

Integrated Employment

Secures jobs for people with IDD, empowering them to earn an income, pay taxes, and independently support themselves through their professional accomplishments.

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.

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.

BESTBUDDIES® 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.

BESTBUDDIES® 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

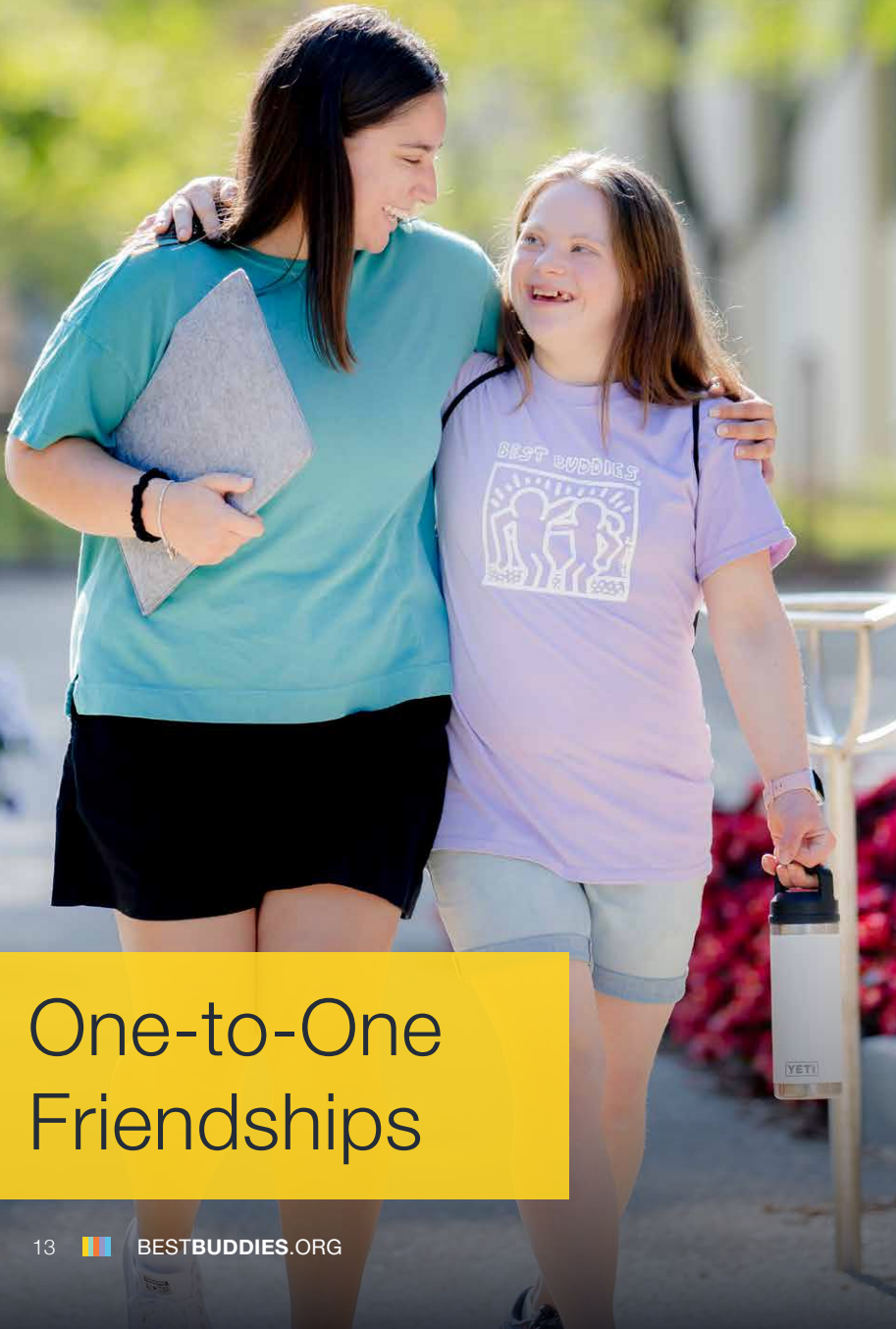
Offers individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live together in a vibrant, educational community that supports all residents in advancing their employment, financial literacy, continued education, and life skills as they work to achieve their personal goals.

Family Support

Provides families access to individual connections and community resources that assist them on their journey of supporting a family member with IDD.

Eunie's **BUDDIES**®

Connects families who are expecting or have a young child with IDD to experienced parents of a child with IDD, encouraging a genuine relationship rooted in mentorship, resource-sharing, and guidance.



One-to-One Friendships

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.



Emma and Harrell, Friendship Program buddy pair

Emma & Harrell

One-To-One Friendships

Souhegan High School,
Amherst, NH

For the past three years, the halls of Souhegan High School have been brightened by the presence of one extraordinary friendship. Emma and Harrell, now seniors, met when they were first-year Sabres at the school in Amherst and were matched in the Best Buddies program. Being matched in a one-to-one friendship has enhanced the high school experience for both Emma and Harrell. Emma explains that while many high schoolers worry about the opinions of their peers and whether they are “popular,” she feels that the bond she has with Harrell is more than enough to make her feel like she belongs.

Harrell lists off some fun things he and Emma have done together, including foosball, Candyland, popcorn with movies, petting horses, and bracelet making. His learning specialist, Katie, describes that Harrell’s communication skills and confidence have both blossomed as a result of being part of Best Buddies and having a friend like Emma to bond with. He is more apt to seek out close friendships now that he has experienced such a meaningful one with Emma for the past three years.

Emma and Harrell have had a lasting impact on their school’s chapter, constantly bringing their energy and positivity to meetings, from dance parties to unified basketball games. Emma tells Harrell, “You’re the reason I’m sad to leave high school!” Harrell reinforces those feelings calling Emma his best friend and encouraging individuals in New Hampshire and beyond to “join Best Buddies!”

“I love our friendship because I know Harrell will always be there.” - Emma

“ I love our friendship because I know Harrell will always be there.” - **Emma**



Yuhan, Best Buddies Jobs participant
Department of Rehabilitation in San Diego, CA

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 white-collar 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.



Jeet, Best Buddies Jobs participant
Ally Financial

Jeet

Integrated Employment

Ally Financial

Chicago, IL

Jeet Dave was diagnosed with Autism during his school years and was placed under a partial IEP program. Before becoming involved with Best Buddies, he began pursuing an associate degree in Accounting at Oakton Community College with support from the IEP program. During this time, he experienced feelings of insecurity and concern about securing a job in accounting. It was around this period that he was introduced to Best Buddies through Ms. Eileen Morrison.

In his final year of college, Jeet started working with Best Buddies to find a job in accounting. Initially, Best Buddies connected him with a position as a merchandise associate at a large retailer. He continued working with the organization to achieve his long-term goal of securing an accounting role. Simultaneously, he found an office assistant job at the office of a family friend. Recognizing the importance of stability, he decided to pursue a full-time office position that could support his disabilities and offer future career growth.

“Best Buddies worked hard to find me a job and provided accommodations throughout the hiring process in support of my disabilities,” said Jeet. “My life improved, not only economically but mentally and socially.”

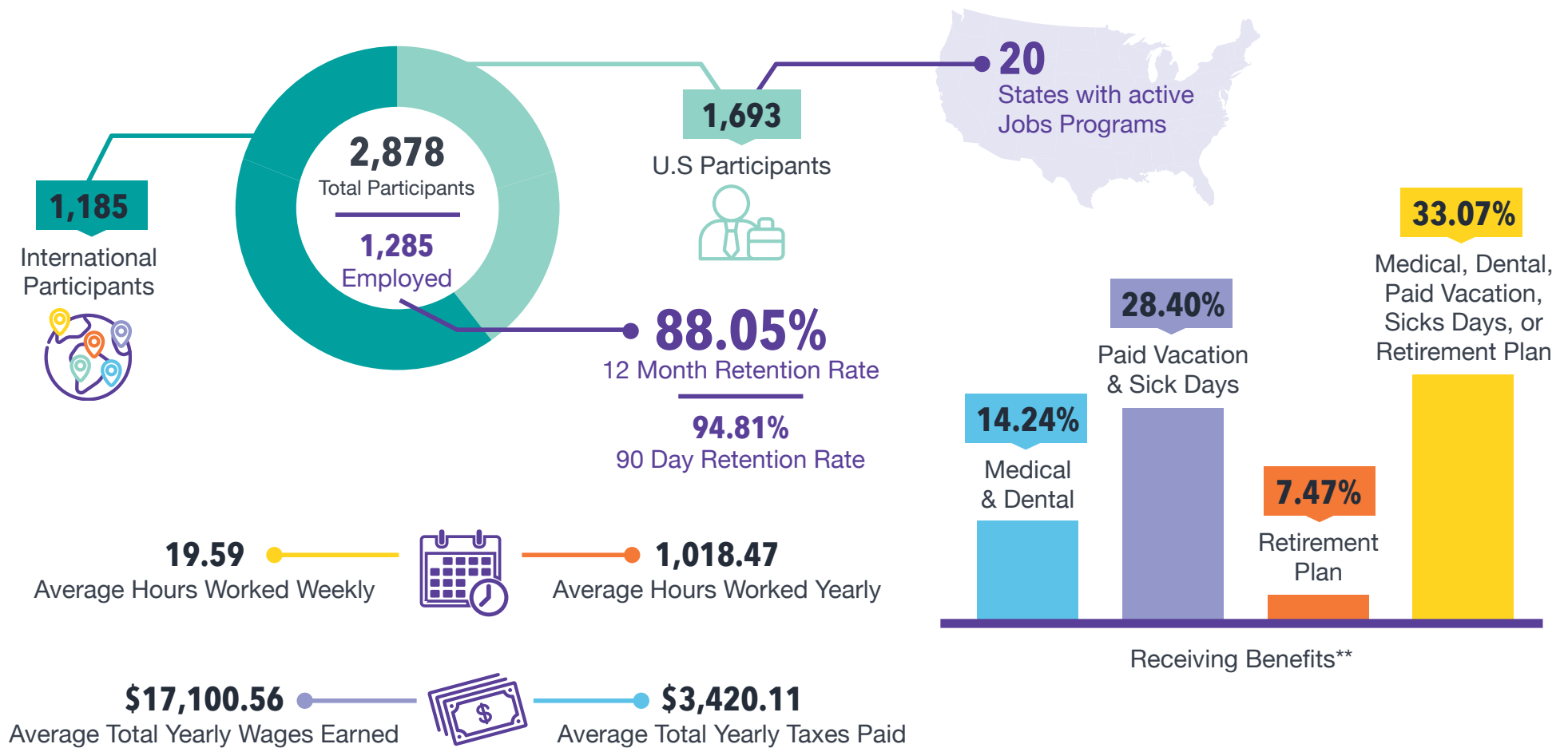
Ultimately, Jeet was hired at Ally Financial with the assistance of Best Buddies and over two years of office work experience.

“The part I love most about my job is that my colleagues are very nice, friendly, and cooperative,” said Jeet. “I feel secure and safe in my work environment and, my job gives me opportunities to be social and continue advancing my professional skills.”

With a stable job and a steady income, Jeet has taken on personal financial responsibilities, including credit card payments and other necessary expenses. Looking ahead, he envisions getting married and starting a family.

