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Dear Best Buddies family,

In the face of significant challenges worldwide throughout 2022, Best Buddies events and programmatic activities returned stronger than ever nationwide and globally. As the year concluded, we became even more certain of the critical and transformative role that Best Buddies programs play in fostering connections and building a more inclusive world for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Reflecting on the past year, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together through the power of one-to-one friendships, meaningful jobs, leadership training, and inclusive living opportunities. With your unwavering support, Best Buddies reached thousands of participants with IDD, equipping them with the resources to feel included, confident, and optimistic about the future.

As we contemplate the global reach of Best Buddies’ mission and the lives impacted, I extend my deep gratitude to each of you who has supported this organization, making our mission a reality. Thank you for contributing to a better world for individuals with IDD.

Your continued support will be vital as we strive to propel our mission forward, recognizing that there is still much work to be done. Together, we will rise to the occasion to change lives through the transformative power of inclusion.

In Friendship,

Anthony K. Shriver,
Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International
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 81%* 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 helps participants with IDD prepare for and secure supportive employment. This is a mutually beneficial venture for job candidates with IDD, businesses offering employment and society as a whole: not only do participants have the potential to garner substantial benefits and earn a cumulative income exceeding $900,000 over a 30-year period, but these individuals can also contribute up to $153,000 in tax revenue and diminish the need for nearly $895,000 in federal SSI and Medicaid benefits during the same span.

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.
Carey Larkin is a passionate advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), like her son, Asher. She became involved in Best Buddies after attending a Best Buddies event in California and returned to Tulsa, Oklahoma, determined to bring Best Buddies to her home state.

And she did just that.

In 2022, Asher was named the national Best Buddies Champion of the Year, raising over $123,000 through his campaign with his mission partner and stepsister, Alyssa Larkin.

“When I chose the name Asher, I did so because the name means ‘happy and blessed,’” Carey said. “It brings me so much joy to say that it perfectly describes Asher in who he is. In all my worries with his diagnosis, I have learned that Asher is the most well-adjusted, independent person. He can do anything he sets his mind to. To see Asher thriving as an advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and knowing him the way that I do, I would not expect anything less.”

“The greatest gift people with IDD possess is their incredible ability to teach us a better way to see the world…Supporting Best Buddies is a rewarding experience, no matter your role with the organization.” - Carey Larkin

“Best Buddies is all about friendship and helping people; I want to be a part of that. Everyone deserves to feel included and have friends. Being a Champion is an awesome opportunity to spread the word about Best Buddies. The more people know about Best Buddies, the better our world will be!” – Asher Ward
2022 Highlights

Launches

• Best Buddies opened new state offices in Georgia and South Carolina. Georgia, which opened in September, serves the Atlanta and Savannah markets. The South Carolina office, which opened in October, hired two local staff members to directly serve Greenville.

• Best Buddies in North Carolina opened a Jobs program in Charlotte, and Best Buddies in California (BBCA) opened a Jobs program in San Diego.

• The Jobs program helped 300 participants secure employment with TJX companies, bringing the program to over 1,000 total placements nationwide.

• Internationally, new offices were opened in Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador and Portugal, and the Jobs Program expanded into Costa Rica, Ecuador and Serbia.

• The Best Buddies Elementary Schools program launched, utilizing teaching tools to help young students form accepting and inclusive mindsets.

• Best Buddies launched the Transitions program to help students ages 14-21 identify career ambitions, develop employment and leadership skills, explore post-secondary education options and prepare for independent living.

• Best Buddies Living expanded, opening a location at the University of Miami in Coral Gables to join the pre-existing locations at Georgetown University and Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Partnerships

• Best Buddies Jobs, in partnership with Accenture, created the Train the Trainer campaign, a comprehensive training program for Accenture’s staff to become supportive colleagues and managers to people with IDD. On June 27, Best Buddies Jobs hosted the first Train the Trainer event, an in-depth and interactive learning experience for 13 new members of Best Buddies in Chicago.

• Best Buddies Jobs additionally launched a national partnership with Shutterfly and its affiliated brands: Snapfish, Spoonflower, and Lifetouch. Throughout the year, the Shutterfly team attended a virtual event to learn about the organization, participated in Best Buddies’ programs, volunteered as event photographers and created a photography journal for Best Buddies program participants.
Milestones

1987 - 1996

- In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches BEST BUDDIES® 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 BEST BUDDIES® 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 BEST BUDDIES® Jobs, a supported employment program targeting high-paying, corporate jobs for people with IDD.
- In 1995, Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® High Schools to pair special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- In 1996, Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® Middle Schools to pair students with IDD in one-to-one friendships with middle school volunteers.

1999 - 2008

- 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.

2009 - 2019

- 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 BEST BUDDIES® Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.
- In 2012, Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® 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, BEST BUDDIES® 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 BEST BUDDIES® Ventures, with the first launch being BEST BUDDIES® 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 2022, Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® 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 BEST BUDDIES® Elementary Schools to teach inclusion to a younger age group to create a lasting effect on societal norms for the next generation.
Best Buddies has been an integral part of my life for many years. I have done it since high school and it has given me friends and many opportunities to grow that I wouldn’t have gotten anywhere else. Catherine and I have actually been friends since the 5th grade but Best Buddies gave us something that we could still do together when our schedules started to change in high school. Catherine is my best friend and I hope we stay friends forever. My life is better with her in it.” - Allison

Best Buddies participants; Alex, Sean, Amber, Allison, Catherine and, Carol
Our Impact

3,387
Chapters

120,408*
Participants

1,204,080
Impacted

50
States

49
Countries

One-To-One Friendship

14
Elementary School Chapters

1,535
High School Chapters

600
Middle School Chapters

528
College Chapters

180
Elementary Schools

11,896
Middle Schools

56,855
High Schools

4,102
e-Buddies

9,415
Citizens

23,806
Colleges

Integrated Employment

1,866
Participants Employed

37,675
Weekly Hrs. Worked

1,846,052
Yearly Hrs. Worked

$5,541,849
Yearly Taxes Paid

$5,541,849
Yearly Wages Earned

Leadership Development

352
Elementary School Promoters Chapters

85
Middle School Promoters Chapters

26
High School Promoters Chapters

12
College Promoters Chapters

6,044
Ambassadors

618
Middle School Promoters

68
College Promoters

4,708
High School Promoters

Average Total Participant Stats

Program Participants

Inclusive Living

4
Chapters

All program stats are as of 12/31/2021, and reflect the most recent Best Buddies program year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

*Total number of participants does not include residents in Living location(s) and participants in the new pre-ETS curriculum, not listed.

