MISSION PILLARS

One-To-One Friendships
Integrated Employment
Leadership Development

Mahmoud
Jobs Program Participant

Jada
Ambassador Program Participant

Margaret & Jenna
Friendship Program Buddy Pair
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Dear Friends,

2018 marked another exceptional year for Best Buddies International, as our organization worked to strengthen and expand upon our three key mission pillars: one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Best Buddies raised nearly $14 million through our national Best Buddies Challenges: Hyannis Port, Hearst Castle, and Miami; enlisted more than 50,000 people to walk for inclusion at Best Buddies Friendship Walks across the nation, and expanded our global reach with the opening of offices in Denmark, Haiti, Ireland, Nigeria, and Tanzania to serve a new community of individuals with special abilities. Best Buddies also launched new Jobs programs in Houston, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; and Long Beach, California, to serve a new community of individuals with special abilities through the power of employment, providing them with the opportunity to earn an income of their own and contribute to their communities in a meaningful way.

Over the past year, our partnerships with corporate sponsors such as Hublot and Pepsi-Cola have expanded along with our goals. It’s been inspiring to work with corporations who share our passion for making the world a more inclusive place. These partnerships lie at the heart of our work, and they are essential to the progress we’ve been able to make as an organization.

As we look ahead into 2019, I have no doubt in my mind that Best Buddies will continue to expand its programs into every corner of this world, building a more inclusive society that celebrates our friends with special abilities for the unique gifts they offer to this world.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all of our employees, supporters, participants, and volunteers who make the Best Buddies mission possible. Every success we achieved in 2018 is a direct reflection of your hard work, generosity and sheer dedication.

On behalf of the 1.25 million individuals whose lives are impacted annually by Best Buddies, thank you. The work that we are doing together is not always easy but the reward of transforming lives through the power of friendship and jobs is worth it. What we have accomplished together over the span of nearly three decades has been phenomenal but the best is yet to come. In 2019, we are focused on elevating our mission and I’m as energized as ever about the possibilities and potential that lies ahead. We are well on our way to changing the world through the power of inclusion.

In friendship,

Anthony Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International
For nearly six decades, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have gained many rights that have improved their lives. Yet, our society is still very far from being inclusive. Tragically, the number of people within the IDD community who are stereotyped, marginalized and live life as an invisible minority is staggering. It is not uncommon for people with IDD to be unemployed and without the simple joys of genuine friendships that others take for granted.

As one notable study notes, “Legal mandates cannot, however, mandate acceptance by peers, neighbors, fellow employees, employers or any of the other groups of individuals who directly impact the lives of people with disabilities.”

This is where Best Buddies International plays a vital role.

Best Buddies is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with IDD. For individuals within this community, Best Buddies serves as a lifeline to creating life-long friendships, securing successful jobs, living independently and feeling valued and respected by society.

Currently, an estimated 81%* of adults (18+) with IDD 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 receiving nearly $895K in Federal SSI and Medicaid benefits during that time period.

This is just one of the countless key examples of how Best Buddies is working to improve the quality of life for individuals with IDD. Through the creation of meaningful, lasting one-to-one friendships with peers without disabilities, the promotion of integrated employment opportunities, the development of leadership skills for individuals with IDD, Best Buddies is changing the world one friendship, one job, and one leader at a time. For more information, please visit BESTBUDDIES.ORG

*National core indicators 2016-2017

Why We Matter

For nearly six decades, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have gained many rights that have improved their lives. Yet, our society is still very far from being inclusive. Tragically, the number of people within the IDD community who are stereotyped, marginalized and live life as an invisible minority is staggering. It is not uncommon for people with IDD to be unemployed and without the simple joys of genuine friendships that others take for granted.

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My son Michael found his purpose in life through Best Buddies. Although Michael has always been a shining light to everyone that he meets, sometimes it’s been hard for him to make friends. Before he started high school we heard about Best Buddies through some close friends of ours and how this organization had changed so many lives. So, before Michael started high school we made sure his school had this club.

The moment Michael joined Best Buddies at Charles W. Flanagan High School as a freshman, he found his calling. He became involved right away and would ask everyone he knew and met to join this club. Because he believed in this organization and their purpose, Michael’s enthusiasm was contagious and people heard him. He had the opportunity to be their Ambassador and since then, helped organize events at school; went to every party and everything related to Best Buddies; raised money for the organization; attended the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Indiana; and best of all, has been a voice for Best Buddies. Michael has had the opportunity to speak at schools and organizations representing Best Buddies and pursue a Communications Degree because of Best Buddies. Nothing gives a parent more joy than to see their children happy in life and feeling that they have a purpose. Michael found that in Best Buddies and I am so grateful that Best Buddies exists for Michael and for our world. Michael and Best Buddies will always be a lifelong team.

You’ve changed my son’s life and you’ve changed so many other kids’ lives with special abilities. And I want to thank you, because it changed my life, too, by seeing my son so happy.

Luky Hadley, Mother of Best Buddies Ambassador Michael Hadler

Message From A Parent

Presently Michael is attending Broward College and wants to get a Communications Degree because of Best Buddies. Nothing gives a parent more joy than to see their children happy in life and feeling they have a purpose.”

Luky Hadley, Mother of Best Buddies Ambassador Michael Hadler
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 and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (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 three key mission pillars below:

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

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

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 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.

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

Best Buddies, Ambassadors
Offers people with IDD the opportunity to gain the public speaking skills, self-esteem and confidence needed to successfully advocate for themselves, their peers and Best Buddies in communities, workplaces and government.

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.

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

BEST BUDDIES®
Middle Schools, High Schools and Colleges
creates an inclusive school environment for students with IDD during times of social and emotional development.

BEST BUDDIES®
Citizens
helps adults with and without IDD develop meaningful friendships and become more involved in their local communities.

BEST BUDDIES®
Jobs
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BEST BUDDIES®
Ambassadors
offers people with IDD the opportunity to gain the public speaking skills, self-esteem and confidence needed to successfully advocate for themselves, their peers and best buddies in communities, workplaces and government.

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.

e-Buddies
offers an e-mail program, in which a participant with IDD communicates online with a friend without IDD.
2019 BB Global Programs Snapshot*

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<th>Total Chapters</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>e-Buddies</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>1,369</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassadors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoters</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>7,501</td>
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*BESTBUDDIES. All global programs stats, including the Jobs participants stats, are as of 01/01/2019. Avg. hrs. worked per week = 20 (in the U.S.)