“ I feel secure and safe in my work environment and, my job gives me opportunities to be social and continue advancing my professional skills.” - **Jeet**

Key Jobs Program Stats



Top 4 Jobs Participants Highest Salaries With Benefits

Salary	\$71,780.80	\$71,011.20	\$69,992	\$68,432
Name/ State	Andrew K. Los Angeles, CA	Nicole K. Los Angeles, CA	Nathaniel M. San Francisco, CA	Miguel H. Miami, FL
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, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Retirement Plans, Dental Care, Vision Care, Sick Pay

Top 4 Jobs Participants Highest Hourly Rates

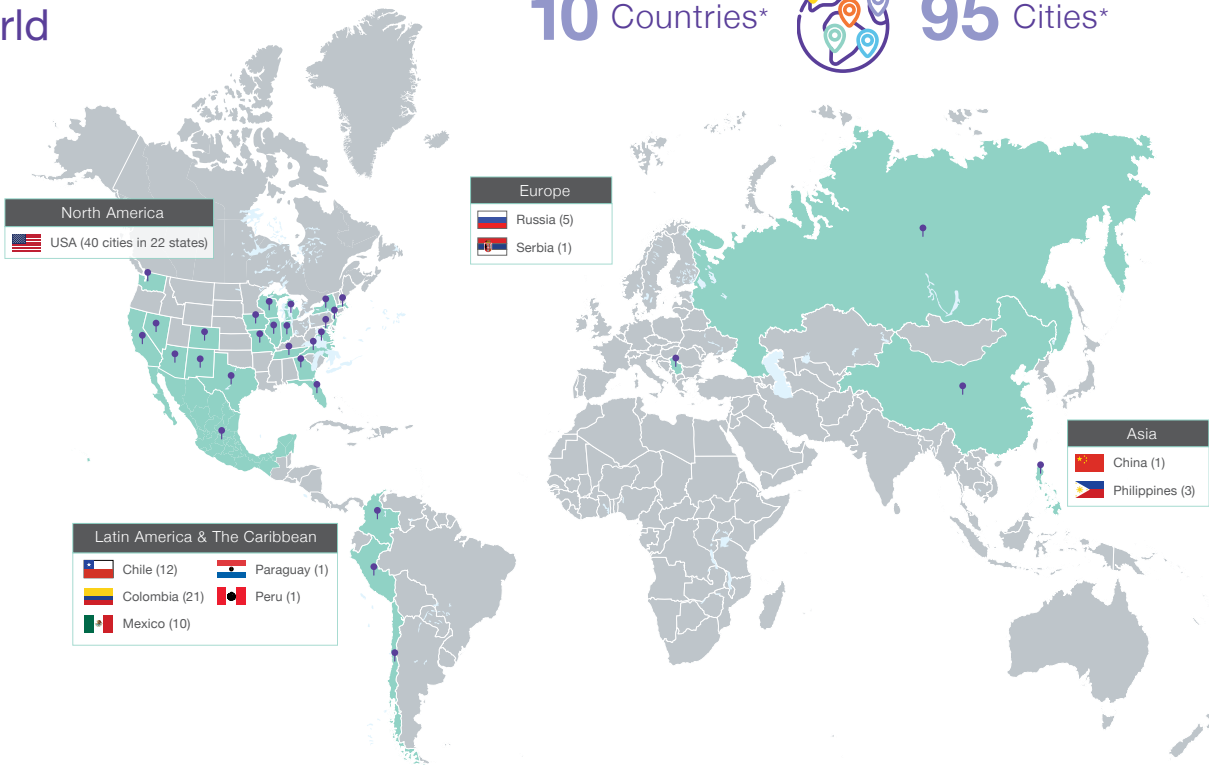


Best Buddies Jobs Around The World



Lily, Best Buddies Jobs participant
Panera Bread

10 Countries* 95 Cities*



* 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 12/31/2024



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

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.



Kiontis, Best Buddies Global Ambassador

Kiontis

Leadership Development

Global Ambassador

My name is Kiontis Gallion, also known as Kid Autistic, and I am proud to call the great state of Wisconsin my home. My journey began at West Allis Central High School, where I faced many challenges—loneliness, bullying, and a search for belonging. For a long time, I struggled to see my own worth.

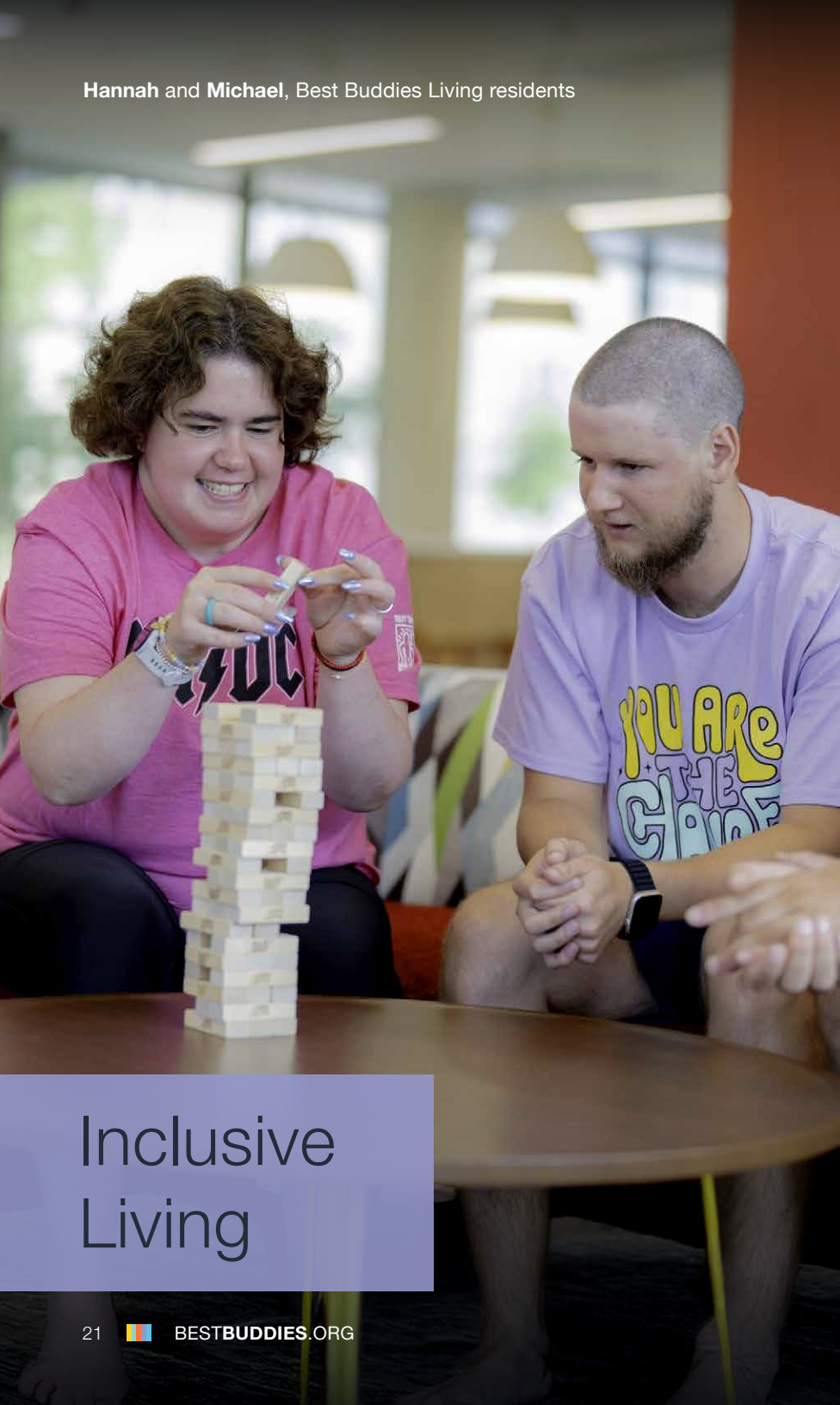
But then, something remarkable happened. A teacher saw in me what I couldn't yet see in myself—my potential to help others. She encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and join Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to fostering inclusion and friendship. That decision changed everything. The unexpected happened: I became the chapter president. This role gave me a sense of purpose, expanded my circle of friends, and helped me realize something profound—my autism is not a disability but a special ability.

At the end of the day, real change begins with our mindset. As Michael Jackson once said, "If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make that change." Change is not about waiting for the perfect moment—it's about taking action now.

Anthony Shiver reminds us that we are not defined by limitations but by our strengths. Every person in this world has a unique gift, a talent meant to be shared. We don't need magic to make a difference; we only need the courage to be ourselves. So why wait to be a leader? Why wait to step into your greatness? No matter how many obstacles stand in your way, know what you want and go after it. We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who can make a brighter day, so let's start giving.

Never give up on your dreams just because someone says you can't achieve them. You have an incredible gift—let it shine. Stars don't shine because they seek attention; they shine because that's simply what they are meant to do. The same is true for you. You have the power to use your voice, to inspire, to motivate, and to create change. The more you believe in your dreams, the more they will become reality. Because bold is beautiful—and bold is you. You are a champion in your own domain, capable of making a lasting impact in this world.

“ We don't need magic to change the world, just us. Why wait to change? Why wait to be a leader? I don't care if the whole world is against or teasing you; know what you want and go get it.” - **Kiontis**



Inclusive Living

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.



Yvenie, Best Buddies Living resident

Yvenie

Inclusive Living

Best Buddies Living Resident Los Angeles, CA

For Yvenie Joseph, becoming a resident of Best Buddies Living in Los Angeles has been truly life-changing. Before joining the program in January 2024, she faced immense challenges—moving from place to place without family support, struggling with her mental health, and ultimately living in a homeless shelter. She longed for stability, independence, and a place to call home. Best Buddies Living provided her with exactly that and more. Now, for the first time in her life, she has her own room, a steady job, and a supportive community that empowers her to thrive.

“I joined the program in January, and before Best Buddies, my life was a rollercoaster,” Yvenie shares. “I was living in a homeless shelter, struggling with my mental health, and constantly moving with no family support.”

“Best Buddies gave me a stable place to live and helped me get back on my feet. This is the first time I’ve ever had my own room. Now, I have a stable job and understand the responsibilities of being an adult. I’ve learned how to be responsible and make sure my bills are paid. I’ve learned how to budget and save money.”

One of Yvenie’s favorite aspects of Best Buddies Living is the weekly group dinners, where residents come together to share meals and connect. “There are so many different personalities, and at first, I was nervous to talk. But over time, I’ve learned to embrace everyone,” she says. “I also feel a sense of peace at home with my roommates. The weekly meetings and group dinners encourage personal growth and provide a strong support system.”

For others with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), Yvenie hopes to inspire confidence and self-acceptance. “I want people with IDD to surround themselves with those who understand their disabilities. You shouldn’t feel bad because of your disability—you can still achieve all your goals and dreams.”

“ Best Buddies gave me a stable place to live and helped me get back on my feet. This is the first time I’ve ever had my own room.” - **Yvenie**

Andrew with his son Jude, Eunie's Buddies Program participants



Family
Support

Best Buddies Family Support offers families the support and resources needed to navigate the journey of raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Eunie's **BUDDIES**.

Eunie's Buddies serves as the pioneering program within the Family Support initiative. It is named affectionately in honor of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of Special Olympics and a true hero who advocated tirelessly for positive change in the lives of individuals with IDD.

Eunie's Buddies pairs experienced parents of a child with an IDD with new parents who are expecting, have just welcomed a baby, or are raising a child up to the age of eight years old who has been recently diagnosed with an IDD. This pairing creates a mentor-mentee connection and friendship. Eunie's Buddies provides a framework offering parents and caregivers encouragement, emotional support, and valuable resources. Participation in Eunie's Buddies helps families pave the way for a child with IDD to have an education, gainful employment, and a fulfilled life.