Santiago, Best Buddies Ambassador and Jobs participant
Best Buddies Colombia
We are BEST BUDDIES®

Best Buddies International is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

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 and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Vision

To put Best Buddies out of business. Best Buddies envisions a world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces and communities that its current efforts and services will be unnecessary. Until that vision becomes a reality, the organization will continue to educate middle school, high school and college students, community members, corporations and employers about the emotional, functional, and natural needs and abilities of people with IDD.

Who We Serve

The IDD community that Best Buddies serves includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, fragile X syndrome, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

Programs

Best Buddies programs sit on the four key mission pillars below: One-to-One Friendships, Integrated Employment, Leadership Development and Inclusive Living.
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.

**BEST BUDDIES**, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, and 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 develop one-to-one friendships online and create connections using the power of technology.

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

**BEST BUDDIES**, 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.

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

**BEST BUDDIES**, Jobs
Matches skilled, qualified individuals with IDD with businesses seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees. Through the Jobs program, Best Buddies develops partnerships with employers, assists with the hiring process and provides ongoing support to the employee and employer.

An estimated 81% of adults (18+) with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community. The Best Buddies Jobs program strives to place participants with IDD in supported employment, with the potential to receive benefits and earn a total income upwards of $900K over 30 years. In turn, these individuals will contribute $153K in taxes back into the economy, rather than receive nearly $895K in Federal SSI and Medicaid benefits during that time period.

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

**BEST BUDDIES**, 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.

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

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.

**BEST BUDDIES**, Living
Provides 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.
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.

**BEST BUDDIES, Elementary, Middle, 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.

**BEST BUDDIES, 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.

In 2022, e-buddies served 4,102 total participants. These participants exchanged more than 50,000 emails. e-Buddies was also used as a teaching tool in the classroom by more than 100 special education teachers and other professionals across the country.
Ryan was introduced to Best Buddies as a freshman in high school. Throughout high school, he developed a deep appreciation for the Best Buddies mission and what it can do for individuals with and without IDD.

"I could not have known how much I would learn from students with IDD," Ryan said. "They have made me more outgoing, and I now not only look after myself but after the new friendships I have made as well."

One of the most meaningful catalysts in Ryan’s transformation was his buddy, Timothy. Two years ago, Ryan was matched in a one-to-one friendship with Timothy. They instantly hit it off and became significant parts of each other’s lives.

"I love hanging out with my buddy, Ryan," said Timothy. "We go bowling and play basketball together...he is just an all-around awesome guy."

"I love Timothy’s energy," Ryan said. "He is the kindest soul I’ve ever met and shows love towards everyone he meets."

Their genuine connection has not gone unnoticed.

"In all my years of doing this, I have never seen a friendship like Ryan and Timothy’s," their chapter advisor said. "Ryan will come to my room every day to hang out with Timothy for lunch, and he consistently makes an effort in their friendship."

Ryan and Timothy’s meaningful friendship has inspired a culture of inclusion at their school. Ryan is now the chapter president and has had an active role in growing their presence on campus. Ryan and Timothy demonstrate that so much can be learned from individuals of all abilities when we have integrated classrooms, peer groups, and communities.

“In all my years of doing this, I have never seen a friendship like Ryan and Timothy’s.” - Chapter Advisor
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 receptionist, mail room assistant, file clerk, office assistant, front desk assistant, and retail associate. Employers range from some of the top law firms and talent agencies to well-known retail businesses and luxury hotels.

There is 34 cities in 18 states with active Best Buddies Jobs program as of December 31, 2022.
The office is a very comfortable environment. Plus, it is dog-friendly, and I love dogs.” - Elaina

Elaina had long been searching for meaningful and inclusive employment in a role that would allow her to use her friendly personality and organizational skills. She landed an interview with kubik, an event management agency.

Upon entering the interview, it became immediately apparent that this would be an excellent place for her to work: kubik was passionate about Best Buddies’ mission and was excited to hire inclusively.

Elaina aced the interview and was hired as a receptionist in May 2022. She began working part-time and instantly identified her first goal: full-time employment.

Within a month, Elaina achieved that goal.

Elaina’s new full-time salary is over $66,000 per year, and she has also earned vacation and retirement benefits.

Elaina’s coworkers have been wowed by her work ethic and seamless fit into the company culture. Elaina welcomes everyone into the office, assists with paperwork for many staff, orders office supplies, monitors shipping, and creates and files documents.

Elaina now has a new goal: to transform this opportunity from a job into a career.

“The office is a very comfortable environment,” Elaina said, “Plus, the office is dog-friendly, and I love dogs.”

Elaina continually seeks to improve her skills, a goal that kubik is helping her achieve by slowly expanding her responsibilities.