International Programs at the 2018 Best Buddies Leadership Conference: This is Me.
2018 Highlights

Launches
- The Best Buddies Jobs program, which places skilled participants with employers, begins operating in Houston, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; and Long Beach, California.
- Best Buddies opens offices in Denmark, Haiti, Ireland, Nigeria and Tanzania to serve a new community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) on a global scale.
- Best Buddies Friendship Walks were hosted for the first time ever in the following locations: Fresno, California; Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan and Utah.
- In 2018, Best Buddies launches a new Program Management Initiative, designed to leverage the use of technology and digital tools to allow us to increase our chapter growth. This management structure, which shifted staff roles, allowed for 12% growth of new chapters in 2018.
- In 2018, the newly formed expansion team opened 69 new programs and managed a total of 138 chapters across 22 states. At the close of 2018, there were 6,629 participants throughout those states, a 36% increase from the prior year.

Partnerships
- TJX comes on as a national Best Buddies Jobs employer partner with a commitment to employing 500 individuals with IDD in their stores over the next five years.
- The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation engages with Best Buddies in six markets, supporting the organization’s Friendship Walk.
- American actress and super model Olivia Culpo joins Best Buddies as a Global Ambassador and Board Member.

Key Events
- Best Buddies’ Leadership Conference attendance increased by 89% in 2018 with 157 participants in attendance from expansion states. For the first time in history, Alaska was represented at Leadership Conference.
- In April 2018, Best Buddies Global Ambassador Tom Brady travels to Qatar to launch an integrated employment initiative in partnership with the country’s Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Qatar Museums and Best Buddies Qatar participants.
Milestones
Anthony Kennedy Shriver founded the original Best Buddies Chapter while a junior at Georgetown University in 1987.

1989-1993
- Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on January 19, 1989, BEST BUDDIES® becomes America’s first national, unified, social and recreational program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- The Best Buddies Fine Art Collection is developed, featuring masterpieces by Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein and Robert Rauschenberg.
- Best Buddies hosts the first unified Leadership Conference, training both college student leaders and people with IDD by providing intensive lessons in public speaking, management, team building, problem solving and leadership skills.
- Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® Citizens with the goal of pairing adults with IDD with their working peers who do not have disabilities.

1994-1998
- Best Buddies launches BEST BUDDIES® Jobs, a supported employment program, targeting high-paying, white-collar jobs for people with IDD in Florida, California and Massachusetts.
- Best Buddies establishes BEST BUDDIES® High Schools with the goal of pairing special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- The BEST BUDDIES® Middle Schools pilot program launches, reaching out to an even younger age group with the hope that inclusion of people with IDD will have a lasting effect on societal norms for the next generation.

1999-2006
- e-Buddies, launches as a cutting-edge online friendship program.
- Best Buddies launches the most successful fundraising event in its history, the nationally televised inaugural Volvo Hearst Castle Challenge, a 100-mile bike ride along the Pacific Coast Highway chaired by California First Lady Maria Shriver.
- For the first time, Best Buddies has programs in all 50 of the United States and on six continents.

2007-2010
- Best Buddies celebrates 20 years of friendships and jobs in 2009.
- In honor of its 20th anniversary, Best Buddies updates its mission statement to: “To establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with IDD.”
- For the first time, Best Buddies has programs in 50 countries around the world.

2011-2015
- BEST BUDDIES® Jobs expands to Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, CA.
- BEST BUDDIES® Promoters officially launches as the organization’s eighth program for the 2012-2013 school year. It is the first Best Buddies program open to elementary schools.
- Best Buddies celebrates its 25th anniversary.
- Best Buddies launches the I’m In To Hire campaign to promote the business benefits of hiring people with IDD.
- In October 2015, A&E Network partnered with Best Buddies International and premiered a new docu-series, "Born This Way," which chronicled the lives of seven young adults with Down syndrome, several of whom were Best Buddies participants.

2016-CURRENT
- BEST BUDDIES® Jobs expands to Dallas, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; New York City, New York; and Orlando, Florida.
- Best Buddies opens state offices in Cleveland, Ohio and in Charlotte, North Carolina, expanding its services and mission.
- Best Buddies opens international offices in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Uganda, Bulgaria and Mongolia.
- In May 2017, Best Buddies hosts the inaugural Mother’s Day Brunch in Malibu, CA, with Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and her daughter, Kaia Gerber.
- In April 2018, Best Buddies Global Ambassador Tom Brady travels to Qatar to launch an integrated employment initiative in partnership with the country’s Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Qatar Museums and Best Buddies Qatar participants.
- In October 2018, Best Buddies is featured on ESPN’s 50 Game Changers – a docu-series about the achievements of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the game changers who promote inclusion for people with IDD in the sports world and beyond.

Best Buddies Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and Lauren Potter with Best Buddies participant at the 2018 Best Buddies Mother’s Day Weekend Brunch in Malibu, CA
One-to-One Friendship Programs

Without love, support and friends, life would be empty – a life people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have often been forced to live 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.
Middle Schools
High Schools
Colleges

Citizens

For people with IDD, the absence of meaningful friendships extends into adulthood. After age 21, some individuals with IDD may never spend time with anyone besides a paid caregiver and family. Best Buddies Citizens pairs adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with other adults without IDD in corporate and civic communities. Participants share their time and energy with new friends. Citizen buddy pairs are asked to commit to a one-year relationship during which the pair agrees to talk once a week and see each other twice a month. These relationships usually grow into friendships that last a lifetime.

e-Buddies

In 2018, e-Buddies served 1,660 total participants. These participants exchanged more than 30,000 e-mails, and also posted more than 500 messages on the e-Buddies Community message boards. e-Buddies was also used as a teaching tool in the classroom by more than 100 special education teachers and other disabilities professionals across the country.

One-To-One Friendships

In today’s schools, students with IDD often enter the same building and walk the same hallways as their peers, but they are left out of social activities. These students miss out on so many key elements of the school experience such as finding friends to sit with at lunch, attending homecoming or prom, joining a club or meeting a friend with whom to share their experiences.

Best Buddies offers students with IDD the chance to have a friend and to share interests, experiences and activities that so many other students their age enjoy. The Middle School, High School and College programs pair students with IDD in one-to-one mentoring friendships with students without IDD. Each student agrees to a one-year commitment in which they will call and go on an outing with their buddy at least once a week.

The Best Buddies Friendship program offers a peer mentoring relationship that affects both the person with and the person without IDD. Not only do our programs create lasting friendships, but also they help facilitate an environment of inclusion throughout the school and in the community.

Devin & Savannah
Friendship Program Buddy Pair
“Life before Best Buddies was definitely different. I didn’t have my best friend Katie in my life, that’s for sure! Katie and I have been matched for two years in the Riverside Intermediate and Junior High School Chapter where we have been buddy director and chapter president. Katie and I have a lot of fun together doing all kinds of activities. We make slime, have sleepovers, bake cakes, play video games, and go bowling just to name a few.

My life has taken a turn for the better since joining Best Buddies. I have a better understanding that people have differences, but that doesn’t mean that they shouldn’t be included. I have also grown as a person being more accepting and understanding of others’ special abilities. My best buddy, Katie, also says that Best Buddies has changed her life.”