Mentee **Tata** with Mentor **Nikki**,
Eunie's Buddies Program participants

Tata & Nikki

Family Support

Eunie's Buddies Mentee and Mentor Miami, FL

"I joined the Eunie's Buddies program while searching for more support, especially from people who just get it. My mentor Tata and I were matched almost immediately, and I still remember our first phone call —it lasted almost two hours! Although she's in Florida and I'm in Washington State, with a three-hour time difference, we hit it off right away.

Since joining Eunie's Buddies, life has felt less lonely. It has been more supportive, more loving, and more positive. Even my perspective has started to shift, and honestly, it's all because of this incredible woman who is so uplifting and full of positivity!

Taking the first step is always the scariest, but Eunie's Buddies has got you. You can feel confident knowing they will match you with someone who truly has your best interests at heart without you having to over-explain why your journey is more challenging. You can do this." – **Nikki Rhoades**, Mentee, Eunie's Buddies

"Eunie's Buddies has had a profoundly positive impact on me, allowing me to share, relate, and connect with another mother going through the same experience. It provides a sense of companionship and reinforces the idea that it truly takes a village to raise a child.

My first connection with Nikki was an instant connection and it felt as if we were speaking the same language, understanding each other's emotions without explanation. In many ways, our children are the true mentors, and we, as parents, are the mentees, learning and supporting each other along the way.

Eunie's Buddies has created a space where families of children with different abilities can come together to form the village we all need. A village of connection, support, understanding, and shared experiences. It's a learning journey, and the best part is, we don't have to do it alone." – **Tata Yanguas**, Mentor, Eunie's Buddies

“ Eunie's Buddies has had a profoundly positive impact on me, allowing me to share, relate, and connect with another mother going through the same experience.” - **Tata**

International Programs

In 2024, the newly formed International Programs and Incubator Teams set out to strengthen global Best Buddies operations through expanded funding opportunities, strategic guidance, social media support, and training. Their primary goal was to deepen the impact of country programs by aligning efforts and resources, especially in areas of employment programming, operational development, and donor engagement.

Over the year, the team made significant strides. On the funding front, they secured major U.S. State Department grants—\$100,000 for Korea and \$250,000 for Russia—and began cultivating direct relationships with the State Department beyond the formal application process. Corporate partnerships with JLL and Colgate-Palmolive remained strong, while new global funding conversations were initiated with the MAPFRE Foundation. Expansion plans for the Middle East were solidified with new funding secured to launch Best Buddies UAE in 2025.

Strategically, the team developed a revised Intellectual Property (IP) Strategic Plan to guide countries by development stage, and created a business plan template to help countries explore launching Best Buddies Jobs. Operationally, they introduced new IP systems, enhanced alignment through quarterly team meetings, and worked closely with the Incubator Team to support growing programs. They also contributed to key events, including the Best Buddies Board of Directors meeting in Madrid and thought leadership engagements with IAAPA and Colgate.

In 2024, the Jobs program continued to operate actively in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia.

Looking ahead, 2025 will mark a new chapter as the International Programs and Incubator Teams merge to form the International Programs and Development (IPD) Department. This unified team of seven will begin the year by auditing all 45 country programs to assess needs and priorities. They will also conduct a benchmarking study with peer nonprofits to shape strategy and best practices. Key goals for 2025 include improving data systems, launching an online training platform (BUDs), expanding funding streams, enhancing compliance and reporting, and increasing international representation at the annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference.



Best Buddies International program participants with **Anthony K. Shriver** at the 2024 *Best Buddies Leadership Conference*



Best Buddies Jobs participant from Best Buddies Colombia



Best Buddies Dominican Republic match up party



Best Buddies Serbia country director and Best Buddies Jobs participant



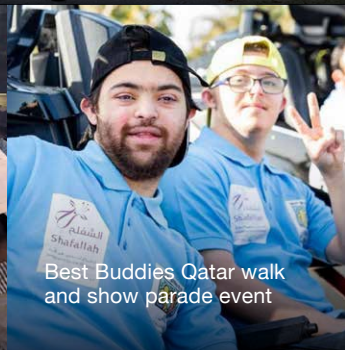
2024 BBFW: Canada



Best Buddies Philippines PEP Session on Tech/AI



Best Buddies Panama cooking class



Best Buddies Qatar walk and show parade event

Best Buddies Around The World

43 Countries & Territories



5 Continents



Revised 1.30.25

Signature Events



Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Caley Versfelt** with, from left, former World Tour Pro Andrew Talansky, Argentine Olympian and mountain bike legend Jimena Florit-Dolzadelli, and professional cyclists Alberto Contador and Cam Wurf at the 100-mile start line of the 2024 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc.

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.

Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port

May 31 - June 1, 2024 | Boston to Hyannis Port

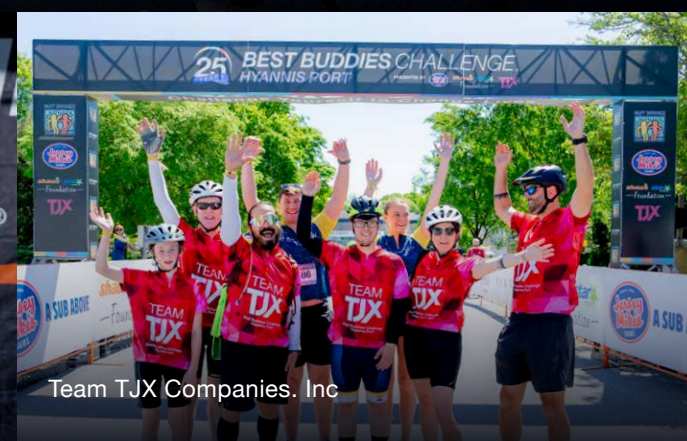
The *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc. returned to Massachusetts for its 25th Anniversary. The Challenge weekend kicked off Friday, May 31 with a dinner reception at John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum & Library. On Saturday, June 1, 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 and included a special musical performance by guitar legend Don Felder, formerly of the Eagles, at Craigville Beach. In total, the event raised \$4 million for Best Buddies programs.



Cyclists at the start of the 100-mile 2024 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc.



Best Buddies Founder, Chairman & CEO **Anthony K. Shriver** and Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Caley**



Team **TJX Companies, Inc.**



Best Buddies Founder **Anthony K. Shriver** accepting a \$435,000 donation check from Shaw's and Star Market Foundation on stage at the 25th Anniversary *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*



New England Patriots Quarterback **Drake Maye** during the legendary football toss inside the Clambake



Cyclists at the 2024 Best Buddies Challenge: California, presented by the Safeway Foundation

Best Buddies Challenge: California

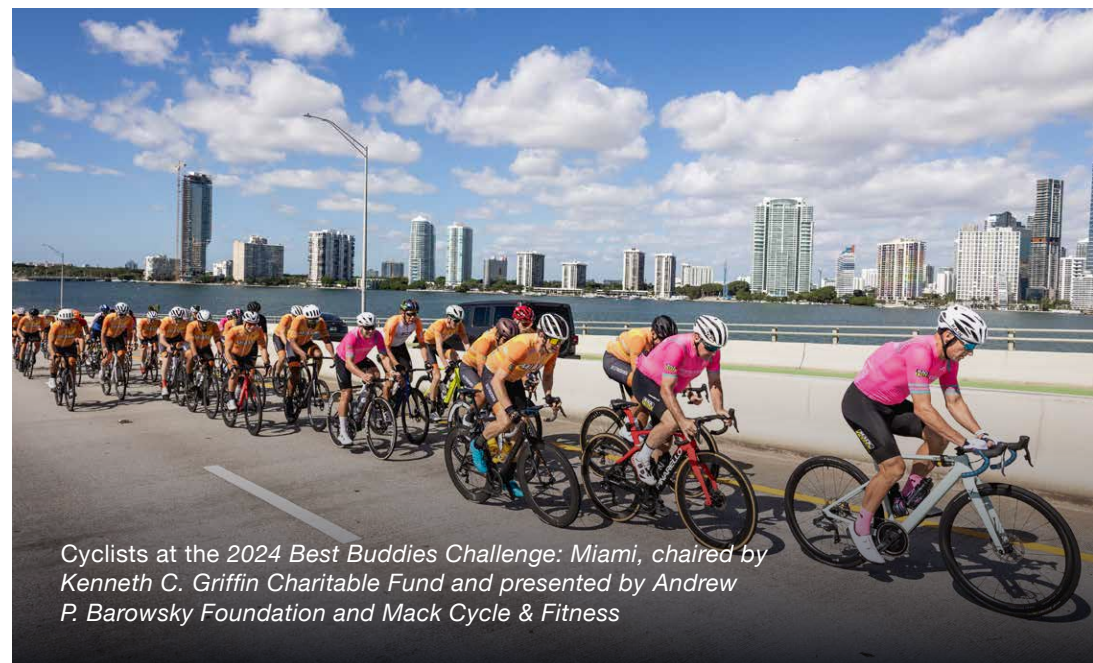
October 18-19, 2024 | Marin, CA

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 18, 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. On Saturday, October 19, hundreds of cyclists took to the starting line at the Summit Skywalker Ranch for an 80 or 38-mile ride through Tomales Bay, Point Reyes, and the Marin countryside led by pro-cyclists Geraint Thomas and Alberto Contador. The event was capped off with a gourmet lunch, wine tasting and live entertainment and raised \$2.5 million for Best Buddies programs.

Best Buddies Challenge: Miami

November 16, 2024 | 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, brought together cycling legends for an unforgettable ride through the Magic City. Led by four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome, alongside professional cyclists Mark Cavendish, Alberto Contador, Geraint Thomas, and Cam Wurf, participants journeyed through some of Miami's most iconic and scenic areas, including South Beach and Key Biscayne. Riders experienced a Tour de France-style, police-escorted peloton, with 100- and 75-mile route options, both starting and finishing at the Four Seasons Hotel Miami. The day culminated with the Jersey Mike's Subs Best Buddies Miami Gala, an evening of celebration in support of inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Cyclists at the 2024 Best Buddies Challenge: Miami, chaired by Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund and presented by Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation and Mack Cycle & Fitness



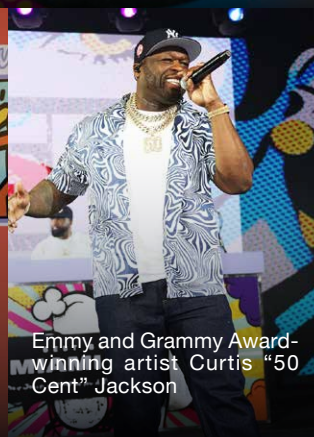
2024 Spirit of Leadership Award recipient **Guy Fieri** with Best Buddies Ambassadors **Chris Harrington, Michael Jaxtimer-Barry** and **Cassidy Bauer**



Jersey Mike's Subs Founder and CEO **Peter Cancro** and Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Fran Sheinberg**



Olympic Legend **Carl Lewis**, Latin artist **ADSO** and Best Buddies Founder **Anthony K. Shriver**



Emmy and Grammy Award-winning artist **Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson**



2024 Miss America Teen **Hanley House**, Pop Artist **Romero Britto**, Best Buddies Founder **Anthony K. Shriver**, and 2024 Miss America **Madison Marsh**

Jersey Mike's Subs Best Buddies Miami Gala

November 16, 2024 | Miami, FL

The Jersey Mike's Subs Best Buddies Miami Gala was a vibrant celebration of the Best Buddies mission, honoring the incredible dedication of Best Buddies supporters, participants, and volunteers.