The culture that kubik has created for individuals with IDD, in no small part due to Elaina’s success, has created the exact workplace culture that the Jobs program is built to develop. This change in workplace culture, spearheaded by employing Elaina, has brought about kubik’s desire to employ more individuals with an IDD.
Key Jobs Program Stats

- **Total Participants**: 2,853
- **U.S Participants**: 1,507
- **International Participants**: 1,346
- **U.S Retention Rate**: 90%
- **Average Hours Worked Yearly**: 1,054.36
- **Average Hours Worked Weekly**: 20.28
- **States with active Jobs Programs**: 18
- **Paid Vacation/Sick Days**: 26.98%
- **401K Plan**: 7.77%
- **Medical & Dental**: 15.21%
- **Retirement Plan**: 31.39%
- **Total Participants**: 2,853
- **Employed**: 1,866
- **International Participants**: 1,346
- **U.S Participants**: 1,507
- **U.S Retention Rate**: 90%
- **Average Hours Worked Yearly**: 1,054.36
- **Average Hours Worked Weekly**: 20.28
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- **401K Plan**: 7.77%
- **Medical & Dental**: 15.21%
- **Retirement Plan**: 31.39%
- **Top 5 Jobs Participants Highest Salaries With Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/State</th>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elaina C. Maryland</td>
<td>$66,560</td>
<td>Vacation Pay, Retirement Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica S. California</td>
<td>$62,400</td>
<td>Dental Care, Medical Care, Retirement Plans, Sick Leave, Sick Pay, Vacation Pay, Vision Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel M. California</td>
<td>$62,400</td>
<td>Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Fitness Center, Dental Care, Sick Leave, Sick Pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony S. California</td>
<td>$61,588</td>
<td>Wellness Programs, Company Discount, Free or Reduced Meals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Top 5 Jobs Participants** Highest Hourly Rates

- **Chantom P.**
  Central Park Conservancy, New York, NY
  **$35.44** Hourly Wage

- **Elaina C. Kubik**, Maryland, MD
  **$32.00** Hourly Wage

- **John H.**
  Civic Edge Consulting, San Francisco, CA
  **$33.22** Hourly Wage

- **Nathaniel M.**
  Sunstone Partners Management, LLC, San Francisco, CA
  **$30.00** Hourly Wage

- **Jessica S.**
  Employment Development Department, Sacramento, CA
  **$30.00** Hourly Wage

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**Best Buddies Jobs** Around The World

11 Countries*
92 Cities*

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*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 12/31/2022
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.

**BEST BUDDIES, 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.

**BEST BUDDIES, 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.
“Hello everyone! My name is Hunter Huff, and I’ve been a proud member of Best Buddies for nine years. My life before joining this organization was very challenging. It was hard for me to make friends. I had issues socially connecting, and I only interacted with people at lunch, school events, birthday parties, and other social gatherings. One big reason I didn’t have a lot of friends is that not everyone understood who I was and that I was just a normal human being who just happened to be on the Autism spectrum.

During my sophomore year in high school, I attended a match party for Best Buddies, and I met my best buddy, Stefany. I also got to meet so many new people in that chapter as well. That same year, I danced all night at my first-ever Friendship Ball and enjoyed participating in the Friendship Walk. My buddy and I were able to develop a true friendship.

Since joining this organization, my life has changed immensely. I attend the Champion of the Year Gala, activities in the Citizens program, and volunteer for Best Buddies events such as the Best Buddies Friendship Ball. I also serve on the Best Buddies Friendship Walk Committee, speak at events and other presentations, and today, I am an official Best Buddies Global Ambassador. I enjoy helping others learn about our incredible mission and working to ensure that people like me are included in the community. It has opened so many doors for me and allowed me to have a social life.

Best Buddies creates opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live out their dreams and goals. Most of all, it changes attitudes by making sure people see me for my abilities and understand the importance of inclusion.

No doubt, Best Buddies has made an impact on my life. It has empowered me to be a better friend and has encouraged me to inspire others like me to be part of this global movement. Never be afraid to make a name for yourself, to stand up for what is right, to be a light, to use your voice, achieve your goals through hard work and positivity, and most importantly, know that you are loved, valued, and accepted.

Thank you for supporting Best Buddies. You have made an impact on my life! I can’t wait to see how many other people will be able to experience the power of friendship because of your efforts today. My name is Hunter Huff, and on behalf of our entire Best Buddies family, THANK YOU. Go Best Buddies!”

- Hunter, Best Buddies Ambassador
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.

As of December 31, 2022, Best Buddies operated four Living residences; two in Washington, D.C. (Georgetown and Union Market), one in Miami, FL and one in Los Angeles, CA.
Anne Catherine, also known as AC by her friends, joined the Best Buddies Living program in Georgetown in September 2022—a decision that would shape her future in ways she never imagined.

AC’s story serves as a testament to the profound impact of our Best Buddies Living program and showcases the power of friendship, independence, and a supportive community.

“Being a resident at Best Buddies Living: Georgetown has been an incredible experience. One of my favorite parts is having the opportunity to learn and practice independent living skills. I’ve learned how to clean my apartment, do my laundry, and handle everyday tasks with confidence. These skills may seem small to some, but they have given me the independence I’ve always wanted. With every step, I feel a sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing that I am capable of taking care of myself.

Best Buddies Living is more than just a place to live. It’s a community filled with wonderful people who have become my family. I enjoy attending group events and dinners, where I get to meet and connect with others who understand me on a deeper level. We love activities like watching The Bachelor, working out together, and having movie nights. These experiences have created bonds that will last forever. The support and friendships I’ve found within this community have brought me lots of joy and happiness.

In addition to personal growth and connections, Best Buddies has also helped me in my professional journey. I work as an office specialist at Holland & Knight law firm, and it has been an incredible experience. It gives me a sense of purpose and an opportunity to make a difference in my own unique way.

Every day, I wake up knowing that I have a community of friends who support me, celebrate my successes, and stand by me during challenging times. Best Buddies has become a second family—a place where I am accepted, understood, and loved for who I am.

Being a part of Best Buddies Living has taught me that it is possible to live on your own and discover a whole new world of possibilities. You will find a sense of belonging in a community that celebrates you.”

- AnnCatherine, Best Buddies Living resident
International Programs

2022 was a year of remarkable growth and achievements for Best Buddies’ International Programs (IP).

Key Updates

• Streamlined country accreditation and enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization’s global programs

• Hosted an in-person staff forum in Santiago, Chile, that promoted worldwide engagement and collaboration.

• Hired a new program manager to introduce new perspectives and to help further our initiatives.

• Translated all leadership conference materials into Spanish.

