

# 2024

## BESTBUDDIES® ANNUAL REPORT

Gisselle, Lily and Caroline, Eunie's Buddies

BEST BUDDIES®



# BEST BUDDIES®



## MISSION PILLARS

One-To-One  
Friendships

Integrated  
Employment

Leadership  
Development

Inclusive  
Living

Family  
Support



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# Message From Our Chairman

Dear Best Buddies Family,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Friendship,



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



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

# Why We Matter

Society has made undeniable progress in improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Yet, we still have a long way to go. Many people with IDD remain unemployed and do not experience the simple joys of genuine friendships and a significant portion of the IDD community still faces access barriers, pervasive social isolation, and discrimination.

This is where Best Buddies International plays a vital role as a model of inclusion and catalyst for change. Best Buddies is the world's largest organization committed to ending the social, physical and economic isolation that 200 million individuals with IDD often experience. For those within the IDD community, Best Buddies represents a pathway to forging lifelong friendships, securing gainful employment, achieving independent living and gaining the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves.

An estimated 84%\* of adults (18+) with IDD do not have a paid job in the community. This is where the Best Buddies' Jobs program steps in. The Best Buddies Jobs program has participants employed full time who each have the potential to earn a total income upwards of \$1mm over 30 years and contribute \$250k in taxes back into the economy, rather than costing the government approximately \$750k each in Federal SSI and Medicaid support during that time period.

This is just one of the countless ways Best Buddies improves the lives of individuals with IDD while simultaneously improving whole-of-society outcomes. Through the cultivation of meaningful one-on-one friendships, the pursuit of integrated employment, the provision of inclusive living arrangements and the nurturing of leadership skills, Best Buddies is fostering a world that is full of opportunity for individuals with IDD.

For more information, please visit **BESTBUDDIES.ORG**

Together, we can build a world where everyone belongs.



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



From left: **Brent, Kai, Garrett, and Mitch**

## A Parent's Perspective

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

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

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

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

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

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

– **Mitch Holeve**, Eunie's Buddies Mentor

# 2024 Highlights

## Launches

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

## New Partnerships

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



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



**Kiontis Gallion**, Best Buddies Global Ambassador

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



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

# Milestones

## 1987 - 1996

- In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Colleges by founding the first Best Buddies chapter at Georgetown University.
- In 1988, the iconic Best Buddies logo was donated to Best Buddies by legendary pop-artist, Keith Haring.
- On January 19, 1989, Best Buddies is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, becoming America's first national, unified, social and recreational program for people with IDD.
- In 1992, Best Buddies Global Headquarters office moves to Miami, FL.
- In 1993, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Citizens to pair adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with their working peers who do not have disabilities.
- In 1994, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Jobs, a supported employment program targeting high-paying, corporate jobs for people with IDD.
- In 1995, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** High Schools to pair special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- In 1996, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Middle Schools to pair students with IDD in one-to-one friendships with middle school volunteers.