The 2024 Miami Gala honored celebrity chef and Best Buddies Global Ambassador Guy Fieri with the Spirit of Leadership Award in recognition of his leadership, generosity, and support of Best Buddies since 2010.

Guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening featuring a cocktail hour, gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and a high-energy performance by Emmy and Grammy Award-winning artist Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, this year's Gala raised a record-breaking \$7.2 million in support of Best Buddies programs!

Best Buddies Breakaway Camps

Malibu, CA Spring April 24-28, 2024

Aspen, CO Fall September 4-8, 2024

Malibu, CA Winter December 4-8, 2024

In 2024, Best Buddies hosted two *Best Buddies Breakaway Camp*: *Malibu* events —one in April and another in December—offering 20 cyclists a pro-level training experience in the scenic Santa Monica Mountains. Based at the Four Seasons Westlake Village and supported by Pinarello, the camps featured expert coaching, Tour de France mechanics, and a focus on nutrition, recovery, and sustainable wellness.

The inaugural *Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Aspen* brought riders to the stunning Rocky Mountains for a week of world-class cycling, Olympic-level recovery, and chef-prepared meals, led by pro cyclists Cam Wurf and Andrew Talansky. Guests experienced a five-star blend of fitness, adventure, and philanthropy. Each camp helped raise funds and awareness for Best Buddies' global mission to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.





Best Buddies' 2024 Mother of the Year, **Ellen Boyer**, with **David Quilleon**, Grammy-winning and Emmy-nominated songwriter **Desmond Child**, **Catherine Anne Hennessy**, Best Buddies Founder **Anthony K. Shriver**, and Best Buddies Global Ambassadors **Marlana VanHoose** and **Fran Sheinberg** at the 7th Annual *Best Buddies Celebrating Mothers* event in Nashville, TN

Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers

May 4, 2024 | Nashville, TN

The 6th Annual *Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers*, honored advocate Ellen Boyer, founder and president of the Nashville-based Brett Boyer Foundation, that focuses on funding congenital heart disease research, supporting affected families, and promoting inclusion within the Down syndrome community.

During the event, Best Buddies officially launched its newest mission pillar, Family Support. This initiative offers families the support and resources needed to navigate the journey of raising a child with IDD through the Eunice's Buddies program. Guests enjoyed an afternoon filled with delicious cocktails, a gourmet lunch, and unforgettable live performances by Grammy-winning and Emmy-nominated songwriter Desmond Child and Best Buddies Ambassador Marlana VanHoose.

Best Buddies Friendship Balls & Proms

Best Buddies Friendship Balls and Proms are annual events for program members with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities to celebrate inclusion, joy, and friendship. Held at more than 50 venues across the country with thousands of attendees, these events bring together people of all abilities to share an evening of fun, laughter, dancing, and memorable experiences. The events feature a variety of lively and creative themes, including an 80s Night, Under the Sea, Western, and Red Carpet/Hollywood. Attendees form meaningful connections on the dance floor with old friends and new, while also enjoying a variety of activities like carnival games with prizes, arts & crafts, food & drinks, sensory spaces, and photo booths. The events are a wonderful display of the Best Buddies mission in action and highlight the impact of meaningful friendships between people with and without disabilities. We look forward to these events continuing again in 2025, as well as the addition of new events.



Guests at the 2024 *Best Buddies Prom* in Eastern Pennsylvania

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 2024, more than 48,000 participants across 76 cities joined the cause, collectively raising over \$5.8 million. These walks have positively impacted communities nationwide, creating spaces for new friendships, unlocking promising opportunities, and, above all, promoting inclusion for all.



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: VA & DC



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Nashville



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Portland



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Tampa Bay



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Alabama

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 celebration, where the Champions are honored, and the individual who raises the most funds is named the *Champion of the Year*.

In 2024, *Champion of the Year* achieved a record-breaking milestone, hosting 52 events nationwide, with over 405 Champion Candidates, exceeding the fundraising goal by raising over \$10.3 million for Best Buddies. This year the Top 10 Champion Candidates raised a collective \$1.4 million. Nathan Dean, in Tennessee, emerged as the National Grand Champion by raising \$369,216 setting a record for the most raised ever by a Champion Candidate. Looking ahead to 2025, the goal is to recruit 450 Champions and raise \$11 million through 54 events, which will continue to raise critical funds for Best Buddies and empower community leaders to advocate for inclusion.



Champions and mission partners at the 2024 *Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala: Bay Area, CA*



2024 *Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala: North Texas*



Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Mollie Noble**



2024 *Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala: Minnesota*



2024 *Best Buddies Champion of the Year Candidates for Best Buddies in Tampa, FL*

Best Buddies Leadership Conference

July 19-21, 2024 | Bloomington, IN

The 2024 *Best Buddies Leadership Conference* brought together nearly 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world from July 19–21 at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, under the theme “Every Buddy Belongs.”

Over the weekend, participants took part in dynamic educational sessions and interactive workshops aimed at empowering them to advance the Best Buddies mission in their communities. A highlight of the conference was a TED Talk-style roundtable featuring inspiring speakers who shared innovative ideas for creating inclusion. The event concluded with a celebratory Closing Ceremonies, honoring the powerful impact of student leaders with and without IDD.



Attendees of the 2024 *Best Buddies Leadership Conference: Every Buddy Belongs*





Special Olympics Founder
Eunice Kennedy Shriver and
Special Olympics participants

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.



Andreas, Best Buddies Volunteer and **Joshua Felder**, Best Buddies Global Ambassador and Actor from the film "Champions"

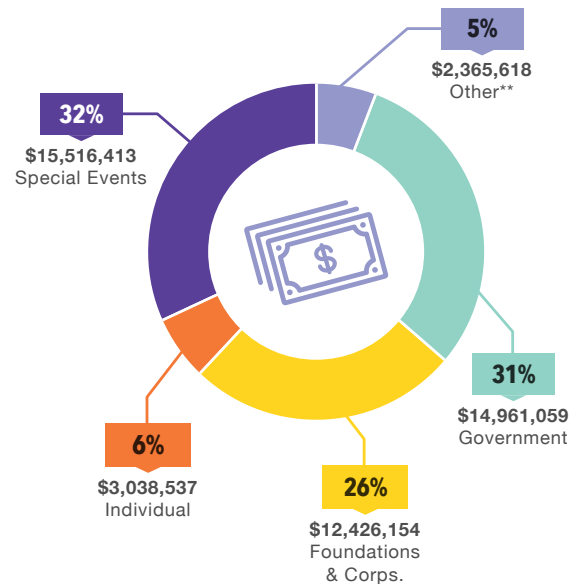
Matthew Von Der Ahe, Best Buddies Global Ambassador and actor from the film "Champions"



Financials

Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.24)

Domestic Revenue



\$48,307,781

Total Domestic Revenue

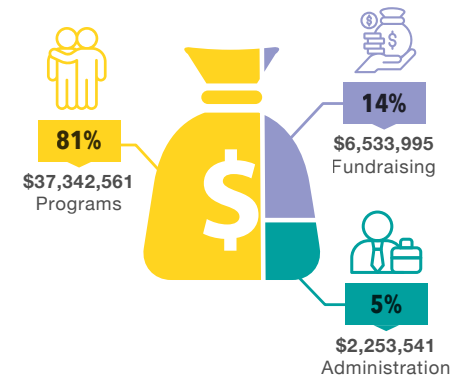
\$30,000,000

Total International Revenue***

\$78,307,781

Total Gross Revenue

Domestic Expenses



\$46,130,097

Total Domestic Expenses

Domestic Net Asset Summary

Net Assets (beginning of year) **\$35,604,831**

Change in Net Assets **\$2,177,684**

Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments **\$1,651,652**

Net Assets (end of year) **\$39,434,167**

* 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.

Financials

Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.24)

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$5,761,354
Investments, short-term	\$12,276,825
Accounts receivable	\$74,643
Contributions receivable, net	\$686,602
Grants receivable	\$3,492,661
Prepaid expenses	\$1,195,113
Total Current Assets	\$23,487,198

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	(\$578,759)
Total Property and Equipment, Net	\$1,181,987

Right-of-Use Assets

Financing lease right-of-use, net of amortization	\$72,983
Operating lease right-of-use, net of amortization	\$2,899,208
Total Right-of-Use Assets	\$2,972,191

Other Assets

Investments, Long-term	\$16,077,404
Long-term contributions receivable, net	\$1,765,924
Inventory artwork	\$58,361
Security deposits	\$134,871
Investments - Rosetta Bakery x Best Buddies	\$23,752
Total Other Assets	\$18,060,312

Total Assets \$45,701,688

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$1,598,003
Deferred revenue	\$1,365,552
Compensated absences payable	\$276,511
Line of credit	\$13,940
Current portion of financing lease liabilities	\$27,797
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	\$1,555,683
Total Current Liabilities	\$4,837,486

Long-Term Liabilities

Security deposit	\$55,508
Long-term portion of financing lease liabilities	\$46,879
Long-term portion of operating lease liabilities	\$1,327,648
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$1,430,035
Total Liabilities	\$6,267,521

Net Assets

With donor restriction	\$5,945,187
Without donor restriction	\$33,488,980
Total Net Assets	\$39,434,167

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$45,701,688



Mia and Isla, Friendship Program participants

Board of Directors



Cory Alexander
Founder & Chief
Executive Officer
Alexander Consulting



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



Olivia Culp
Actress



Mark DeVincentis
Partner, Head of Capital
Formation & Investor Relations
/ Avance Investment Mgmt.
Crescent Capital Group LP



Jack Eichel
Professional
Hockey Player
Vegas Golden Knights



Robert Friedman
Partner
Holland & Knight



Stephen T. Hearst
VP & GM of
Western Properties
The Hearst Corporation



**Alexander
Hernandez-Dessauer**
VP, International Programs
& Special Projects
Best Buddies International



Jamie Hintlian
Partner/Principal
Ernst & Young



Roman Josi
Captain
Nashville Predators



Michelle Klingman
Chief Experience Officer &
Senior Vice President, Human
Resource Capital Management
Jackson Health System



Gerard A. Klingman, CFP
President
Klingman & Associates



Carl Lewis
U.S. Olympic
Gold Medalist



Chris Lindstrom
Professional Football Player
Atlanta Falcons



James Lintott
Chairman
Sterling Foundation
Management



Matthew McKinney
Co-Founder & Chief
Executive Officer
LOOP



William V. Powers
Founder & Chief
Executive Officer
Cambridge Mobile
Telematics



Thomas Quick
Philanthropist



Shia Rozier
Student
North Carolina A&T
University



James P. Shay
Philanthropist



Fran Sheinberg
Ambassador
Best Buddies International



Anthony Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Chairman & CEO
Best Buddies International



Eunice K. Shriver II
Philanthropist



Ralph Winter
Founder & Principal
W5 Group



Bernie Yuman
President
Bernie Yuman Mgmt.