• Expanded Best Buddies’ programs into the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Portugal, and we also expanded the Best Buddies Jobs program into Costa Rica, Ecuador and Serbia.

Looking ahead to 2023, IP aims to establish new regional government, corporate and foundation partnerships, strengthen current programs in operation, and successfully launch Best Buddies in Abu Dhabi, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall.
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, volunteering, and pursuing sponsorship opportunities.
Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port

June 3-4, 2022 | Boston to Hyannis Port

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Core Hydration and Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation returned to Massachusetts for its 23rd year. The Challenge weekend kicked off Friday, June 3 with a dinner reception at John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum & Library. On Saturday, June 4, 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 concluded with a New England-style clambake and live musical entertainment by the Manhattan Band.

Best Buddies Challenge: California

October 15, 2022 | Marin County, CA

The Best Buddies Challenge: California presented by Core Hydration & Safeway Foundation returned for its 19th year at a new host location: the picturesque Summit Skywalker Ranch.

Hundreds of cyclists, advocates, and celebrity supporters alike attended the event and took to the start line to ride 70 miles down the majestic coastal vistas and beautiful countryside in Marin County, California. Safeway Northern California Division President Karl Schroeder presented a $560,000 check presentation to Best Buddies International during the opening ceremonies, hosted by Best Buddies celebrity supporter Jason Lewis. Event participants enjoyed a VIP reception and dinner on Friday, followed by a luncheon on Saturday, to celebrate their efforts in advocating for inclusion.
Best Buddies Challenge: Miami

November 18, 2022 | Miami, FL

Four-time *Tour de France* winner Chris Froome joined professional cyclists Magnus Sheffield and Cam Wurf for the Best Buddies Challenge: Miami Chaired by Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund and presented by Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation, Core Hydration and Mack Cycle & Fitness in South Beach. The world-class 80-mile cycling event took over closed roads with a motorcycle police-escorted peloton. The Challenge was followed by the Best Buddies Miami Gala that evening.

Best Buddies Miami Gala

November 18, 2022 | Miami, FL

The 24th Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala celebrated Best Buddies’ programs in Qatar and honored Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford with the 2022 Spirit of Friendship Award, Best Buddies’ highest accolade presented to distinguished luminaries who have shown great leadership, generosity and spirit in supporting the organization’s mission. The event also featured a fabulous cocktail hour, a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, and a live performance by DJ Khaled.
Best Buddies Breakaway Camps

*Best Buddies Breakaway Camps* provided athletes with an elite-level, pro experience that aimed to offer participants a holistic approach to training. Special attention was given to riding more efficiently, proper rider nutrition, post-training recovery, and leaving with the foundations for a sustainable healthy lifestyle. The camps used Tour de France wisdom to craft a healthy training program applicable to the mature or the amateur athlete.

**Malibu, CA**

**March 30 – April 3, 2022**

*Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu Presented by Core Hydration* offered cyclists a world-class, five-day riding experience through the scenic canyon roads and rock-studded hillsides of the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Base camped at the world-renowned Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, cyclists ended each ride focused on recovery with daily massages and gourmet meals handcrafted by sports nutrition experts.

**December 7 – December 11, 2022**

The second *Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu Presented by Core Hydration* offered cyclists another opportunity to once again take to the familiar but beautiful training roads just north of Los Angeles.

**Asheville, NC**

**September 21 – September 25, 2022**

*Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Asheville Presented by Core Hydration* offered riders a once-in-a-lifetime cycling experience, taking the cyclists to the top of Mount Mitchell, the highest point in the US east of the Mississippi River, and all throughout the iconic Blue Ridge Mountains.

**Sonoma, CA**

**May 25 – May 29, 2022**

*Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Sonoma Presented by Core Hydration* was based out of the Farmhouse Inn in Forestville, CA, and brought participants through the wine country and redwoods of Sonoma County.
Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers

May 7, 2022 | Malibu, CA

The 5th Annual Best Buddies’ Celebrating Mothers honored the gifts of love and friendship that mothers give to their children, especially the amazing mothers of our Best Buddies participants. The celebration also featured sumptuous cocktails, food, live performances, a special award ceremony honoring the Mother of the Year, Madeline Borkin and fun activities for the entire family. Rima Fakih, Former Miss USA/ Best Buddies Talent Relations Board Member & Volunteer since 2010, presented a special award to an outstanding Best Buddies Ambassador, dancer and actor Joshua Felder.

Best Buddies Balls & Proms

Best Buddies Balls/Proms are an exciting way for Best Buddies’ state offices and chapters to celebrate friendship. Best Buddies participants are the stars of the show, and local program leaders help create a night that attendees will never forget.
Best Buddies Friendship Walk

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk continued to grow and expand, raising awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Best Buddies Friendship Walks are fundamental in supporting local Best Buddies programs dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with IDD.

In 2022, over 32,000 participants in more than 61 cities walked to move Best Buddies’ mission forward. Collectively, over $5 million was raised as participants, sponsors, volunteers, and public figures joined the movement that celebrates friendship, inclusion, and unity. Over the years, Best Buddies Friendship Walks have profoundly impacted communities nationwide, providing a platform for participants to showcase the Best Buddies mission. Each walk provides an atmosphere for new friendships, promising opportunities, and, most of all, inclusion for all people.

Best Buddies Champion of the Year

Best Buddies Champion of the Year is a competitive fundraising campaign that unites and recognizes leaders of inclusion in local communities across the country. Champion candidates commit to raising funds and awareness for their local Best Buddies programs. At the end of the campaign, a Champion of the Year celebration takes place to honor the nominees and name the ultimate Champion of the Year: the person who raised the most funds in the designated region.