– Adyson

“There are many things that have changed for me since joining Best Buddies. Best Buddies has given me all sorts of opportunities that I would not otherwise have had. Best Buddies has also provided me with leadership opportunities where I have me to give presentations to my peers about Best Buddies. These presentations and the Best Buddies organization have shown me that it’s okay to be who I am. It’s okay that I can’t do some of the things that my friends are able to do. My friends love and respect me, regardless of my abilities. I have even been able to teach my friends a thing or two that they would have not otherwise known. Adyson lets me be who I am — which can be pretty crazy and silly! She doesn’t try to change me or help me too much. She is there when I need her; just like a friend should be. I am glad that I joined Best Buddies because without it my life would be very different; and without Adyson, my life would definitely not be as much fun!”

– Katie
Since its inception, Best Buddies Jobs has assisted thousands of participants in earning an income, paying taxes, receiving benefits and working in an environment alongside others in the community. The Jobs program offers the opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to become financially independent through their own efforts, removing the need for government assistance or parental support. This program focuses on white-collar jobs, which sets it apart from so many others. Best Buddies assists individuals in finding jobs that are enjoyable, inclusive and competitive in terms of pay.
Integrated Employment

Jobs*

Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) into the community through supported employment. The focus is on developing competitive, integrated jobs 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. Best Buddies Jobs conducts a person-centered approach with each participant, working with the individual to ultimately achieve his or her personal employment goals. Coaching is provided in essential job interviewing skills, and once a job is secured, there is assistance with on-the-job training. Job placement for participants depend on factors such as their skills and abilities, location and vocational preference. Once fully adjusted to their job, Best Buddies supports participants with job coaching for continued career development. 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. The states with active Best Buddies Jobs programs as of December 31, 2018, include California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Key Jobs Program Stats

- **Total Participants:** 1,369
- **Employed:** 1,34162
- **Retention Rate:** 94%
- **States with active Jobs Programs:** 13
- **Average Total Hours Worked:** 27,380
- **Total Participants:** 2,179
- **U.S. Participants:** 1,329
- **International Participants:** 850
- **Paid Vacation/Sick Days:** 21.8%
- **Medical & Dental:** 13.7%
- **Paid Vacation/Sick Days:** 7.9%
- **Receiving Benefits:** 21.8%
- **Average Total Yearly Wages Earned:** $16,703,169
- **Average Total Yearly Taxes Paid:** $3,340,634

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<tr>
<th><strong>Top 5 Jobs Participants</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Dykman</td>
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<td>Cristen Maxwell</td>
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<td>Julian Ocampo</td>
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<td>David Asbury</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Zysman</td>
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<td>John Hammond</td>
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<td>Michael Dykman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristen Maxwell</td>
<td>$23.41</td>
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*All Jobs Program stats are as of 12/31/18.
BEST BUDDIES JOBS National Programs

BEST BUDDIES JOBS Programs in EMEA, Europe

BEST BUDDIES JOBS Programs in Latin America & The Caribbean

ACTIVE COUNTRIES & CITIES
- BRAZIL
  - Sao Paulo
- CHILE
  - Santiago
- COLOMBIA
  - Armenia
  - Barrancabermeja
  - Bucaramanga
  - Barranquilla
  - Bello
  - Bogota
  - Cali
  - Cartagena
  - Chia
  - Cucuta
  - Envigado
  - Girardot
  - Guarne
  - Ibague
  - Ipiales
  - Manizales
  - Medellin
  - Monteria
  - Mosquera/Funza
  - Neiva
  - Palmira
  - Pasto
  - Pereira
  - Rionegro
  - San Andres
  - Santa Marta
  - Soacha
  - Tocancipa
  - Tuquerres
  - Turbaco
  - Valledupar
  - Villavicencio
  - Yopal
  - Yumbo
- MEXICO
  - Guadalajara
  - Leon
  - Mexico City
- PERU
  - Lima

ACTIVE COUNTRIES & CITIES
- ALASKA
- HAWAII
- TEXAS
  - Dallas
  - Houston
- CALIFORNIA
  - San Francisco
  - Fresno
  - Los Angeles
- NEVADA
- FLORIDA
  - Miami
  - Palm Beach
  - Broward
- ILLINOIS
  - Chicago
- TENNESSEE
  - Memphis
  - Nashville
- INDIANA
  - Indianapolis
- MASSACHUSETTS
  - Worcester
  - Boston
- NEW YORK
  - New York
  - Flemington
- NEW JERSEY
- MARYLAND
  - Baltimore
  - Falls Church
- VIRGINIA
- NEW MEXICO
  - Albuquerque
- TENNESSEE
  - Memphis
  - Nashville
- ALASKA
- HAWAII

LEGEND
- BB Jobs Programs
- BB Jobs Expansion
Terence McKnight  
Best Buddies Jobs participant, Capital Region

Terence began working for Gannett in July 2004 as a Finance/Accounting Clerk in the Finance Department.

He learned the value of both kindness and hard work at an early age, with his mother influencing his positive, kind demeanor and his father, a decorated naval officer, helping to instill his strong work ethic. Terence remains close to his parents and is thankful for their ongoing support, whether it is driving him to and from work or encouraging him when he sets new goals.

Terence began working with Best Buddies when he transferred to the People Team as an Associate Human Resources Coordinator in June 2018 and one of the team leaders, who had worked with Best Buddies at another company, made the introduction. Since starting in this new role, Terence has showcased his skill set and talents, continuing to surpass all expectations.

“Terence has been a tremendous asset to our Gannett People Team. He is positive, fastidious in his work and fun to be around.”

– Dave, Chief People Officer at Gannett

From day one, Terence has brought the team closer together, renewed our sense of purpose and has helped us appreciate the little things. In addition, Terence has been diligent in completing all of his work … and is a model of efficiency and time scheduling. Terence has also rallied our team to eat together daily in our lunch room – which has had ancillary benefits as it relates to team cohesiveness.

Terence performs administrative tasks that include viewing former employees’ pension paperwork, data entry, picking up the mail, shredding documents, copying, scanning and much more. He loves working with others and especially enjoys being one of the first people new Gannett employees meet.

He considers his co-workers friends and says he feels both supported and included by them.

Terence’s presence has dramatically changed the work culture. In addition to encouraging his teammates to step away from their computers and have lunch, he also spends time with the group outside of the workplace for brunches and bowling.

Terence is grateful to Gannett and Best Buddies for helping him make the most of his new role, and he believes that other individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) should have the same opportunity to work in such a supportive and positive environment.
Leadership Development Programs

Best Buddies educates and empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to become leaders, public speakers and agents of change. These leaders inspire their peers, communities, employers and the government to join Best Buddies’ mission of friendship and social inclusion.
Leadership Development

Ambassadors

Best Buddies Ambassadors is a program that provides training for participants with and without IDD in areas of 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. The program prepares people to become active agents of change and informed, compelling advocates for the disability rights movement.