Executive Team



Jenny Allen
Vice President
International



Jeremiah Angel
Vice President
Web & Database Operations



Jasmin Beckles
Vice President
Data Operations



John M. Carlin
Vice President
Office of the Chairman



Missy Collins
Vice President
State Operations



Lisa Derx
Vice President
Government Relations



Catherine Anne Hennessy
Vice President
Family Support



Emily Hunt
Vice President
Programs



Mark Lewis
Senior Vice President
Development, Marketing
& Technology



Nicole Maddox
Vice President
Communications



Stephanie Moore
Senior Vice President
Mission Advancement
& Field Operations



Mia Mulholland
Vice President
Mission Operations &
Conferences



Cary Ombres
Senior Vice President
Global Mission Impact
& Engagement



Jessica Schwartz
Vice President
Marketing & Partnerships



Anthony Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Chairman & CEO
Best Buddies International



Julie Torres
Vice President
Human Resources
& Operations



Scott Tracy
Vice President
Challenges, National
Events & Special
Projects



Robert Vargas
Senior Vice President
Finance and Operations

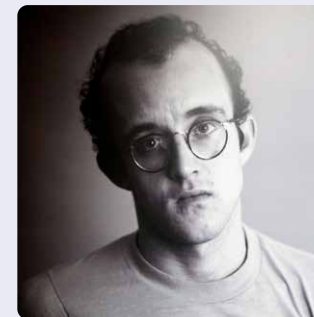


Mark J. Wylie
Vice President
Talent Relations

Honorary Board Members



Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Special Olympics Int.



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



“ I hope more people with disabilities will see it's possible to achieve their dream job! And that employers will give us a chance. My job brings so much light to my life.”

- **Fran Sheinberg**, Global Ambassador

Best Buddies Global Ambassadors, **Jada Thompson** and **Fran Sheinberg**, with 2024 Miss Texas **Annette Addo-Yobo**

Our Supporters

CORPORATIONS

\$1,000,000 to 5,300,000

The Coca-Cola Company
Jersey Mike's Subs

\$500,000 to \$999,000

Schwab Charitable Fund
The Albertsons Companies Foundation

\$250,000 to \$499,000

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
Thomas B. Golisano
Brauer Material Handling
Ansin Foundation
Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc.
BODYARMOR
Sephora USA, Inc.
Taft Foundation
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Andrew L. Ansin
Tides Foundation
American Online Giving
Foundation, Inc.

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Accenture LLP
Chevron Products Company
Drew Foundation
Planned Lifetime Assistance Network
of MA & RI Inc.
Sutter Health
Wells Fargo
John Drew
James L. Ferraro
Holly Meehan
David S. Meehan
Deloitte Services LP
James W. Lintott
Lemonade Insurance Agency, LLC
The Tepper Foundation
Nicole B. Tepper
David A. Tepper
Wedu, Inc.
Pratt Holdings, Inc.
Anthony J. Pratt
AnnG. and James B. Ritchey Foundation
Vegas Golden Knights Foundation Inc.
Christopher Lindstrom
Carey C. Larkin
Tulsa Community Foundation
Engelstad Foundation

May and Stanley Smith Charitable
Trust

The American Gift Fund
Penney J. Klingman
Gerard A. Klingman
Mark L. Attanasio
The GEO Group Foundation Inc.
George C. Zoley
Andrew P. Barowsky Charitable
Foundation
Andrew Barowsky
Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund
Kenneth C. Griffin

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Arizona Community Foundation
Ashbritt Foundation Inc.
Boston New Hampshire Volvo
Retailer Advertising Association
Braman Motors
Crown Family Philanthropies
Dart Group Foundation Inc.
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.
Marc J. Leder Foundation Inc
Micky and Madeleine Arison Family
Foundation
PHLY Foundation
PlayPower, Inc.
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Qintel, LLC
Shutterfly, Inc - HQ
St. Louis Blues for Kids Foundation
Stanislaus Community Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
SWR International Incorporated
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
The Cheesecake Factory
The Genentech Foundation
The Kessler Family Foundation
The Moody Endowment
The Mouse Trap Foundation
The Preston Trust
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
The Sundheim Family Foundation
Wealth Management & Trust
Worldwide Alliance LLC
Madeleine Arison
Ronald Haft
Micky Arison
Wycliffe K. Grousbeck
Corinne Grousbeck



Best Buddies Founder **Anthony K. Shriver** and Jersey Mike's Subs Founder & CEO **Peter Cancro** with Best Buddies Global Ambassadors **Fran Sheinberg** and **Armani Coulson**

May Liang
Howard J. Kessler
Patricia M. Kessler
Marc J. Leder
Peter D. Barbey
Pamela T. Barbey
Daniel Sundheim
Tina Carolan
Eric Delman
Matthew L. McKinney
Nadim Ashi
Evens Saint Clair
Ralph Winter
Tatiana Cancro
Mark A. Strode
Scott Ensell
United Way of North Central New
Mexico
C.C. Ensell
Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation
James P. Shay
UNUM Group
Dianne M. Raso
The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation
Thomas G. Abraham
Capital Group
Tito's Handmade Vodka
Gerardo N. Castillo

The VandeBoom Family Fund
Community Foundation for Northern
Virginia
Heron Family Foundation
Nicole VandeBoom
John H. and Ethel G. Noble
Charitable Trust
Jones Lang LaSalle
Taco Bell Foundation, Inc.
The Ferraro Law Firm
The Jim Moran Foundation
VoLo Foundation
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
Kahala Corp
Kaiser Permanente Honolulu
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Wilmington Trust
CircusTrix Holding LLC
JTMF Foundation
Waymo LLC
Charlotte Brauer
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Alkeme Intermediary Holdings, LLC
Audax Charitable Foundation
Benificus Foundation

Eurest/ESFM
Fanatics Charitable Foundation
Ferraro Family Foundation, Inc.
Fiserv Solution Inc.
Jabil
Kimsey Foundation
MAG Aerospace
ManpowerGroup Foundation Inc.
Mark Edward Partners LLC
Memorial Foundation
ParkWestFoundation/Albert Scaglione
San Francisco Volvo Retailer
Advertising Association, Inc.
Simply Healthcare Plans
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
State Street Bank & Trust Company
Surf Club Foundation
The Healthcare Foundation of NJ
The Mentor Network Charitable
Foundation
The Rees-Jones Foundation
Thunderbirds Charities
Walsh Construction Company II, LLC
William S. Abell Foundation
Susan Crown Kunkler
Randal R. Perkins
L. John Doerr

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Chris Larsen	Embassy of the State of Qatar	Carnival Cruise Lines	Ralph M. Parsons Foundation	Paulo Bacchi
Richard A. Barone	Global Online Giving Organization, Inc.	Color Street Foundation Inc	Ronald Book PA	Lewis Swezy
Barry Rosenberg	Macys Foundation	Community Foundation of Collier County	Sandia National Laboratories	Horst Ferrero
David Centner	Orchid Giving Circle	Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts	Sean Murphy Family I LLC	Margaret C. Abdo
Leila Centner	Team Construction, LLC	Cooper's Steel Fabricators, Inc.	Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Tampa	David R. Ramsay
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Todd M. Glaser	David Trepeck	Design Place, Inc.	Southwire Company	Lina Bergouignan
Stephen W. Clarke	Midland National Life Insurance Company	Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Inc	Speedway Children's Charities	Sylvia Berkshire
Greg Becker	MoneyGram Foundation	Donald B and Dorothy L Stabler Foundation	St Mary Catholic Church Aspen	Marcia Floyd
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts	The McKay Family Charity Fund	DuPage Foundation	State Farm Companies Foundation	Rebecca E. Boyer
Bradley K. Blank	Peter McKay	Erasca Foundation	Sterling Foundation Management	Meredith Ortega
Match Group	Fox Alternative Entertainment, LLC	Ernest and Mae Sanctis Foundation	TD Charitable Foundation	Oscar Martinez-Fain
Inktel Holdings	MALS PALS	Fiduciary Trust International	The American Eagle Outfitters Foundation	Kathleen Blatz
Holland & Knight LLP	Saint Joseph's Catholic School	Florida Panthers	The American Tower Charitable Foundation	Cynthia Crawford
Thomas Culmo	Gregory J. Green	G Russell and Constance P Lincoln Foundation	The Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation	Mary Kathleen Keating
Arlyn S. Cypen	National Christian Foundation Georgia	Greenberg Traurig, LLP - Boston	The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation	Angela M. Bruitrago
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Suzanne M. Powers	Shannon S. McGahren	John Ruan Foundation Trust	TheMcSweeneyFamilyFoundation, Inc.	Mark J. Kimsey
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Kevin R. McCutcheon	The GivenGain Foundation	Kohl's	The ThomasW.BradleyFoundationInc.	Paul Morgan
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Enterprise Holdings	Accenture	Luz Foundation	Town of Golden Beach	Peter Robbins
Josh And Ashley Bellamy	Greg Deweese	Maine Community Foundation	Truist	David H. Schmidt
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Cedar Street Charitable Foundation	The Smith Family Charitable Fund	May Ellen and Gerald Ritter Foundation	Variety - the Children's Charity	Magna International
Morgan Stanley	Mark J. Smith	McCree Family Fund	Watermill Institutional Trading, LLC	MGM Resorts Foundation
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Greater Green Bay Community Foundation Inc.	Compass Group	Overman Family Foundation Inc	David L. Giunta	Brian Glasser
The Columbus Foundation (CF)	Deborah Attanasio	Park Hotels and Resorts		Lin Lam
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.	\$10,000 to \$24,999	Pershing Advisor Solutions LLC		Jon Peticolas
Misty Reid	Accenture	PNC Private Bank		Stephen Vecchitto
CenterPoint Energy Foundation	Altria Group Inc.			Morgan Stanley Gift
	Arent Fox			The Comedy Store, Inc.
				Essential Services
				Valley Community Foundation
				Allan W. Matthews

Jeanne K. Roberts	United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County	Bank of America - North Carolina	Robert Dean	Cathleen McFarlane Foundation, Inc.
McCormick & Co., Inc.	Adam Hansen	Jonathan B. Huddleston	Steven H. Durham	Genovus Energy
Boston Bruins Foundation	National Football League	Amy Huddleston	Daniel Warmenhoven	Christian Brothers Automotive Foundation
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Bank of America - National HQ	Jerry Thompson	Jacklyn Bellenfant	Scott Jacobson	Clarfeld Citizens Private Wealth
Christie P. Bybee	EM-Power Services, Inc.	Community Foundation of Greater New Britain	Stuart Siegel	Clearlake Capital Group, LLC
AvidXchange, Inc.	Winston+R Purifoy	Wells Fargo Clearing SVCS, LLC	Jena M. Sims	Cogswell Benevolent Trust
William J. Stolz	Amadita Stone	Gianna Giancarlo	ServiceNow	Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
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EBI Foundation	Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling	Rachael I. Fischer	Google, Inc	Converse, Inc.
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The Ability Experience	Kye Mitchell	Insight Global	Sean E. McClelland	Cralle Foundation Inc
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Eastern Bank	Mark Wilson	Alexander C. Scovil	Nordson Corporation Foundation	DJNA Enterprises, LLC
J.E. Dunn Construction Company	Microsoft QSTP	Bank of America - Delaware	Daniel Tarrence	Domino's Pizza LLC
New York Life Insurance Company	Accenture	Austin Community Foundation	National Philanthropic Trust	Doz Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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Thomas J. Boharsik	Home Base Transportation, LLC	Aspen Community Foundation	Bank of America Employee Giving and Matching Gifts	FP Corporate Services
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Tom Burchill	Prairie Meadows	Effy Jewelry	Tasia Bade	Goldman Sachs & Company LLC
Charles Enochs	Santana Properties Inc	Greater Milwaukee Foundation	\$5,000 to \$9,999	Goodman Campbell Brain & Spine
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William T. O'Rourke	The Aria Covey Foundation Inc.	Merrill Family Foundation Inc	AdventHealth	Hopebridge, LLC
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Bethany J. Molter	The Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund, Inc.	OrthoIndy Foundation	Albemarle Foundation	Isnardi Foundation
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Michael J. Van Handel	Trisha Cody	The Merancas Foundation Inc	Baywood Hotels Inc.	KeyBank National Association
GTE Financial & Foundation	Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.	The San Diego Foundation	BNY Mellon - Houston	Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, Inc.
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Walmart Inc. Foundation			Cardinals Charities	
Lorraine Doderio				