Champion of the Year continues to see rapid growth and 2022 was a record-breaking year. In total, 48 events were held nationwide, over 365 Champion candidates were recruited, and $7.7 million was raised for Best Buddies, surpassing the fundraising goal by $1.2 million. The 2022 national Champion of the Year, Asher Ward, raised over $123,000 for Best Buddies in Oklahoma. Asher is the first national Champion of the Year with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Champion of the Year events not only raise critical funds for Best Buddies but also create opportunities for community leaders to become advocates for the mission of inclusion.
Best Buddies Leadership Conference

The 2022 Best Buddies Leadership Conference (BBLC) was hosted locally by each Best Buddies state office as an in-person experience this summer and brought together leaders in their communities to learn about the Best Buddies movement. For the first time since 2019, student leaders, volunteers and staff were reunited in-person to participate in leadership development training and create connections with their peers. Conference events were hosted throughout July and included 46 unique training experiences, including two virtual global forums, with over 2,250 Best Buddies leaders participating.

Attendees participated in a robust educational experience that included keynote presentations, interactive sessions, and peer-to-peer connections. Several Best Buddies offices provided team building activities as part of BBLC. Best Buddies in Wisconsin hosted a scavenger hunt at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Best Buddies in Florida held an overnight experience in Fort Lauderdale at the Museum of Discovery and Science, and Best Buddies in Maryland created a camp-themed event at a local outdoor center. The incredible connections made at BBLC highlighted the commitment of Best Buddies leaders around the world during a critical time in the organization’s history as it reemerged from pandemic programming.

The BBLC I See You Awards Celebration was hosted on Facebook on July 13 to celebrate the outstanding leaders, chapters and volunteers who make Best Buddies a global movement. During the virtual awards ceremony, the following schools and individuals were recognized:

**2021-2022 Outstanding Chapters of the Year:**
- Elementary School Chapter of the Year: Bixby West Elementary School, Oklahoma
- Middle School Chapter of the Year: Kahler Middle School, Indiana
- High School Chapter of the Year: Lehigh Senior High School, Florida
- College Chapter of the Year: University of South Carolina-Beaufort, South Carolina

**Jobs Employee of the Year:** Zach Smith, NFL Network

**Outstanding International Country:** Best Buddies in Mexico

**Spirit of Courage:** Margo Meley, Connecticut

Best Buddies looks forward to the return to the Indiana University campus and an in-person conference experience in 2023!
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 2022, 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.
## Financials

### Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.22)

#### Domestic Revenue

- **36%** $12,273,176 Special Events
- **34%** $11,410,711 Government
- **18%** $6,004,362 Foundations & Corps.
- **8%** $2,712,414 Individual
- **4%** $1,414,185 Other**

Total Domestic Revenue: **$33,814,848**

#### Domestic Expenses

- **81%** $25,931,940 Programs
- **13%** $4,317,486 Administration
- **6%** $1,859,413 Fundraising

Total Domestic Expenses: **$32,108,839**

#### Domestic Net Asset Summary

- **Net Assets (beginning of year)**: $33,193,893
- **Change in Net Assets**: $1,706,009
- **Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments**: (2,509,312)
- **Total Domestic Net Assets (end of year)**: $32,390,590

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* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2022 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 12.31.22)

#### Assets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Property and Equipment</strong></td>
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<td>Computers</td>
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<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
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<td>Auto</td>
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<td>Land</td>
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<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Cost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Less Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Net</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Right-of-Use Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Financing lease right-of-use, net of amortization</td>
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<td>Operating lease right-of-use, net of amortization</td>
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<td><strong>Total Right-of-Use Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Long-term contributions receivable, net</td>
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<td>Security deposits</td>
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<td>Investments - Rosetta Bakery x Best Buddies</td>
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<td>Investments - deferred compensation plan</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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#### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Compensated absences payable</td>
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<td>Current portion of operating liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred compensation plan liability</td>
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<td>Long-term portion of operating liabilities</td>
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<td><strong>Total Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<table>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **$37,490,914**
Board of Directors
Executive Team

- Jeremiah Angel
  Vice President, Web Operations

- John M. Carlin
  Senior Director, Major Gifts & Planned Giving

- Michael Collins
  Vice President, Best Buddies Challenges

- Lisa Derx
  Vice President, Government Relations

- Alexander Hernandez-Dessauer
  VP, International Programs & Special Projects

- Mark Lewis
  Senior Vice President, Development, Marketing & Technology

- Nicole Maddox
  Vice President, Communications

- Stephanie Moore
  Vice President, State Operations & Mission Advancement

- Lori Penaloza
  Senior Vice President, Finance & Operations

- David Quilleon
  Senior Vice President, Global Mission, State Development & Operations

- 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

- Mark J. Wylie
  Vice President, Talent Relations

- Jeremiah Angel
  Vice President, Web Operations

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  Vice President, Human Resources & Operations

- Scott Tracy
  Vice President, Challenges, National Events & Special Projects

- 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
Our Supporters

CORPORATIONS

$500,000 and Above
CORE Hydration
Safeway Foundation

$250,000 to $499,000
Andrew P. Barowsky Foundation
Ansion Foundation/Channel 7 Foundation & WSVN/WHDH MOD Pizza
Pratt Holdings, Inc.
Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc.
Shaw’s & Star Market Foundation
The TJX Companies, Inc.
Wedu, Inc.

$100,000 to $249,999
Accenture
Hearst Corporation/Steve & Barbara Hearst
John Drew/Crossover Ventures
Klingman & Associates
Live Nation Worldwide, Inc.
Sterling Foundation Management/ Jim Lintott & May Liang
PLAN - Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of MA & RI
Silicon Valley Bank
Sun Capital Partners Foundation/ Marc Leder
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
The GEO Group Foundation, Inc./ George & Donna Zoley
The Kenneth C. Griffin Charitable Fund
Wells Fargo & Company

$50,000 to $99,999
Absolute HCBS LLC
Anthem, Inc.
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
Bank of America
Citizens Bank Corporate Giving Program
E. & J. Gallo Winery
Janssen
KFORCE
Mee lain Enterprises A.V.V.
MoneyGram Foundation
Sephora USA, Inc.
SGII Inc
Wealth Management & Trust Wilmington Trust