## 1999 - 2011

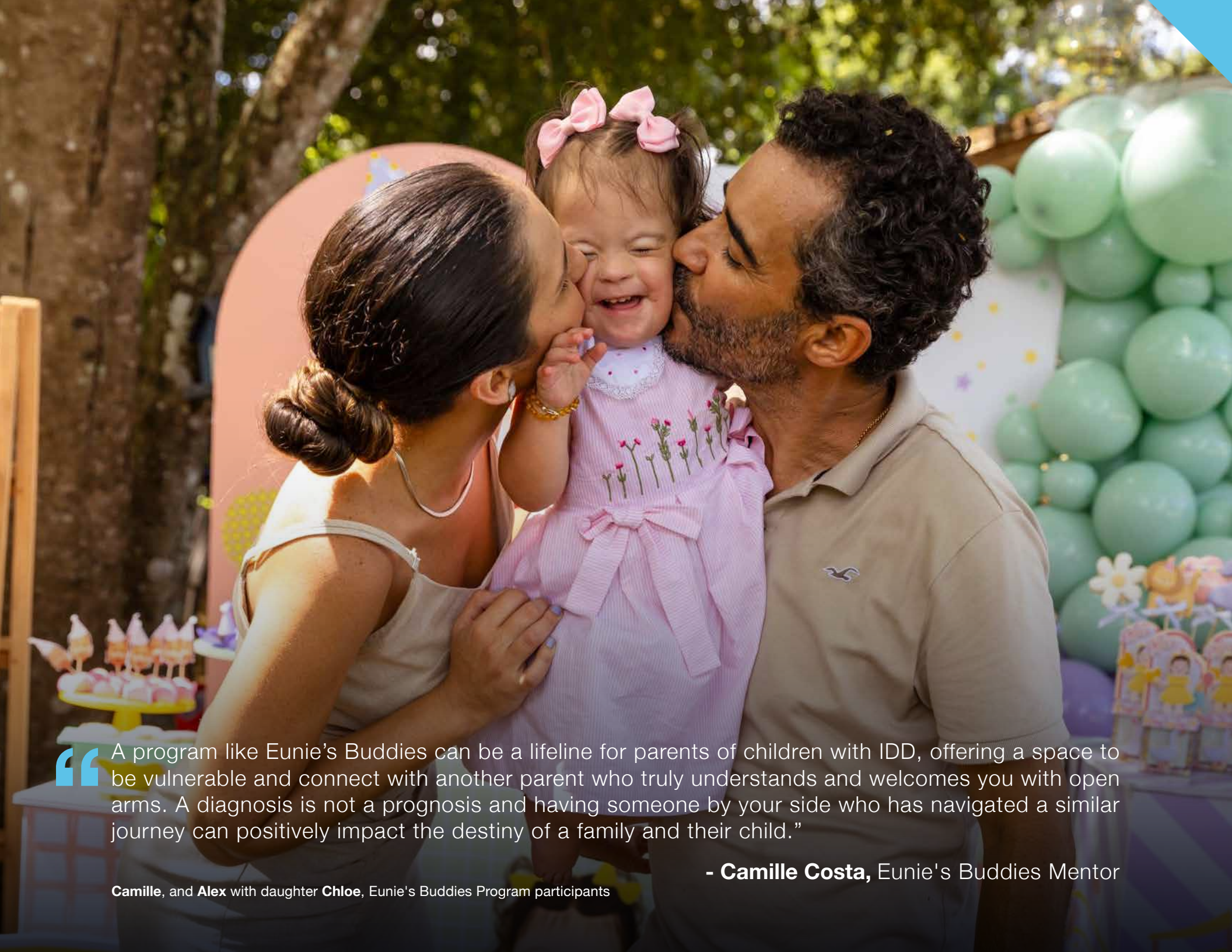
- In 1998, Best Buddies hosts the first *Best Buddies Miami Gala*.
- In 1999, Best Buddies launches **e-BUDDIES®**, a cutting-edge online friendship program.
- In 2000, Best Buddies holds the inaugural *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, a 100-mile bike ride from Boston to Hyannis Port.
- In 2003, Best Buddies has participants in all 50 states on the US.
- In 2004, Best Buddies launches the nationally televised inaugural *Volvo Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle*, a 100-mile bike ride along the Pacific Coast Highway.
- In 2009, Best Buddies launches *Best Buddies Friendship Walk*.
- In 2010, Best Buddies has programs in 50 countries around the world.
- In 2011, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.

## 2012 - 2019

- In 2012, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Promoters, the first Best Buddies program open to elementary schools; the inaugural of the *Best Buddies Challenge: Miami* takes place and the first *Best Buddies Champion of The Year Gala* is hosted.
- In 2014, Best Buddies celebrates its 25th anniversary and also celebrates 25 years of the *Best Buddies Leadership Conference*.
- In 2017, Best Buddies holds the first *Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu* and hosts the inaugural *Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers* in Malibu, CA, with Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and her daughter, Kaia Gerber.
- In 2019, Best Buddies launches its fourth mission pillar, **BESTBUDDIES®** Inclusive Living, to provide individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow and thrive.