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 Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation
 LBMC Cares Foundation
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 Liberty Bank Foundation
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 Neudesic
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 Novo Holdings
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 Peco Energy Company
 Phoenix Tower International
 PwC US Group LLP
 Renee/Ted's Big Heart Fndn
 Riverside Township
 RLJ Lodging Trust LP Operating
 Rotary Club of Vancouver
 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
 Santonastasso Enterprises LLC
 Service America Corporation
 SET Active
 Shaker Family Foundation
 Sheila, Dave & Sherry Gold Foundation
 Sierra Health Foundation
 Skookum Contract Services
 Slide Insurance Company
 Sonic Automotive Inc.
 Sports Charities Inc.
 Stable Road Foundation
 Stackner Family Foundation Inc
 Tavistock Development Management, LLC
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The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation
 The Bean Foundation
 The Carl M. Freeman Foundation, Inc.
 The Charro Foundation
 The Claire & Theodore Morse Foundation
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 T-Rex Solutions
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 UB Greensfelder LLP
 Uber USA, LLC
 UBS Financial Services Inc.
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 United Phoenix Firefighters Association, Inc.
 UNM Hospitals
 Venable Foundation, Inc.
 Venable LLP
 Ventura Growth LLC
 Veregy Central LLC
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 Werner Family Fund
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 Zuckerman Gravely Management, Inc.
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 Salvatore J. Lazar
 Camilla Schroeder
 Robert A. Frist
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 Stephen J. Luczo



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 John M. Sobrato
 Timothy E. McNutt
 Jon Callaghan
 Todd Oliver
 Robert Wiggins
 Sheba Lucas
 Joseph S. Vattamattam
 Ricky Ostrofsky
 Thierry Isambert
 Julie O'Shea
 Nancy L. Davenport
 Sumaira Malik
 David Hudson
 Caroline Bryan
 McKinley Hall
 Cindy Pettinaro Wilkinson
 Ashwin Cadambi
 Angie You
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 Joanne Brown
 Dan Labow
 Patrick Gilligan
 Dan Adams
 Carol Mangold
 Mary C. Outten
 Don Alexander
 Samuel Outten
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 Mark Kelley
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 Michael A. LaSorte
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 Anthony Walker
 Will Larza
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 Jim Kasinger
 David Nestor
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Carole Ilitch	Nancy Prior	James Dunn	John Vezina	The Michael and Denise Dubyak
Nancy Turken	Joey Hartman	John J. Einhaus	Sam Gough	Charitable Fund
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Charlie Reed	Berlin, Inc.	Jill D Brown Living Trust	The Bob and Marie Gallo Foundation	The J.M. Smucker Company
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Salesforce Inc.	JC Penney - National Headquarters	The Elder Law Center of Kirson & Fuller	Foundation	Benjamin Ballard
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Lisa Carter	Rick Rumford	Kenneth Gordon	David Herro	Autism, Inc.
Michelle Petrenko	Garrison Cohen	Andrew Fowler	Donald Hoffman	The Whiting-Turner Contracting
Weitieng Li	Laurie A. Utter	Chris Doherty	Melanie Nussdorf	Company
Kelly Procell Cac	Donna Simerly	Jeremy Camp	Shannon Sloop	Leslie Little
Kasey Marty	Health Care Service Corporation	John Adams	Ben Silverman	Sanofi US Services, Inc.
Shabaz Malik	Boston Celtics Shamrock	Andrew Watson-Hogan	Tami James	Rob Cancro
Kristin Weber	Foundation, Inc.	Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy	Boundless Health	Wesco Distribution, Inc
Host Hotels & Resorts, L.P.	Dylan V. Schlesinger	High School	Brandon H. Elledge	Waukesha County Community
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Haine School PTO	Giant Eagle Inc	Community Foundation of West	Matthew Mingus	Katherine Reed
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Elisabeth Rice	The Miami Foundation	Field Family Foundation	Brent L. Brooks	MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC
Matthew R. Niemann	Natalie Silverstein	Lithia Ramsey Subaru #384	Jones Lang LaSalle	Grapevine Giving Foundation
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Givinga Foundation, Inc.
Emily Levine
Eliza Flug
Institute for Corporate Productivity, Inc.
David Ferdman

FOUNDATIONS

\$250,000 to \$499,000

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
Taft Foundation
The Golisano Foundation

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Fundacion MAPFRE
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Nike, Inc.
The American Gift Fund
Tulsa Community Foundation
YourCause, LLC

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
Fidelity Charitable
John H. and Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust
JTMF Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Honolulu
Liberty Mutual Foundation
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
PHLY Foundation
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
St. Louis Blues for Kids Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
The Genentech Foundation
The Jim Moran Foundation
The Mouse Trap Foundation
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
The Tepper Foundation
United Way of North Central New Mexico
Vegas Golden Knights Foundation Inc.
VoLo Foundation
Wealth Management & Trust

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Accenture
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
CenterPoint Energy Foundation
Greater Green Bay Community Foundation Inc.
Jabil

Kimsey Foundation
Macys Foundation
ManpowerGroup Foundation Inc.
Memorial Foundation
MoneyGram Foundation
Orchid Giving Circle
Saint Joseph's Catholic School
TD Charitable Foundation
The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation
The Columbus Foundation (CF)
The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation
The Healthcare Foundation of NJ
The Mosaic Company
The Rees-Jones Foundation
Thunderbirds Charities
William S. Abell Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Accenture
Albuquerque Community Foundation
Aspen Community Foundation
Bank of Hawaii
Boston Bruins Foundation
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Comcast Financial Agency Corporation
Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts
Donald B and Dorothy L Stabler Foundation
DuPage Foundation
Enterprise Holdings
Ernest and Mae Sanctis Foundation
Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust
Fiduciary Trust International
Florida Panthers
Frost Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Harper Family Foundation
IPA Foundation
James & Abigail Campbell Family Foundation
Jana Foundation Inc.
Kelly Foundation
KOVAR
Libra Foundation
Longwood Foundation Incorporated
Maine Community Foundation
Maximus Foundation
May Ellen and Gerald Ritter Foundation
Merrill Family Foundation Inc
MGM Resorts Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation Inc

Nordson Corporation Foundation
Nusenda Foundation
OrthoIndy Foundation
PNC Private Bank
PNM Resources Foundation
Potawatomi Bingo Casino
Prairie Meadows
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
Rochester Area Community Foundation Depository, Inc.
Roles Family Foundation
Sandia National Laboratories
Speedway Children's Charities
State Farm Companies Foundation
Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation
Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc.
The American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
The American Tower Charitable Foundation
The Bishop Family Charitable Fund
The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
The George Preston Marshall Foundation
The Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation
The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
The Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund, Inc.
The Laffey McHugh Foundation
The Lowell S. and Betty L. Dunn Family Foundation
The McSweeney Family Foundation, Inc.
The Merancas Foundation Inc
The Sorenson Legacy Foundation
The Thomas W. Bradley Foundation Inc.
The William & Sheila Konar Foundation
United Jewish Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit
Valley Community Foundation
Variety - the Children's Charity
Wilmington Trust

\$5,000 to \$9,999

A. J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust
Albemarle Foundation
American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
Ayes Foundation, Inc.
Blue Grass Community Foundation
BNY Mellon

Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, Inc.
Cardinals Charities
Charles & M R Shapiro Foundation Inc
Child Development Foundation
Clarfeld Citizens Private Wealth
Cogswell Benevolent Trust
Commonwealth Edison Company
Community Chest of New Britain and Berlin, Inc.
Coop Bank of Cape Cod Foundation
Cralle Foundation Inc
Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc.
G Russell and Constance P Lincoln Foundation
Geodis Foundation
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation
Jim Jacobson Charitable Fund
John Ruan Foundation Trust
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Junior League of Indianapolis
Kiwans Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, Inc.
Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation
Liberty Bank Foundation
McLane Middleton Foundation
Nashville Predators Foundation
Nicor Gas Company
Pacific Life Foundation
Raymond James Global Account
Stackner Family Foundation Inc
The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation
The Bloedorn Foundation
The Charro Foundation
The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
The Feigenbaum Foundation
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The Gheens Foundation
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation
The James & Juli Boeheim Foundation
The John E. Fogarty Foundation
The Katharine Matthies Foundation
The M&T Charitable Foundation
The Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation

The PNC Charitable Trusts
Venable Foundation, Inc.
Wells Fargo Clearing SVCS, LLC

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

\$250,000 to \$375,000

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
The Golisano Foundation
Taft Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Nike, Inc.
Fundacion MAPFRE
Tulsa Community Foundation
YourCause, LLC
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
The American Gift Fund

\$50,000 to \$99,999

PHLY Foundation
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
PWC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
St. Louis Blues for Kids Foundation
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.
The Genentech Foundation
The Mouse Trap Foundation
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
Wealth Management & Trust
United Way of North Central New Mexico
Fidelity Charitable
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
John H. and Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust
The Jim Moran Foundation
Vegas Golden Knights Foundation Inc.
VoLo Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Honolulu
Liberty Mutual Foundation
JTMF Foundation
The Tepper Foundation
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust

\$25,000 to \$49,999

CenterPoint Energy Foundation
Greater Green Bay Community Foundation Inc.
Jabil
Kimsey Foundation
ManpowerGroup Foundation Inc.
Memorial Foundation
The Columbus Foundation (CF)
The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation

The Healthcare Foundation of NJ
 The Rees-Jones Foundation
 Thunderbirds Charities
 William S. Abell Foundation
 MoneyGram Foundation
 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
 Macys Foundation
 Orchid Giving Circle
 TD Charitable Foundation
 The Mosaic Company
 Saint Joseph's Catholic School
 The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation
 Accenture
 Bader Philanthropies, Inc.

\$10,000 to \$24,999

ComcastFinancialAgencyCorporation
 Community Foundation of
 North Central Massachusetts
 Donald B and Dorothy L Stabler
 Foundation
 DuPage Foundation
 Ernest and Mae Sanctis Foundation
 Fiduciary Trust International
 Florida Panthers
 Frost Foundation
 Harper Family Foundation
 Jana Foundation Inc.
 Kelly Foundation
 Libra Foundation
 Maine Community Foundation
 Maximus Foundation
 May Ellen and Gerald Ritter Foundation
 MGM Resorts Foundation
 Nora Roberts Foundation Inc
 PNC Private Bank
 Prairie Meadows
 Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
 Sandia National Laboratories
 Speedway Children's Charities
 State Farm Companies Foundation
 The American Eagle Outfitters
 Foundation
 The American Tower Charitable
 Foundation
 The Bishop Family Charitable Fund
 The Graham and Carolyn Holloway
 Family Foundation
 The Hamilton Company Charitable
 Foundation
 The Laffey McHugh Foundation
 TheMcSweeneyFamilyFoundation, Inc.
 The Sorenson Legacy Foundation
 TheThomasW.BradleyFoundationInc.
 Valley Community Foundation

Variety - the Children's Charity
 Boston Bruins Foundation
 Bank of Hawaii
 Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
 Nusenda Foundation
 Roles Family Foundation
 James & Abigail Campbell Family
 Foundation
 Accenture
 Aspen Community Foundation
 Community Foundation of Greater
 New Britain
 Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust
 IPA Foundation
 PNM Resources Foundation
 Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc.
 The Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner
 Fund, Inc.
 Wilmington Trust
 The George Preston Marshall
 Foundation
 Albuquerque Community Foundation
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation
 KOVAR
 Longwood Foundation Incorporated
 Merrill Family Foundation Inc
 OrthoIndy Foundation
 Rochester Area Community
 Foundation Depository, Inc.
 Suncoast Federal Credit Union
 Foundation
 The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family
 Foundation
 The Lowell S. and Betty L. Dunn
 Family Foundation
 The Merancas Foundation Inc
 The William & Sheila Konar Foundation
 United Jewish Foundation of
 Metropolitan Detroit
 Nordson Corporation Foundation
 Potawatomi Bingo Casino
 Enterprise Holdings