$25,000 to $49,999
Abbvie
Admiral Transfer & Rigging
AETNA INC.
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America
Bank of Hawaii
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Braman Motors
Brauer Material Handling
Crescent Capital Group
Dart Group Foundation Inc
Eaton Vance Management/Morgan Stanley/Parametric
Enterprise Holdings
Fifth Generation Inc.
Holland & Knight LLP
Insight Global
Kelly Services
Lawrence A. Moens Associates, Inc.
Mack Cycle & Fitness
MALS PALS
Mark Edward Partners LLC
Match Group
Mercedes-Benz
Merck - HQ
Midland National Life Insurance Company
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, LP
Mosaic Global Sales LLC
National Philanthropic Trust
Pantheon Venture
Pfizer, Inc
PWG Charitable Foundation
Race Roster
Raymond James Financial, Inc.
Rubin Family Foundation
Sevilla
Seyfarth
Sony Music Entertainment
Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits
State Street Corporation, State Street Global Markets, LLC
Stanford Health Care
TD Bank
Teddie Peanut Butter
Texas Mutual
The Ferraro Law Firm
The GivenGain Foundation
The Leavitt Corporation
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
The Tom Sullivan Foundation
UNUM Group
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Vanguard Charitable
Volvo Car USA
Walmart Inc./Foundation
Walt Disney World Resort
Waymo LLC
Webcor

$10,000 to $24,999
ABC Promotions Unlimited Inc.
Altria Group Inc.
American Equity Investment Life Ins. Co.
Ansys, Inc.
Arc Stores
Arizona Coyotes Foundation
Atlantic Management Corporation
BankUnited, N.A.
BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.
Bloomberg L.P.
BNY Mellon
Buffalo Sabres Foundation
Canon
Channel RE LLC
Chesire Half Marathon
Climatec, LLC
Compass Group - National Headquarters
Cooper’s Steel Fabricators, Inc.
CSAA Insurance Services, Inc.
Diversant ACS Solutions
DLA Piper LLP
DNICORP
Dome Construction
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
Eastern Bank Foundation
Genovese Jolove & Battista PA
GTE Financial & Foundation
Hand2Mind
Hardwick Tactical Corporation
Health Care Service Corporation
ImpactWayv, Inc.
JOH Kids 360
Jones Lang LaSalle America Inc.
Kendra Scott LLC
Kokua Na Lani
KOVAR
Kramer Casey Enterprises
Royal Media Partners
Lipscomb University
Loan Pronto, Inc
MAG Aerospace
McCormick & Co., Inc.
Meaningful Beauty, LLC
Midstate Auto Group Inc
Moore Communications Group, Inc.
Movement Mortgage Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Northeast Florida Association of Realtors Inc.
Ocean Automotive Group
Old National Bank Foundation
Ole Smoky Distillery, LLC
Oracle Corp
Participant Media, LLC
PESCO Corporate Relations
Pentair Management Company
Phantom Administrative, LLC
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation
Prairie Meadows
Promoter Line Incorporated Festival & Concert Division
Qintel
RBC Capital Markets, LLC
Rock-It Cargo U.S.A., LLC
Royal Yacht SARL
Sandy Spring Bank
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.
Speedway Children’s Charities
Spotify - US Headquarters
SPT Inc.
Sullivan Investment Corporation
Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation
Swire Properties Inc., Miami
Tavistock Development Management, LLC
Team Construction, LLC
The Advance Financial Foundation
The Bellamy Companies LLC

Anthony K. Shriver with ambassadors and actor Jason Lewis (far right), receiving a check donation from Karl Schroeder, Safeway Northern California Division President, at the 2022 Best Buddies Challenge. California, presented by Core Hydration & Safeway Foundation.
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<th>FOUNDATIONS</th>
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<td>Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust</td>
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Nicor Gas  
Networking to Help Children Inc  
McInerny Foundation  
Maui United Way, Inc.  
Foundation  
Major League Baseball Players Trust  
Kelley Foundation  
Junior League of Indianapolis  
International Paper  
Foundation  
Greater Washington Community Foundation Depository, Inc.  
Speedway Children’s Charities  
Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation  
TD Charitable Foundation  
Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc.  
Texas Women’s Foundation  
The Dresher Foundation Inc.  
The Eamon Foundation  
The Feigenbaum Foundation  
The G.R. Lincoln Family Foundation  
The George C. Marshall Foundation  
The Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation  
The Laffey McHugh Foundation  
The Sorenson Legacy Foundation  
The Thomas W. Bradley/Foundations Inc.  
The Wawa Foundation Inc.  
Valley Kids Foundation  
Vanguard Charitable  
Wells Fargo Foundation

**$5,000 to $9,999**
Commonwealth Edison Company  
Cralle Foundation Inc  
Crosster Family Foundation  
Field Family Foundation  
Freeman E. Fairfield Foundation  
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation  
GN Wilcox Trust  
Greater Washington Community Foundation  
International Paper  
Junior League of Indianapolis  
Kelley Foundation  
Major League Baseball Players Trust  
Matthew A. and Mildred Hunter Foundation  
Maui United Way, Inc.  
McNerney Foundation  
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation  
Networking to Help Children Inc  
Noric Gas  
Nusenda Foundation  
Philips Charitable Foundation Inc  
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
PNM Resources Foundation  
Richard R. & Karen Bertrand Charitable Fund  
Roes Family Foundation  
Rotary Club of Deerwood Charities, Inc.  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Shutterly  
Stackner Family Foundation Inc  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
Target Foundation  
Tesorri Family Foundation Inc  
The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation  
The Bloedorn Foundation  
The Carolina Panthers Charities  
The Chorro Foundation  
The Fuller Foundation, Inc.  
The Gheens Foundation  
The Glenns Falls Foundation  
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation  
The James & Juli Boehme Foundation  
The John E. Fogarty Foundation  
The Katharine Matthes Foundation  
The Lindy Loo Foundation  
The National Football League Foundation  
The Silicon Valley Bank Foundation  
The William & Sheila Konar Foundation  
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation  
Valley Community Foundation  
Variety - The Children’s Charity