Ambassadors participate in trainings focused on the art of public speaking and advocacy. Once trained, they are expected to identify opportunities in their chapters, communities and states to share their stories and become more involved and empowered as citizens. They are encouraged to make high-profile connections, speak to state and national legislators about opportunities for people with IDD, present at recruitment fairs and Best Buddies events and develop partnerships in the community. Ambassadors also help collect donations, present to other interest groups and train others with IDD.

Participants are paired with a speech coach for the duration of their Ambassador training to assist with the writing and presentation of a speech. Speech coaches help Ambassadors in areas of brainstorming and organization, and serve as guides who provide one-on-one attention, as needed.

As of December 31, 2018, Best Buddies had more than 781 trained active Buddy Ambassadors, in 31 states and 25 countries. Many Ambassador program participants attended the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in July and took part in novice or advanced speech writing courses during the event.

Promoters

Best Buddies Promoters empowers youth to become advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by organizing and attending special events that promote inclusion and bringing awareness to the disability rights movement. 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, fundraisers and assemblies where they advocate for people with IDD, educate the public about inclusion and promote the ideals of Best Buddies’ mission. Throughout the school year, Best Buddies encourages all Promoters chapters to host as many activities as possible on and off campus that are inclusive of people with IDD.

Through involvement in their local chapters, Promoters participants demonstrate how easy it is to create an inclusive environment and embrace and accept people of all abilities, setting an example for their peers and the community at large.
"My name is Tsukasa Richard Nakai. I am 33-years-old and I am an avid Star Wars fan! My favorite character is Darth Vader. I’m currently involved in the Best Buddies Friendship Program, Ambassador Program and the Jobs Program. I’ve been part of the Best Buddies chapter at UCLA since February 2017 and I am currently their Buddy Director. I’ve been an ambassador since March 2017, and through the Jobs Program, I now work as a part-time employee in the Best Buddies California State Office as an administrative assistant...I love it!

My life prior to joining Best Buddies was one of self-loathing. In October 2000, I had been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. I had never fully accepted who I was as a person and I was always very self-critical. Despite my achievements, including becoming a published author and a college graduate, I would never praise myself or give myself a kind word.

The one person who helped me on my journey of self-acceptance was one of my colleagues, Tori Braden. When she was Chapter President at UCLA, she asked me if I wanted to become an Ambassador. I replied, YES! — thinking that I wouldn’t get asked to do too much, but I was mistaken! One month after I participated in the Ambassador Training at UCLA, the Program Supervisor of our area called me and asked me if I wanted to do a speaking engagement for one of our sponsors at the Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle! It wasn’t until I started interning at Best Buddies state office in California, that I found out Tori had advocated on my behalf. This was unusual; we barely knew each other, but she took a huge risk on me and it paid off for the both of us.

Last summer I attended the 29th Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference as an ambassador. I went with no expectations, and I was beyond stunned when I was selected to speak at Closing Ceremonies. This all happened because someone saw something greater in me that I didn’t see in myself! My life has changed tremendously since February 2017 when I joined Best Buddies on a lark. This organization has helped me gain a greater sense of confidence and belief in myself. Best Buddies has helped me open my eyes to my unlimited potential. If you have an intellectual or developmental disability, don’t doubt yourself. Use your voice. Don’t be afraid to speak up and stand up for yourself!

Be a voice for others, especially if they don’t yet have one, and always empower others who do. I want to finish with a quote from our Founder Anthony K. Shriver’s uncle, President John F. Kennedy, Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country; Go forth and empower others!

Richard, Ambassador Program Participant

“Best Buddies has helped open my eyes to my unlimited potential. If you have an intellectual or developmental disability, don’t doubt yourself. Use your voice.”
Signature Events

The purpose of special events is to garner and acknowledge support for the Best Buddies mission, in addition to raising funds and awareness. There are numerous ways to get involved with Best Buddies events including: volunteering, advocating and pursuing national partnership and sponsorship opportunities. A few of the organization’s more prominent events are featured on the following pages.
June 2-3, 2018
Boston & Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation and chaired by Tom Brady, is a 100, 50 or 20-mile cycling adventure from Boston to Hyannis Port, with an optional 5K run/walk. The event kicked off with the Best Buddies Tom Brady Football Challenge and the Guy Cooking with Best Buddies Celebrity Chef Food and Wine Festival, presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation and concluded with a celebratory clambake and a private concert by the legendary Rick Springfield, who rocked the crowd with several of his hit songs.
September 7-8, 2018
San Simeon, California

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle presented by Pepsi-Cola is a 100, 60, 30 or 15-mile cycling adventure along the picturesque coastlines of California, arriving at the renowned Hearst Castle in San Simeon, with an optional 5K run/walk. The event concluded with an exciting finish line village, a festive barbeque and lively performance by Soulville California Band, who performed several top 40 songs and classic hits at the Hearst Ranch.
The Hublot Best Buddies Challenge: Miami presented by Abaco Wines, Braman Miami, Mack Cycle & Fitness, and Pepsi-Cola is a 100K six-star cycling event, limited to just 50 cyclists beginning and ending at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort in Miami. The ride was led by Tour de France winner Chris Froome. The Challenge was followed by the 22nd Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala: Le Cirque de la Nuit at Mana Wynwood. This star-studded event included a gourmet dinner, a top-notch auction and a live performance by multi-platinum hip-hop artist Flo Rida.
The Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu offered cyclists a world-class, four-day riding experience through the scenic canyon roads and rock-studded hillsides of the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Cyclists pedaled from coast to valley through remote, twisting and winding canyon roads past cliff-side Malibu mansions and acres of forest.

The Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu offers a custom-designed program for each individual cyclist. Experienced cyclists and weekend warriors alike learned from various industry professionals including sports nutritionists, exercise physiologists, mechanics, and personal trainers. The experience provided cyclists with a holistic approach to training, with special attention given to riding more efficiently, proper rider nutrition, and post-training recovery; leaving them with the foundations for a sustainable, healthy lifestyle.
Attendees at the start line of the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: South Florida

Attendees at the start line of the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Capital Region

Walkers leading the start line at the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Indianapolis

Attendees at the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Maryland

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk continues to be the number one walk in the country raising awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Best Buddies Friendship Walks play a key role in funding Best Buddies programs dedicated to one-to-one friendships, leadership development and integrated job opportunities for participants. In 2018, more than 40,000 participants in 49 cities walked to support for inclusion, for people with IDD. These Friendship Walks, Best Buddies’ largest series of community awareness events, collectively raised $4,603,180 for local programs! Each Friendship Walk provides an opportunity to showcase the Best Buddies mission in action at the local level. Proceeds from the Best Buddies Friendship Walk provide necessary resources for people with IDD to become more independent and valued members of our society.
Across the country, Best Buddies social events are providing a platform to unite community leaders, corporate partners and philanthropic trailblazers in educating and mobilizing their communities on the urgency of a more inclusive culture. Funds raised through these unique and powerful events such as Galas, Chef Tastings and Champion of the Year goals are used to help program participants form meaningful friendships, secure employment, live independently and develop skills that allow them to serve as advocates for themselves and their peers.