\$5,000 to \$9,999

A. J. and Sigismunda Palumbo
 Charitable Trust
 Albemarle Foundation
 American Online Giving
 Foundation, Inc.
 Ayres Foundation, Inc.
 BNY Mellon
 Cardinals Charities
 Clarfeld Citizens Private Wealth
 Cogswell Benevolent Trust
 Coop Bank of Cape Cod Foundation

Cralle Foundation Inc
 G Russell and Constance P Lincoln
 Foundation
 Geodis Foundation
 George and Mary Josephine
 Hamman Foundation
 George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles
 Foundation
 Greater Washington Community
 Foundation
 Jim Jacobson Charitable Fund
 John Ruan Foundation Trust
 June Rockwell Levy Foundation
 Junior League of Indianapolis
 Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor
 Foundation, Inc.
 Larry H. & Gail Miller Family
 Foundation
 Liberty Bank Foundation
 McLane Middleton Foundation
 Nashville Predators Foundation
 Nicor Gas Company
 Pacific Life Foundation
 Raymond James Global Account
 Stackner Family Foundation Inc
 The Albert and Ethel Herzstein
 Foundation
 The Charro Foundation
 The Community Foundations of
 the Hudson Valley
 The Fuller Foundation, Inc.
 The Gheens Foundation
 The James & Juli Boenheim Foundation
 The John E. Fogarty Foundation
 The PNC Charitable Trusts
 Venable Foundation, Inc.
 Wells Fargo Clearing SVCS, LLC
 Community Chest of New Britain
 and Berlin, Inc.
 Boston Celtics Shamrock
 Foundation, Inc.
 Blue Grass Community Foundation
 Child Development Foundation
 Commonwealth Edison Company
 Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for
 Autism, Inc.
 Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation
 The Bloedorn Foundation
 The Irene E. & George A. Davis
 Foundation
 The Katharine Matthies Foundation
 The Molina Healthcare Charitable
 Foundation
 The Feigenbaum Foundation

The M&T Charitable Foundation
 Charles & M R Shapiro Foundation Inc

TOP RIDE TEAMS

\$250,000 and Above

Team Frazier Life Sciences

\$100,000 to \$249,000

Team Natixis
 Team King James Buddies
 Team Morgan Stanley

\$50,000 to 99,000

Team Snyk
 Team ServiceNow

\$25,000 to \$49,000

Team Papa Wheelies
 Team Gallo/G3
 Team Greenberg Traurig
 Team Volvo
 Team Henry
 Team Wyatt - Domestiques
 Team Mal's Pals
 Team MACK Cycle
 Team Susan G
 Team SVB/FC
 Team Sunshine

\$10,000 to \$24,000

Team Evergreen
 Team Bike Zone of Cape Cod
 Team Amundi
 The Big Guava
 Team Mark's Buddies
 Team Louis Miguel
 Team Kendra
 Team Blach Construction
 Team Sobah Ridahs
 Team The James Gang
 Team 603 Pride
 Team Holland & Knight
 Team KIDS 360
 Team Harrington
 Team UBS
 Team Flat Top Johnny's
 Team Cheshire Loves Best Buddies
 Team Mali
 Team PDC Inc
 Team Xcitebike Racing

TOP BBFW TEAMS

\$25,000 to \$49,000

Team Diego V.
 Team MaconFriendsforMakin' Friends

Team Miami Country Day School
 Team OneJLL - Stronger Together
 Team TCNJ!
 Team Roman Josi

\$10,000 to \$24,000

Team Academy of the Holy Names
 Team Ben Orent
 Team Best Buddies UA
 Team Career Group Companies -
 Los Angeles
 Team Champa Bay Jobs Program
 Team Creekside High School
 Team Danielle & Coley's Buddies
 Team DNI Corp
 Team Dylan's Dominators
 Team Emeritus
 Team FSU Best Buddies
 Team Garrett's Fight
 Team Holland & Knight
 Team Mission Possible
 Team Navy Federal
 Team Palm Beach Orthodontics
 Team Peeps With A Purpose
 Team PH.
 Team RS&H_2024
 Team Seminole Ridge High School
 Team Seretta Construction
 Team Shulman Rogers
 Team GOAT
 Team KellieBoo 2024!
 Team Sephora Distribution Center -
 Las Vegas
 Team Sephora Distribution Center -
 Olive Branch
 Team Special Events
 Team Walk with Wylie
 Team West Broward High School

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

Agriculture

Alameda Greenhouse
 Empower Farms

Animal Services

Barkin' Creek the Village
 Camp Run-A-Mutt
 Doggie Daycare & More
 Dogtopia
 Elite Suites Pet Resort
 Good Dog Hotel and Spa
 Nauset Canine Club
 Nova Animal Hospital
 Petco

PetSmart
Pompano Pet Lodge
Zionsville Country Vet Clinic

Aquaculture

ARC Shellfish Hatchery

Arts/Culture

Aurora Hill Library
Broadway at Music Circus
Capital One Hall
Georgia Aquarium
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Museum of Contemporary Art
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
9/11 Museum
Old Sturbridge Village
Park West Gallery
Sacramento Children's Museum
Shedd Aquarium
The Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Tradewinds Studio

Automotive

Evanston Subaru
Findlay Toyota
Herb Chambers – Land Rover Jaguar
Koons Tysons Toyota
Miami Lakes Automall
Mister Car Wash
Ocean Mazda

Communications

AActiveCampaign
Civic Edge Consulting
Conill Advertising
i4cp
Kubik
Quad Graphics

Construction

Fortis Construction
Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson
MasTec
Whiting Turner

E-Commerce

Amazon

Education

Alexandria City High School
Aemillian Preschool
Angier Elementary School
Ben Davis University High School
Bergen County Community
Bishop Moore Catholic High School

Bright Horizons
Building Block Academy
Catholic University
Center for Research Libraries
Childtime of Huntersville
Clark County School District
Curley Academy
Curry College
Dana Middle School
Dean College
Dunlap High School
Elk Grove School District
Genesee Community Services
Holy Spirit School
ISP Management at Northeastern
JRE Lee Educational Center
Montessori Schools at Holmes Run
Montgomery County Public Schools
NYC Board of Education
Peoria Public Schools
Port View Preparatory
Princeton University Athletics
Promise Child Development Center
Santa Margarita Catholic High School
Springstone Montessori
St John XXIII Catholic
UC Davis
UCNJ
UMass Lowell
Unit 5 School District
Wachusett Regional School District
Whitefish Bay High School
Worcester Public Schools

Finance/Insurance

IMC Financial Markets
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors LP
Klingman and Associates
Mapfre
Mastercard Worldwide
Morgan Stanley
Natixis Global Asset Management
PLAN Special Needs Trust
PNC Bank
SCN Accounting & Tax Services
Wells Fargo

Fitness

Blink Fitness
Four Seasons Health Club
LA Fitness
Planet Fitness
SPIRIT Club

Food/Beverage

Amazon Fresh
Aramark
Bahama Buck's
Best BuddiesX Rosetta Bakery
Big Bowl
Big Y
Blaze Pizza
Blono Pizza Co.
Bon Appetit @ Google
Bubba's 33
Cafe Blu
Cafe Joyeux
California Pizza Kitchen
Campus Catering Clovis Unified
School
Candified
Canteen
CAVA
Centerville Pies
Chartwell's
Chase County Roasters
Chick-fil-A
Chili's
Constellation Culinary Group
Cotuit Fresh Market
Culver's
Davio's Restaurant
Dennis Public Market
Denny's
Dion's
El Pinto Restaurant
Farm Family Foods
Fazenda Coffee Roasters
Festival Foods
Fiji Water

Five Guys
Flik
Food 4 Less
Friends Marketplace
Fruit Center of Milton
Fry's Food
Gundalow Gourmet
HMS Host
Hannaford
Harris Teeter
Harvest Sensations
H-E-B
High Flying Foods @SFO
Jersey Mike's
Jimmy's Famous Seafood
Katella Bakery
Kenny's Westside Pub
Kroger
Lady Baker
Levy Restaurants
Market 32
Maschio's Food Service
McAlister's Deli
McDonald's
Milam's Markets
Misha's Cupcakes
MOD Pizza
New City Microcreamery
PDQ
Panera
Papa John's
Pemberton Farms Market
Pick N Save
Pieology
Piggly Wiggly
Pilo's Street Tacos
Pizza Hut
Price Chopper
Provider Contract Food Service
Publix
Rail Trail Flatbread
Ralph's Fresh Fare
Restoration Pizza
Roselli's Pizza
Rosetta X Bakery
Safeway
Seasons AARP
Shaw's Supermarket
Smart & Final
Sodexo
Sonny's BBQ
Sprouts
SSA Group, LLC
Star Market

Starbucks
Stone Creek Dining Company
Stop & Shop
Sunrise Health Food Stores
Sweet Cup
Sweetly Baked
Taziki's
Tedeschi Food Shops
Texas Road House
The Cheesecake Factory
The Fresh Market
The Merchant LB
The Paramount Group
The Popcorn Shoppe
Thomas Cuisine
Trader Joe's
Tropical Smoothie Cafe
Una Pizza Napoletana
Wegmans
Wendy's
Whitson's Culinary Group
Whole Foods Market
Wildfire

Government

Alexandria Library
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks
Cherrydale Library
City of Baltimore
City of Bal Harbour
City of Hialeah
City of Los Angeles
City of Miami Beach
City of Miami Parks & Recreation
City of New York
City of South San Francisco
Cosumnes Community Services
District
Department of Rehab-Fresno
Department of Rehab-San Diego
Employee Development Department
Exchange-Nellis Air Force Base
MA-Developmental Disabilities
Council
Marion County Prosecutor's Office
MVA-Annapolis
Navy Federal Credit Union
New York Public Library
OPR Sacramento

Health Care

Addgene
Addgene
Advent Health
Atrius Health

Bickford Senior Living
 Calvin Community
 Cambridge Nursing & Rehab Center
 Cape Cod Hospital
 CB Orthodontics
 Cecelia Place Assisted Living
 Cleveland Clinic
 Clovis Community Medical Centers
 Community Regional Medical Center
 Decatur House
 Dignity Healthcare
 Enos Residence
 Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital
 Fort Harrison Senior Living
 Goodman Campbell Brain and Spine
 HealthStream
 Hiatus Med Spa
 Honeybee Healthcare
 IU Health-North
 Jackson Health System
 Kaiser Permanente
 Merck
 Modern Salon and Spa
 Nspire Healthcare
 Palm Beach Dermatology
 Pamilla Senior Living
 PathGroup
 PharmaLink
 Somerby
 Syntonic Systems, Inc.
 Takeda Pharmaceuticals
 The Christopher House
 The Manhattan Psychiatric Center
 Touchpoint
 UC Davis Medical Center
 UCLA Dept. of Pathology & Lab
 Medicine
 UMass Memorial
 UNM Hospital
 Verus Healthcare
 Vierra Falls