### GOVERNMENT

**$500,000 and Above**
California Department of Developmental Services  
Florida Department of Education  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission  
Texas Education Agency  
U.S. Department of Education

**$250,000 to $499,999**
Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
**$100,000 - $249,999**
Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools  
California Department of Rehabilitation  
Central Valley Regional Center  
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services  
Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Indiana Department of Education  
Maryland Department of Health  
Maryland State Department of Education  
Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services  
Miami-Dade County, Florida Office of Management and Budget  
New Jersey Department of Workforce Development  
New York Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services  
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

**$50,000 to $99,999**
Arizona Department of Economic Security  
Delaware Legislature  
Habor Regional Center  
Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services  
Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns  
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina  
Miami-Dade County, Florida Public Schools  
New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
New York Adult Career & Continuing Ed Services, VR  
Regional Center of Orange County  
Rhode Island Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner  
Social Security Administration  
State of Kentucky  
Texas Workforce Commission  
Utah Department of Human Concerns  
**Westside Regional Center $25,000 to $49,999**
Alta Vista Regional Center  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
Fairfax County, Virginia  
Iowa Department of Education  
Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Human Services  
Peoria Care and Treatment Board, Illinois  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
San Andreas Regional Center  
U.S. Department of State

**$10,000 to $24,999**
Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
Bernalillo County, New Mexico  
College of New Jersey  
Golden Gate Regional Center  
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities  
LaPorter Regional Center  
Maricopa County, Arizona  
Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Polk County, Iowa  
Shelby County, Tennessee  
St. Louis, Missouri, Office of Developmental Disabilities  
Resources  
Tempe, Arizona  
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

**$5,000 to $9,999**
BlueCare Tennessee  
Butler County, Ohio  
City of Gilbert, Arizona  
City of Peoria, Arizona Community Services Board  
Fairfax County, Virginia  
Fairfax County, Virginia  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Indiana Division of Developmental Disabilities Services  
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS**

**$250,000 and Above**
Team Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)  
Team Eaton Vance/MSIM/Parametric  
Team Guardino  
Team King James Buddies  
Team MACK Cycle  
Team Natixis

**$25,000 to $49,000**
Team Current Builders  
Team Kates & Barlow  
Team MAG  
Team Mals Pals  
Team Miami Country Day Upper School  
Team New York Life NH  
Team Real Fun Content  
Team ServiceNow  
Team Smart & Horford  
Team Snyk  
Team Sunshine  
Team Volvo  
Team Webcor

**$10,000 to $24,000**
Team $ GOAT $  
Team 603 Pride  
Team Academy of the Holy Names  
Team Ashlee Coffman Courage

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Cyclists on Team SVB at the 2022 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Core Hydration and Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation
PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

Agriculture
Devil Mountain Nursery
Empower Farms

Animal Services
Bark Public
Barking Bad
Camp Bow Wow

Construction
Consort

Doggie Daycare and More
Old Towne Pet Resort
Paw-some Dog
Pet Resort Dallas
Pet Supplies Plus
Petland Kendall
PetSmart
Pompano Pet Lodge
Urban Paws
Zionsville Country Vet Clinic

Arts & Culture
Aurora Hill Library
Bryant Park
Capital One Hall
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
Museum of Contemporary Art
Old Sturbridge Village
Pinspiration
Sacramento Childrens Museum
Shedd Aquarium
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis

Automotive
Advance Auto
Advance Auto Parts
ATCS PLC
Evanston Subaru
Findlay Toyota
Koons Tysons Toyota
Lightbourn Equipment Company
Lithia Subaru of Fresno
Miami Lakes AutoMall
Ocean Mazda
South Bay MINI / BMW

Communications
ActiveCampaign
Atema Partners
Civic Edge Consulting
Conill Advertising
Dupree Miller & Associates
Gannett Company, Inc
Kel & Partners
Kornit Digital
kubik
Participant Media
Team One
Williams Lea
WSVN News

Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson
Mas Tec
Whiting Turner

Education
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
Alcott Elementary School
Alexandria City High School
Alpine Elementary
Ben Davis University High School
Big and Tiny
Bishop Moore Catholic High School
Boston University
Bright Horizons Newton
Catholic University
City of South San Francisco-
Siebecker Center
Clark County School District
Coleen Hoose Elementary
Curley Academy
Dana Middle School
Dean College
Dunlap High School Unit 323
Geneseo Community Services
Good Hope Tutoring Services
Gordan Jewish Community Center
Harvard University Health Services
Holy Spirit School
ISP Management at Northeastern University
Ivy Prep Early Learning Academy
JRE Lee Educational Center -
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Kerman Unified School District
KinderCare
Miami Dade County Public Schools
Montessori School in Holmes Run
Montgomery County Public School-
New York Public Library - 5th Ave
Port View Preparatory
Promise Child Development Center
Richardson ISD
Robert Morgan Educational Center
Scottsdale Unified School District
Shorelight Education
Sodexo @ Anna Maria College &
Assumption University
Springstone Montessori
The Learning Experience
The Work Family Connection
UCLA Career Center
UCLA Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
UMASS Lowell
Virtuous Inc.
Wachusett Regional School District
Waxahachie Family YMCA
Worcester Child Development Head
Worcester Public Schools

Employer
Department of Rehabilitation Menlo
Park
Disneyland Resort
H-E-B
Kroger Oakland/Northern
Lionsgate
Michael Page
Office Depot-820
Restoration Pizza

Facilities Management
ABM Facilities
Accenture Dallas
Ally Universal Security
Anderson Security
ARCA
CBRE Microsoft
Cushman and Wakefield
District Private Security
ESFM @ Google X
Ibis Golf and Country Club
JLL
Lutheran Rehabilitation and Skilled
Care Center
North East Security
PHD Services
SMB
Service Systems Associates-Zoo
Miami
Sodexo @ Merck
The Bay Club

Finance & Insurance
Amwins
Amwins CC3
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon
Boston Private
Crescent Capital
Eaton Vance
Finacess Advisors, LLC.
H.I.G. Capital, L.L.C.
IMC Financial Markets
Imperial Capital