In 2018, these social events raised $6 million dollars for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a 19 percent increase over the previous year. Contributing greatly to this growth was our second signature event, Champion of the Year which generated over $2.9 million, an astonishing 100 percent increase from 2017. Through this accelerated growth, our events are galvanizing our communities and creating greater support for the Best Buddies mission.
Friendship Program Participants Lenny and Bryan at the 2018 Best Buddies Prom: Nashville

Best Buddies Ambassador Olivia making her grand entrance at the 2018 Best Buddies Prom: Nashville

Friendship Program Participants having fun at the 2018 Best Buddies Ball: Utah

Best Buddies Proms are a fun way the organization’s state offices and chapters are sharing their work and celebrating program participants. Best Buddies Proms were held at 37 locations across the country in 2018, with thousands of participants in attendance. Capital Region combines their prom with a traditional gala-type event—a real party with a purpose! While students dance the night away, enjoy photo booths and plenty of food and soft drinks, adults partake in a chef tasting and a silent auction featuring one-of-a-kind items and experiences. American chef and TV personality, Carla Hall co-emceed the event with local radio personality and Capital Region board chair, Tommy McFly. Buddy pairs and Jobs participants had the opportunity to have their hair styled by Aquilano salon in Alexandria, and Merle Norman Cosmetics provided free make-up services for the top fundraising Friendship Walk school team, Oakton High School.
In July 2018, more than 2,300 students, teachers, volunteers and community leaders gathered in Bloomington, Indiana for the 2018 Best Buddies Leadership Conference: This is Me. The conference brought together student leaders from Best Buddies middle school, high schools, college and promoter chapters across the United States and around the world. This year, Best Buddies welcomed international participants from Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Haiti, Hong Kong, Macau, Mexico, Lebanon, South Korea and Thailand. The weekend offered attendees innovative new ideas to share with their local communities, inspiring speeches, networking opportunities and lasting friendships. The 2018 conference was themed This Is Me, which emphasized the importance of being one’s unapologetic, true self. The conference celebrated the incredible impact volunteers with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have made in the world as a result of their leadership. Attendees received lessons from global leaders in the disability rights movement; watched inspiring performances; witnessed moving testimonies; and attended compelling and empowering leadership sessions.
Best Buddies hosted its Second Annual Mother’s Day Brunch. The event was hosted by Best Buddies celebrity supporter Vanessa Hudgens, her mother Gina and Liane and Ava Weintraub. The event celebrated the incredible mothers of Best Buddies participants and mothers all around the world, paying homage to the gifts of love and friendship that mothers give to their children. In total, the event raised $300,000 for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Best Buddies community events educate and inspire our global ambassadors, corporate sponsors and participants to garner unwavering support for the Best Buddies mission and challenge communities to ignite change. Best Buddies community events, such as the Annual Mother’s Day Brunch and Bowling for Buddies, not only raise funds and awareness but also provide opportunities for Best Buddies program participants and supporters to develop life-long relationships.
July 17-21, 2018
Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day was created in 2010 in her honor, to inspire people to remember her legacy and embrace the crusade she founded to bring awareness to the disability rights movement. EKS Day promotes a global call for individuals to commit to actions of inclusion, acceptance and unity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The eighth annual EKS Day was observed on July 17-21, alongside Special Olympics’ 50th anniversary, throughout the United States and in 100 countries. Activities included playing sports, picnics, canned-food drives, leadership trainings and pledges to stop using the R-word.

March 2018
What started 23 years ago as a one-day event has evolved into a month-long celebration commemorating Best Buddies’ mission. Best Buddies Month, which takes place each year in March, is a time to reflect on the importance of friendship, jobs and the development of future leaders. More importantly, it is a time to show the world the significance of these essentials in every individual’s life. In March 2018, Best Buddies’ chapters and individual volunteers showcase their passion for Best Buddies by participating in community carnivals, regional dances and school-wide assemblies.
Meet Our Supporters

All the programs Best Buddies can provide – leadership training, employment for people with intellectual disabilities, one-to-one friendships and mentoring opportunities – none of it would ever be possible if it was not for our generous supporters who invest their time, their money, their energy and their passion into ensuring that Best Buddies is a success not only now but also in the future.”

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

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American Endowment Foundation

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Carolyn Foundation
Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
Charles E. Benedict Foundation, Inc.
The Charley Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Comcast Foundation
Community Foundation of Central Georgia
The Chicago Community Trust

$5,000 to $9,999
The Anne and Ronald Abraham Family Foundation
Allegis Group Foundation
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation
The Arap Foundation
Arlington Community Foundation
Astor Foundation, Inc.
Baltimore City Foundation
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation
The Barbaro Foundation
Jeffrey L. Berkowitz Trust
Blank Family Foundation, Inc.
Blum Family Foundation
The Boomerang Community Foundation, Inc.
Branch Banking And Trust
Stephen P. Bratkowski Memorial Foundation
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
Citizens Charitable Foundation
Community Connections Connections Foundation, Inc.
Community Foundation For Southeast Georgia
Couch Family Foundation
The Ara Covey Foundation Inc.

GOVERNMENT

$500,000 and Above
California Department of Developmental Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
$250,000 to $499,999
Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

$100,000 to $249,999
Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools
California Department of Rehabilitation
Central Valley Regional Center
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services
Harbor Regional Center

$5,000 to $9,999
City of Alexandria, Virginia
City of Yuma, Arizona

$100,000 to $249,999
BMC

$50,000 to $99,999
Arizona Department of Education
Illinois Vocational Rehabilitation
Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Miami-Dade County, Florida Office of Management and Budget
New Mexico Department of Rehabilitation Services

$25,000 to $49,999
Delaware Division of Vocational Disabilities Services
Delaware Legislature
Miami Dade County Office of Management and Budget
Miami-Dade County, Florida Public Schools
Summit Charitable Community Foundation

$500,000 and Above
The Joan M. and Louis B. Perry Family Foundation
The Randall Family Foundation
Rays Charitable Foundation
Reiman Foundation, Inc.
Rhode Island Foundation
Rita Hite Corporation Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
Delta Airline