Hospitality

Aramark @Fenway
 Chatham Bars Inn
 Compass Group
 Embassy Suites
 Flagship @Facebook
 Flik Hospitality
 Genevieve N. Johnson Seniors
 Daycare Center
 Grand Hyatt Nashville
 Harvard Maintenance
 Holiday Inn Express
 Homewood Suites

Hotel Albuquerque
 Live Casino Hotel
 Loews Coral Gable
 Longfellow's Wayside Inn
 Marriott
 Mayfair House Hotel & Garden
 MGM Resorts International
 Oakmont of Torrance
 Restaurant Associates
 Seaport Hotel
 The Lodge
 The Ritz-Carlton-Coconut Grove
 UCLA Housing & Hospitality

Law

Barket Marion Epstein & Kearon, LLP
 Chasen and Boscolo
 Elder Law Firm of Kirson & Fuller
 Envoy Global
 Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson
 Gelfand, Rennert, & Feldman
 Holland & Knight
 Latham & Watkins
 Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
 Pacific Workers' Compensation Law
 Seyfarth Shaw
 Shuffield Lowman
 Special Needs Law Group of MA
 The Ferraro Law Group

Manufacturing/Distribution

Baby K'tan
 Boeing Distribution Services
 Brunswick Land and Sea
 Lake Country Manufacturing
 Northrop Grumman
 PCNA
 Prime Source
 Printing Partners
 RDS Same Day Delivery
 Sakura Finetek USA
 Shipetze LLC
 Telamon
 Tuuci

Nonprofit/Foundations

Best Buddies International
 Central Park Conservancy
 Chicago Park District
 Community Connections, Inc.
 Good 360
 Goodwill
 Gordon Jewish Community Center
 Harbor Regional Center
 LA Habilitation House
 National Aquarium

National Down Syndrome Society
 Picket Fence Foundation
 QSAC
 Special Faces
 Special Olympics
 The Arc of Mercer
 The Mentor Network
 Think Together
 Valley Life
 Virtuous, Inc
 Westside Regional Center
 YMCA

Oil Industry/Energy/Mining

Schlumberger

Real Estate

Capital Properties
 JLL-Jones Lang LaSalle
 Network Community Management
 Starwood Capital
 Tavistock

Recreation

Cat Cay Yacht Club
 Disneyland Park
 Prairieville Park
 Presidio Golf Course
 Richland Country Club
 Sunnyside Country Club
 The Preserve at Eisenhower
 Golf Course
 We Rock the Spectrum

Retail

Ace Hardware
 Anthropologie
 Aventura Mall
 Bath and Body Works
 BJ's Wholesale Club
 BrandsMart
 Build-A- Bear Workshop
 Burlington
 Cost Plus World
 Crate & Barrel
 CVS
 Dillard's
 Discount Welds
 Disney Store
 Gucci
 Home Goods
 HomeSense
 Hope's Treasures
 Hot Topic
 Hy-Vee
 Jewel Osco
 Jondie

Kessler's Diamonds
 Kohls
 Lowes
 Mack Cycle
 Macy's Furniture Gallery
 Malicious Women Candle Co.
 Marshalls
 Masks Y Mas
 Michaels
 Nike
 99 Cent Only Store
 Nouria Energy
 Office Depot
 OfficeMax
 Ollie's Bargain Outlet
 Once Upon a Child
 Primark
 Sam's Club
 Sephora
 Sierra
 Sloomoo Institute
 Target
 The Home Depot
 The Paper Store
 The UPS Store
 TJ Maxx
 Urban Decay/L'Oreal
 Walgreens
 Walmart
 Wawa
 Weis

Sports/Entertainment

AEG Merchandising
 AMC Theaters
 Axe Hockey Group
 Boston Red Sox
 Century Rio 24
 Charlotte FC
 Citi Field
 COSM
 D.C. United
 DCU Center
 Entertainment Industry Foundation
 Gillette Stadium
 Golf N Stuff
 Good Thomas Entertainment
 Mercedes Benz Stadium
 Milwaukee Brewers
 Milwaukee Bucks
 Monumental Sports & Entertainment
 NFL
 NY Islanders
 NY Mets
 NY Yankees

Oakland Athletics
 Propagate Content
 Range Media Partners
 SeaWorld
 Silva Lanes
 Tepper Sports & Entertainment
 UCLA Dept. of Intercollegiate Athletics
 Universal Studios
 Walt Disney Television
 Woosox
 Worcester Railers

Talent/Staffing

Career Group Companies
 Career Group Companies
 Job Options Inc.
 K Force
 William Morris Endeavor

Technology

Accenture
 Avid
 Avnet
 CIC
 Google
 Insight
 Palo Alto Networks
 Rapid7
 Xactly Corporation

Telecommunications

TCC

Transportation

ABF Freight
 Brightline
 Envoy Air
 Fast Park
 Fontainebleau Aviation
 JFK Airport
 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd
 SMS International
 U-Haul Moving & Storage

Warehousing/Storage

American Lumper
 Bollore
 D.S. Hull Company, Inc.
 Iron Mountain
 TDS Logistics LLC
 Value Store It



Connecticut Year in Review

2024 was an incredible year for Best Buddies in Connecticut (BBCT), marked by tremendous growth, meaningful connections, and mission-driven impact. From expanding school chapters and launching new initiatives like the Transitions program, to hosting unforgettable events like the Friendship Ball, Friendship Walks, and Champion of the Year, the BBCT community came together in powerful ways to support inclusion. We're also proud to share that our fundraising efforts were a resounding success, with every dollar going directly toward supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Our team worked tirelessly to strengthen and grow our foundation partnerships, expand our presence in schools, and create more leadership opportunities for our incredible volunteers. We launched the Transitions program to support job readiness, while also investing in the professional development of our staff to ensure sustainable leadership.

Through a strategic focus on school engagement, we opened seven new school chapters and reached nearly 3,000 individuals with and without IDD. We fostered growth in our Citizens program, established clear benchmarks for programmatic success, and continued to host both virtual and in-person events that bring our community together month after month.

The year started with our Friendship Ball, where close to 400 guests danced all afternoon in support of our mission. As one new parent shared, "My wife and I never thought we would be buying a prom dress for our daughter! This has been a truly amazing time, not only for our daughter but for us as a family." In the Spring, we added our first Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Fairfield County. With this new Friendship Walk, plus our Walk held at the Yard Goats stadium in Hartford, over 1,200 walkers registered and close to \$120,000 was raised. It is a true testament to the volunteers that help move the mission forward. In October, people came out in their "Denim and Diamonds" to attend the Champion of the Year event. This year's Champions worked extremely hard to become the Champion of the Year. With the generous donors that contributed to the Champions, the silent and live auctions exceeded the fundraising goal. In total, 250 guests contributed to raise nearly \$120,000.

Best Buddies in Connecticut ended 2024 on a high note and are anticipating an even stronger 2025 with plans to open more schools, advance the mission, offer more transition workshops, and achieve the program's highest financial goal to date. We extend heartfelt gratitude to all our friends, families, sponsors, volunteers, and participants for their invaluable support throughout the year. Thank you for making 2024 a truly memorable year for Best Buddies in Connecticut.

We're excited to see this momentum continue into 2025! The expansion of school friendship programs and anticipation of even larger events show that BBCT is laying a strong foundation for even greater impact. The dedication of our community—from volunteers to donors—has been essential to this success, and it's clear that everyone is deeply committed to advancing our mission of inclusion and connection.



Lezlye Zupkus, State Director, Connecticut
Connecticut Office

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P 203.234.3996



Taylor and Addy, Friendship program Buddy Pair

Taylor & Addy

One-To-One Friendships

Ellington High School, Ellington, CT

Before joining Best Buddies, life felt different for both Taylor and Addy. For Taylor, things were often “quiet,” and she was deeply affected by how people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)—like her sister—were sometimes treated. “It hurt to see people disrespect each other,” she recalled. That changed when she joined Best Buddies. Being matched with Addy opened her heart even more. “I know she’ll always be there for me,” Taylor said. For Addy, who often felt overlooked by her peers, the program was a turning point. “Now I feel seen,” she shared.

Since being matched a year ago, Taylor and Addy have become inseparable. They love going to basketball games together, with Taylor proudly cheering for Addy as she performs with the cheer squad. “I know we’ll always cheer each other on,” Taylor said. Whether they’re crafting, listening to music, or just hanging out, their friendship is filled with joy and mutual support. “I always know I’ll have a close friend,” Taylor said, describing Addy as “sweet, caring, and always herself.” Addy added, “She makes me feel special, and we always have fun.”

Best Buddies has been transformative for both of them. For Taylor, it brought comfort and hope—knowing that people like her sister and Addy are valued and celebrated. “It’s taught me how special everyone is,” she said. For Addy, it created a sense of belonging. “Other people at school see and acknowledge me now,” she said.

At Ellington High, Taylor and Addy’s friendship has become an inspiring example of what true connection looks like. Their bond reminds everyone of the power of kindness, inclusion, and the importance of being seen and valued for exactly who you are.

“She makes me feel special, and we always have fun.” - **Addy**



One-To-One Friendships

Key Program Stats CT

Elementary Schools		Middle Schools		High Schools	
10	395	11	333	33	1608
Chapters	Participants	Chapters	Participants	Chapters	Participants
Colleges		Citizens	e-Buddies		
9	614	126	115		
Chapters	Participants	Participants	Participants		



“ Bobby and I have been matched for 4 years, and my college experience wouldn't be the same without him. He is my best friend, and I am so glad I got to meet him through Best Buddies. I love to see him every week and we bond over bowling and pizza. Bobby is so positive and always sees the good in others, just being around him makes me feel better. Everyone should have a friend like Bobby!” - **Brooklyn**

Brooklyn & Bobby, Friendship Program Buddy Pair
Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT



Jimmy, Best Buddies Ambassador

Jimmy

Leadership Development

Ambassador, Willimantic, CT

Before I joined Best Buddies, my life was good—I had a few friends and kept mostly to myself. But I was very shy and often unsure of myself. Best Buddies opened new doors for me, helping me build more meaningful connections and giving me the confidence to speak up and advocate for myself.

I've known Bill White, who works for Best Buddies, for several years, and we've become good friends. He encouraged me to join the Best Buddies Citizens program. At first, I was hesitant. But when Bill invited me to the Best Buddies Connecticut Friendship Ball in March 2024, everything changed. I fell in love with the program that night and joined right away.

Since then, I've become an active member of Best Buddies Citizens. I love attending the monthly in-person events and look forward to our virtual Game Nights on Zoom. In addition, I'm proud to serve as a Best Buddies Connecticut state ambassador. I participated in Ambassador Trainings in May and October 2024 and was part of the first group to attend the inaugural Best Buddies Transitions Trainings.

Best Buddies has had a huge impact on my life. As a Mission Partner alongside Desirae Lee, I helped raise over \$5,000 for Best Buddies Connecticut during the Champion of the Year Gala in October 2024. I've also participated in several tabling events, promoting BBCT, recruiting volunteers, and spreading awareness about our friendship programs.

As an ambassador, my goal is to promote inclusion and help people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities become strong self-advocates. I'm passionate about supporting the Best Buddies mission and empowering others with IDD to thrive.

“As a member of Best Buddies and an Ambassador, my goal is to promote inclusion and help people with and without IDD become great self-advocates.” - **Jimmy**



Leadership Development Key Program Stats CT

Ambassadors	Promoters	
38	10	450
Ambassadors	Chapters	Participants



EveryBuddy
Belongs

EveryBuddy
Belongs

EveryBuddy
Belongs

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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Development, Marketing & Technology



MAKE A FRIEND | DONATE | VOLUNTEER

BESTBUDDIES.ORG