Fitness
Blink Fitness
Club Sport Fit
Franklin Family YMCA
Northwest YMCA
YMCA

Food & Beverage
99 Restaurant
Amazon
Amazon Fresh
AMC Dine In Theater
Anise
Apple Bees
ASM - Aquarium of the Pacific
Baha Mar’s
Bertucci’s Italian Restaurant
Best Buddies X Rosetta Bakery
Bickford Senior Living Home
Big Bowl
Bishop Moore Catholic High School
BJ’s Restaurant & Brewhouse
BJ’s Wholesale
Blaze Pizza Disney Springs
Bon Appétit at Google
Bosque Brewing Company
Cafe Blu
Capital One Restaurant Associates
Carrabba’s Italian Grill
CAVA
Centerville Pies - Sandwich
Chartwell’s
Cheesecake Factory
Chick-fil-A
Chili’s
Clean Juice
Compass Group
Best Buddies in Illinois (BBIL) continues to promote social and economic inclusion for people with and without IDD. We are proud to be a leader among Best Buddies offices worldwide and to support communities that foster inclusion. Everyone deserves the social engagement and mental well-being that are found through friendships, leadership development, inclusive employment, and inclusive living made possible by Best Buddies.

The BBIL Jobs program placed 21 people into integrated employment in 2022. Congratulations to HMS Host (Chicago) and Marriott (Bloomington) for employing some amazing Best Buddies Jobs participants and for being named the 2022 Best Buddies Employers of the Year for Illinois!

BBIL ended 2022 with 163 Friendship chapters, and we were proud to assemble leaders from these chapters this past summer at our first in-person Best Buddies Leadership Conference in July.

The Central Illinois and Chicago Best Buddies Friendship Walks were fully held in person, and everyone was excited to celebrate together! I want to congratulate Dana Wax, a Best Buddies participant and employee, for being our top Best Buddies Friendship Walk fundraiser in Illinois!

BBIL hosted the Chicago and Peoria Best Buddies Champion of the Year Galas in the fall. Twenty-two individuals committed to raising awareness and funds as Champions for Best Buddies. These individuals spent two months raising funds and awareness to support our mission. Congratulations to these extraordinary community leaders, especially Sophie Greene in Chicago and Marcus Jackson in Central Illinois, for being our 2022 Champions!

We are grateful for the support of our Best Buddies Friendship Walk participants, Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala candidates, sponsors, foundations, and other donors who have helped ensure that our participants continue to be included in all aspects of our community. We look forward to advancing our mission of friendship and inclusion even further in 2023.
Carson and Kody have been friends for years; their friendship began years ago when Carson’s football coach asked him to help students with disabilities during gym class, with Kody being one of those students.

The duo frequently socialized over summer break and officially became a buddy pair when Best Buddies opened at their school in January of 2022.

While they had long been friends, the 2022 Illinois Best Buddies Friendship Walk changed their dynamic for the better.

“Ever since the Best Buddies Friendship Walk, I have been really tight with Kody,” Carson said.

The pair loves to spend time together, whether they are just chatting or working out. Kody, like any good friend, makes sure that Carson stays out of trouble, even reminding him to behave as they went their separate ways after this interview.

“He always asks me how I’m doing,” Carson said. “Kody is a joy to be around.”

Carson returns the favor, which is one of Kody’s favorite things about him.

With Carson graduating high school soon, he says he and Kody will stay in touch and noted that they are already making movie and dinner plans. As the two sit on the stairs of their high school, it is evident that they have a special friendship.

“He always asks me how I’m doing, Kody is a joy to be around.” - Carson
Shalonda
Integrated Employment
The Paramount Group, Chicago, IL

Shalonda has been part of Illinois’s Best Buddies Jobs program since 2014. She hoped to secure employment and contribute back to her community. Almost ten years later, Shalonda is happily employed and wants to leave her mark as a team player.

The COVID-19 pandemic left Shalonda unemployed for two years. She persevered, however, and dedicated herself to the job search. Shalonda shared that looking for a new job has dramatically helped her personal development.

“It is not just about getting a job; I have gotten out of my comfort zone,” Shalonda said. “I know how to present myself, advocate my needs, and not be ashamed to seek assistance.”

Shalonda has found a job with The Paramount Group and has been employed for a year. She loves the independence and confidence she gains from completing her work. Shalonda utilizes her customer service skills with everyone who walks into the café. She also enjoys the various tasks she is assigned and seeing her coworkers around the workplace. Shalonda knows her peers are available to support her, and she is viewed as a reliable coworker.

Currently, Shalonda focuses on saving money to plan future tropical vacations. Her long-term goal is to obtain full-time employment and make a career out of her current job.

“I would not trade this job for the world,” Shalonda said. “I love what I do.”

“ - Shalonda

Integrated Employment
Key Program Stats IL

Jobs
Participants
88
Employed

BESTBUDDIES.ORG/ILLINOIS
Trace Nardi cannot be fit into one box. He has been involved in all three Illinois pillars: he has been matched in three different friendship programs, has been a member of the Jobs program – having attended the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in that cohort – and has shared his story as a member of the Ambassadors program.

“It is good to share your story,” Trace said. “Being able to say ‘hey, this my journey with Best Buddies,’ is really empowering.”

Trace worked with multiple staff members to craft his Ambassador program experience and officially started in June 2021. He has loved his time as an Illinois State Ambassador, which has encouraged him to pursue becoming a Global Ambassador.

“My disability does not define me as a person,” Trace said. “Do not let anything get in your way, and know that you have supportive people in Best Buddies to help you.”

Ever since being matched in Best Buddies, Trace’s life has changed for the better. He is grateful not only for all the people he has met but also for the opportunities Best Buddies has helped him find through the Ambassador and Jobs programs.

“I’m looking forward to new and great opportunities in the future.”

Do not let anything get in your way, and know that you have supportive people in Best Buddies to help you. - Trace
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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