$50,000 to $99,999
Accenture Federal Services
CBS/KPIX

$10,000 to $24,999
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

$500,000 and Above
The Joan M. and Louis B. Perry Family Foundation
The Randall Family Foundation
Rays Charitable Foundation
Reiman Foundation, Inc.
Rhode Island Foundation
Rita Hite Corporation Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
Delta Airline

$50,000 to $99,999
Accenture Federal Services
CBS/KPIX

$10,000 to $24,999
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

IN-KIND

$50,000 and Above
Tom Brady

$25,000 to $49,999
Joanne Jastrowski

$100,000 to $249,999
BMC

$25,000 to $49,999
Jan Miller & Jeff Rich

$500,000 and Above
The Joan M. and Louis B. Perry Family Foundation
The Randall Family Foundation
Rays Charitable Foundation
Reiman Foundation, Inc.
Rhode Island Foundation
Rita Hite Corporation Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
Delta Airline

$50,000 to $99,999
Accenture Federal Services
CBS/KPIX

$10,000 to $24,999
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

IN-KIND

$50,000 and Above
Tom Brady

$25,000 to $49,999
Joanne Jastrowski

$100,000 to $249,999
BMC
Meet Our Supporters

IN-KIND (continued)
Paul Goldschmidt
Gourmet Catering
Harpoon Brewery
Hublot
Kenneth Cole
Kurt Warner Foundation
Kathy Ireland
MadisonSouth
M.C. Dean, Inc.
MY Skincare
The Moorings Village and Spa
Swirl Marketing
Tiffany & Co.

$5,000 to $9,999
Cortland Media
CourtHouse Express
e..architectureTechnologies, Inc.
Evening Entertainment Group
Genovesa Joblove & Battista
Getty Images
Goorin Bros

$25,000 to $49,999
Team Dynamics
Team 603 PRIDE
Team 6Fifteen Cycles
Team Advance Financial
Team Arnund Pioneer
Team Andrew Ferris
Team Believe
Team Blood Sweat & Gears
Team BNY Mellon
Team Bob’s Discount Furniture
Team Carnival - Travel Agents Rock
Team Celebrity Cruises
Team Chevron
Team City of Hialeah
Team Mallory
Team ManpowerGroup
Team Mark’s Buddies
Team Moran
Team Not Fast Just Furious
Team Santander
Team Starwood Property Trust
Team Steptoe
Team Sunshine
Team Veearm
The James Gang

$10,000 to $24,999
Friends of Team Veearm
Team 1776 Financial & Friends
Team 6 Degrees
Team AEW
Team BA/BCCClub
Team BB Citizens
Team Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Team Best Buddies Garden City
Team Bill Spilfano
Team Blach Construction
Team Bloomberg LP
Team Boes Schiller Flexner
Team Brady Bunch
Team Brick by Brick
Team Buildout Construction
Team California
Team California Flats
Team Carlton Fields
Team Construction
Team Cosmos
Team Crown & Anchor
Team CVS Health
Team Dusbury
Team GASTON
Team Gilbane

Participants Employers

Animal Services
Paw Pals, Inc.
Silver Bluff Animal Clinic

Arts & Culture
Park West Gallery

Automotive
Findlay Toyota
South Bay Mini/BMW

Communications
Inktel Direct
Manpower for Ghiardelli

Construction & Architecture
Milhouse Engineering & Construction

Education
CAPA-The Global Education Network

Finance & Insurance
Crescent Capital
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, LP
Mastercard Worldwide

Fitness
Blink Fitness

Food & Beverage Industry
Chick-Fil-A
Cold Stone Creamery
Dairy Queen
Dave's Restaurant
Duffy's Sports Grill
Eat Well Nashville
Family Tree Produce
Glory Days Grill
Kroger
Levy Restaurants
Millers Ale House
O'Hara's Food & Spirit
Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles
Seasons Culinary Services
Service Systems Associates
Shaws Supermarket
Sodexo
Sprouts
Star Market
Stop & Shop
Stub Hub Center
Tagz
Tom Thumb
Trader Joe’s
Wegman’s
Wendy’s
Whitson’s Culinary Group
Whole Foods Market

Government
City of Dublin
City of Sunny Isles Beach
Community Redevelopment Agency Omni
Defense Contract Audit Agency

Health Care
CB Orthodontics
Functastic Dental & Orthodontics
Genentech
HealthStream
Kaiser Permanente
MDVIP
Pharmacists Recruiting, LLC
Pfizer
UMass Memorial

Hospitality
Chartwells
Embassy Suites
Kirtland Inn (Airforce Inn)
MGM Resorts International

Industrial Supplies / Wholesale
D.S. Hul Company, Inc.
Discount Welds

Law Firms
Barlett Marion Epstein & Kearon, LLP
Bielski Law
Holland & Knight
The Ferraro Law Group

Manufacturing / Distribution
Lighthouse Equipment Company
The UPS Store

Non-Profit / Foundations
Best Buddies International
Good 360
Temple Judea
The Orokawa Y in Towson

Real Estate
Arroyo Realty and Development
Jones Lang LaSalle
Tavistock

Recreation
Monani Community Center

Retail
Carson’s Clearance Store
Diersch Flowers
Alite Design
Burlington
Ca Pro Sports
CVS
Ellen’s on Elm
Forever 21
GameStop
Jewel Osco
Marshalls
Micro Center
Once Upon a Child
Primark
Target
TJ Maxx

Sports / Entertainment
AEG
Boston Red Sox
Cineplex
Contemporary Services Corporation
Flagship Cinemas
Florida Panthers
Golden State Warriors
Kids Love to Dance
Nashville Predators
Nashville Sounds
Orlando Science Center
Propagate Content
San Francisco Deltas
Santa Ana Star Casino
Westchester Railers

Talent Agencies
Paradigm

Telecommunications
TCC

Transportation
Adams Ballons
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd
SMS International Shore Operations
TGS Aviation Services

Warehousing & Storage
D.S. Hul Company, Inc.
Value Store It

Top Fundraising Teams
$500,000 and Above
Team Hearst
Team Silicon Valley Bank
Team Tom Brady

$250,000 to $499,000
Team Eaton Vance
Team Maria

$100,000 to $249,999
Team Austin
Team Best Buddies Central Valley
Team Gallo
Team Greenwich Traurig
Team John Hancock
Team King James Buddies
Team Marlowe
Team Natixis
Team Patriot Pedalers
THE TEAM

($10,000 to $24,999)
Friends of Team Veearm
Team 1776 Financial & Friends
Team 6 Degrees
Team AEW
Team BA/BCCClub
Team BB Citizens
Team Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Team Best Buddies Garden City
Team Bill Spilfano
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Team Crown & Anchor
Team CVS Health
Team Dusbury
Team GASTON
Team Gilbane

Team Google
Team Gweniepie
Team Harrington
Team Harrington Buck
Team Henry
Team Holland & Knight South Florida’s
Team Barbie
Team I Love Lucy
Team IREM
Team Jakey
Team Kates Barlow
Team Klingman & Associates
Team Lucas MO2S
Team MENTOR
Team Oakton High School
Team PGAe
Team Plant High School
Team Raffy Taffy Boom Boom Pow
Team Sammy
Team SAP NS2
Team Saratoga Springs High School
Team ServiceNow
Team Seven Lakes High School
Team Sierra Olson Steel
Team Southcoast
Team Arlington
Team The Ridge Community Church
Team Tony’s Tigers
Team Turnberry Strong
Team TWInners
Team UF Best Buddies
Team Upper St. Clair High School
Team Velo Amour
Team Washington-Lee High School
Team westminster cares
Team Yorktown High School

Participating Employers

Animal Services
Paw Pals, Inc.
Silver Bluff Animal Clinic

Arts & Culture
Park West Gallery

Automotive
Findlay Toyota
South Bay Mini/BMW

Communications
Inktel Direct
Manpower for Ghiardelli

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Dairy Queen
Dave's Restaurant
Duffy's Sports Grill
Eat Well Nashville
Family Tree Produce
Glory Days Grill
Kroger
Levy Restaurants
Millers Ale House
O'Hara's Food & Spirit
Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles
Seasons Culinary Services
Service Systems Associates
Shaws Supermarket
Sodexo
Sprouts
Star Market
Stop & Shop
Stub Hub Center
Tagz
Tom Thumb
Trader Joe's
Wegman's
Wendy's
Whitson's Culinary Group
Whole Foods Market

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City of Sunny Isles Beach
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Defense Contract Audit Agency

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Functastic Dental & Orthodontics
Genentech
HealthStream
Kaiser Permanente
MDVIP
Pharmacists Recruiting, LLC
Pfizer
UMass Memorial

Hospitality
Chartwells
Embassy Suites
Kirtland Inn (Airforce Inn)
MGM Resorts International

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Florida Panthers
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Nashville Predators
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Transportation
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Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd
SMS International Shore Operations
TGS Aviation Services

Warehousing & Storage
D.S. Hul Company, Inc.
Value Store It
2018 Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.18)

**Domestic Revenue**
- Government $7,461,695
- Foundations & Corps. $4,124,642
- Individual $5,198,110
- Special Events $12,883,057
- Other** $1,051,369
- **Total Domestic Revenue** $30,718,873

**Domestic Expenses**
- Programs $22,304,743
- Management & General (Administration) $1,255,381
- Fundraising $4,117,650
- **Total Domestic Expenses** $27,677,774

**Domestic Net Asset Summary**
- Net Assets (beginning of year) $9,380,931
- Change in Net Assets $3,041,099
- Net Unrealized Gains/(Losses) on Investments (-$111,016)
- **Domestic Net Assets (end of year)** $12,311,014

**International Revenue*** $29,500,000
- **Total Gross Revenue** $60,218,873

Contributions to Best Buddies are judiciously spent, with the majority of these funds directly applied to the enrichment of the organization's programs.

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**2018 Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.18)**

**Assets**
- Cash in Bank $4,078,054.63
- Marketable Securities $2,743,160.68
- Pre Paid Expenses $414,070.23
- Accounts Receivable $152,832.62
- Contributions Receivable $2,385,936.82
- Grant Receivable $3,779,374.10
- Investments - Deferred Compensation Plan $77,085.37
- **Total Current Assets** $13,630,514.45
- **Total Fixed Assets** $13,983.23
- **Total Assets** $13,644,497.68

**Liabilities & Fund Balance**
- Accounts Payable $759,627.22
- Deferred Revenue $495,544.51
- Deferred Compensation Plan Liability $77,085.37
- Sales Tax Payable $1,225.50
- **Total Liabilities** $1,333,482.60
- **Total Fund Balance** $12,311,015.08
- **Total Liabilities & Fund Balance** $13,644,497.68

**Fund Balance**
- Beginning Fund Balance $12,311,015.08
- **Total Fund Balance** $12,311,015.08
- **Total Liabilities & Fund Balance** $13,644,497.68
- Beginning Balance With Current Year Adjustments $9,380,931.12
- Net Surplus/(Deficit) $2,930,083.96
- **Ending Fund Balance** $12,311,015.08

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* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2018 based on Best Buddies International’s Form 990-2018
** “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.
BEST BUDDIES. INTERNATIONAL

50 States
53 Countries & Territories
6 Continents
2018 was a year of growth and positive change for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This spring, we made the decision to combine our efforts and merge our operations in both states. By pooling resources, we’ve been able to eliminate areas of duplicated effort and open up lines of communication so that participants in both states are aware of all the different ways they can engage and connect with Best Buddies in our region.

In both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we continue to lead the way for Best Buddies International, developing and testing changes to our programming that allow us to more efficiently and effectively serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In 2018, these efforts focused primarily on the friendship program, streamlining our staffing model to create increased capacity for growth. As a result, we opened 27 new school-based chapters, bringing our total number of chapters to 204. These changes also allowed us to increase our social inclusion programs for adults. Through our Buddy Network initiative, we now regularly host inclusive events in Greater Boston, Greater Providence and Greater Worcester, and are currently training volunteers to help plan additional events across the two-state region. Through these events, adults with and without disabilities form organic friendships and have the opportunity to be formally matched in our Citizens program.

Building on the success of the past few years, our jobs program continued to grow significantly last year. We provided nearly 10,000 hours of support to more than 150 participants in every stage of the employment process from career exploration, to job searching, to maintaining employment. Most importantly, we expanded our geographic reach in Central Massachusetts to include southern Worcester County. Growing our service area allows us to reach and place participants who otherwise wouldn’t have access to our services.

Looking ahead to 2019, we are making it a priority to address the challenges faced by students with IDD transitioning out of high school and looking to enter the workforce. Thanks to a new partnership with Fundación MAPFRE established at the end of 2018, we are finally able to bridge the gap between our friendship program and jobs program by launching a pre-employment training program for transitioning youth with IDD. We will also be renewing our vendor status with the State of Massachusetts. With that, we will be requesting state funding to help grow the new transitions program, while at the same time, applying to further expand the scope of our Jobs program. We are making it a priority to address the challenges faced by students with IDD transitioning out of high school and looking to enter the workforce. This year was an incredible year for Best Buddies, and none of this progress would be possible without your support. We are enormously grateful for our individual donors, foundation partners and corporate supporters. Thank you for creating opportunities for inclusion for people with IDD in schools and workplaces across our region. Your support has made the difference, and we know that you will always be there for me and vice versa, them having a disability is no barrier for me...I am eager to learn about them; their favorite television show, deep feelings, how their siblings might annoy them on a daily, etc., because they are just like the rest of us and being friends is a deep connection, no matter who we are.”

As a parent of a child with disabilities, you sometimes see that they do get left out; so to have kids who want to hang out? On their own time?” Deana says, “it means the world.”

Allyson and Nate were matched in November, and have developed a deep, sympathetic relationship. They have a shared passion for the New England Patriots, and take selfies together in their Pats gear to post on social media or send to their families. During advisory periods, Allyson will find Nate in his classroom to play games or read books and magazines. Nate loves to point out the Geico logo when he sees it, and gets excited when they find one together flipping through a new magazine.

When she took on the mantle of Best Buddies Chapter President, Allyson was eager to be matched. She said, “I love having people to call my friends, the people that I know will always be there for me and vice versa, them having a disability is no barrier for me...I am eager to learn about them; their favorite television show, deep feelings, how their siblings might annoy them on a daily, etc., because they are just like the rest of us and being friends is a deep connection, no matter who we are.”

She has inspired more than 60 students to join Lowell Best Buddies, and everyone who talks about her uses the same word – “amazing.” After a few months with her, Nate is more comfortable and happier in school. His mom gives Allyson and Best Buddies credit for that.

We’re so thankful Best Buddies was started. As a parent of a child with disabilities, you see sometimes that they do get left out; so to have kids who want to hang out? On their own time?” Deana says, “it means the world.”

In the spring of 2018, Lowell High School, in Lowell, Massachusetts, didn’t have a Best Buddies program until Allyson Imbacuan, then-junior, took charge. In September, Nate Metallic was a new freshman without many social connections. So when he came home with an invitation to join Lowell Best Buddies, his mother, Deana Metallic jumped at the opportunity. “We’re so thankful Best Buddies was started. As a parent of a child with disabilities, you sometimes see that they do get left out; so to have kids who want to hang out? On their own time?” Deana says, “it means the world.”

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One-To-One Friendship

Allyson & Nate

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One-To-One Friendship

Key Program Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Chapters</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Participants</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>3,887</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>152</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Participants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Buddies</td>
<td>134</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharlisha has been a member of the Best Buddies Jobs program in Boston for just over a year. When our Jobs staff first met her, they knew they had to find her a role that would highlight her exceptionally warm and inviting personality. She was interested in retail, and obtained a seasonal Store Associate role at the Marshalls near her home. Marshalls did not keep many of their seasonal employees on after the holidays, but they hired Sharlisha permanently because she had performed so well. Sharlisha exemplifies the synergy between the core values of TJX and those of Best Buddies, and we are proud to now have her join the ranks of Best Buddies participants involved in our national partnership with TJX.

"Before I joined Best Buddies, I was always home. I did a lot of housework. Now that I have a job, I’m out more in my community. Since I was recommended to Best Buddies by my Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, my experience has been excellent. Best Buddies helps people find good jobs, and they helped me acquire my job at Marshalls. At first it was a temporary job for the holiday season around Christmas, and then they promoted me to a full-time employee because I was nice, kind, helpful and respectful.

Since I’ve been working at Marshalls, I’ve gained a greater sense of confidence and I’ve been speaking up for myself. I’m more independent, and I know how to get around on the bus."

I would recommend Best Buddies to anyone. It is a wonderful organization that helps people find jobs and the job coaches are great! They check up on you and see how you’re doing. Even though they’re not blood family, they’re like family to me.”

We’re thrilled to have Sharlisha as a part of the Best Buddies family, and we can’t wait to see how she continues to grow with TJX.

Sharlisha

Integrated Employment

Key Program Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th></th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Participants Employed</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Total Participants</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ryan

“My name is Ryan Fleming, I am an Ambassador for Best Buddies. Let me tell you my story. I was born, January 12, 2000. I am the middle child of three children of Dennis and Karin Fleming. I live with my family in Lincoln, Rhode Island. I was diagnosed with Autism at a very young age. The doctors told my parents that they would have to put me in a home by the time I was six-years-old, because my autism would be so severe that they wouldn’t be able to take care of me along with my brother and sister. My parents believed otherwise.

We started our journey with the Groden Center in 2002 and never looked back. The first few years were very hard. As time went on, and the dedication of many teachers, therapists, family and friends, I started to overcome many of the obstacles of Autism that I faced. In September 2014, I began my high school journey at Lincoln High School. I was lucky enough to swim for the swim team, served as captain my senior year and helped my team win two state championships! In an effort to make friends at the high school, I joined Best Buddies during my freshman year. What a great decision that was! I became a member in 2014, and a Best Buddies Ambassador in 2016.

Best Buddies changed my life in high school. High school wasn’t just about the academics for me. It was about the experiences, the friends I met and the many lessons I learned. High school wasn’t just about the academics for me. It was about the experiences, the friends I met and the many lessons I learned about life.

In the fall of 2018, I began my most recent journey at Rhode Island College. From the many lessons I learned in high school, the most important one was to get involved and that has helped me during my freshman year. I am trying to charter a Best Buddies chapter at Rhode Island College, with my best buddies from Lincoln High School, Jennamarie O’Neil, Crystal Goodreau, Madison Doyle and Madison Enos. It’s hard to go to a new school with a new schedule and a big group of new people. My hope is that Best Buddies will help me and other individuals like me to make life-long friendships. It made all the difference for me in high school.

High school wasn’t just about the academics for me. It was about the experiences, the friends I met and the many lessons I learned about life.”

I have a very supportive family both at home and in my community. You know what they say, it takes a village to raise a child. I am so happy my mom and dad chose Lincoln, Rhode Island as their home base. My advice for other people with intellectual disabilities is to get involved. Put yourself out there: attend sporting events, attend club meetings, and more.

Country singer Tim McGraw says it best: “Don’t expect a free ride from no one…When the dreams you’re dreaming come to you…When the work you put in is realized, let yourself feel the pride, but always stay humble and kind.” This song really motivates me in life to be happy with the present and what you have accomplished, but to keep your dreams coming and reach for them through hard work, all while staying humble and kind.”

- Ryan, Leadership Development participant

Leadership Development

Key Program Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ambassadors</th>
<th>Promoters</th>
<th>Total Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Special Thank You!

The Marketing and Strategic Development Department would like to thank Best Buddies International Headquarters, state offices and international department for all of their help in creating this report. This collaborative effort was supported by the entire organization and across all departments.

While we wish to thank everyone for their contribution, please also note the following people that played a major role in its development:

Copy & Editing
Nicole Maddox, Director, Communications
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Stephanie Moore, Vice President, State Operations & Mission Advancement
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Lisa Derx, Vice President, Government Relations

Global Statistics
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Mariana & Sara
Friendship Program Buddy Pair
Best Buddies Costa Rica

Global Headquarters
info@bestbuddies.org
100 Southeast Second Street, Suite 2200
Miami, Florida 33131
P 305.374.2233 | F 305.374.5305