## 2020 - Current

- In 2020, Best Buddies introduces **BESTBUDDIES®** Ventures, with the first launch being **BESTBUDDIES®** X Rosetta Bakery in Miami, FL, creates jobs for individuals with IDD and operates as a profit center via a bakery and coffee shop partnership.
- In 2020, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Transitions to help prepare young adults with IDD for independence and inclusion in their communities as they move from school into adulthood.
- In 2022, Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES®** Elementary Schools to teach inclusion to a younger age group to create a lasting effect on societal norms for the next generation. In 2023, as part of the organization's 2030 Initiative to impact 4 million people globally, Best Buddies continues to partner with Global Ambassadors such as Tom Brady and Cindy Crawford to further expand its mission of inclusion and the 5-star **BESTBUDDIES®** X Rosetta Bakery.
- In 2024, Best Buddies launches its fifth mission pillar **BESTBUDDIES®** Family Support, to offer families access to individual connections and community resources that assist them on their journey of raising a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



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

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

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

# Our Impact

**3,738**

Chapters

**147,663\***

Participants

**1,476,630**

Impacted

**50**

States

**43**

Countries



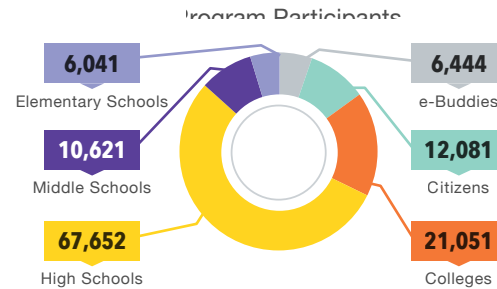
## One-To-One Friendship

**130** Elementary School Chapters

**1,675** High School Chapters

**513** Middle School Chapters

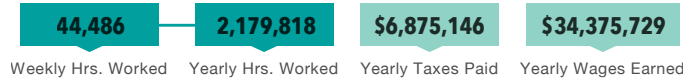
**483** College Chapters



## Integrated Employment

**2,279** Participants Employed

### Average Total Participant Stats



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



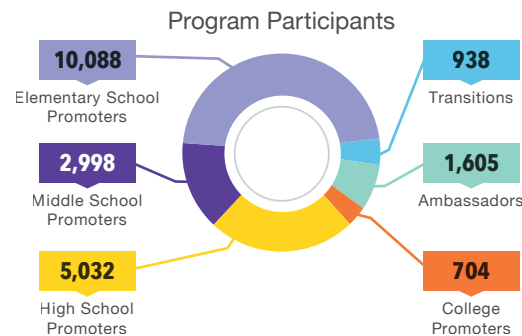
## Leadership Development

**455** Elementary Schools Promoters Chapters

**172** Middle School Promoters Chapters

**271** High School Promoters Chapters

**39** College Promoters Chapters



## Inclusive Living

**10** Living Residences

**71** Living Participants



## Family Support

**58** Eunie's Buddies Participants



**Matilde and Antonio**, Friendship program participants  
Best Buddies Portugal

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



One-To-One Friendships



Integrated Employment



Leadership Development



Inclusive Living



Family Support

## We are BESTBUDDIES®

Best Buddies is the largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower people with IDD to form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure jobs, improve communication and advocacy skills, and live independently, while also offering support for their families.

## Mission

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

## Who We Serve

Best Buddies serves individuals with IDD and their families. The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, and other undiagnosed disabilities.

## Programs

Best Buddies programs sit on the five key mission pillars below:

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

## One-To-One Friendships

Builds friendships between people with and without IDD, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded.

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, & Citizens

Creates an inclusive community for students and adults with IDD, helping them become socially integrated with their peers at every age.

### **e-BUDDIES**®

Provides opportunities for participants with and without IDD to form virtual one-to-one friendships, create connections in the e-Buddies social platform, and attend social events online.

## Integrated Employment

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

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Jobs

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

## Leadership Development

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

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Ambassadors

Offers people with and without IDD the opportunity to gain the public speaking skills, self-esteem, and confidence needed to successfully advocate for themselves, their peers, and Best Buddies in communities and workplaces.

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Promoters

Empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD and helps chapters organize special events that promote inclusion and bring awareness to the disability rights movement.

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Transitions

Offers a combination of classroom-based training, experiential learning, and corporate mentorship to help students with IDD explore post-secondary options, prepare for independent living, and identify career ambitions.

## Inclusive Living

Provides an integrated experience in which people with and without IDD are active, contributing citizens – living independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.

### **BESTBUDDIES**® Living

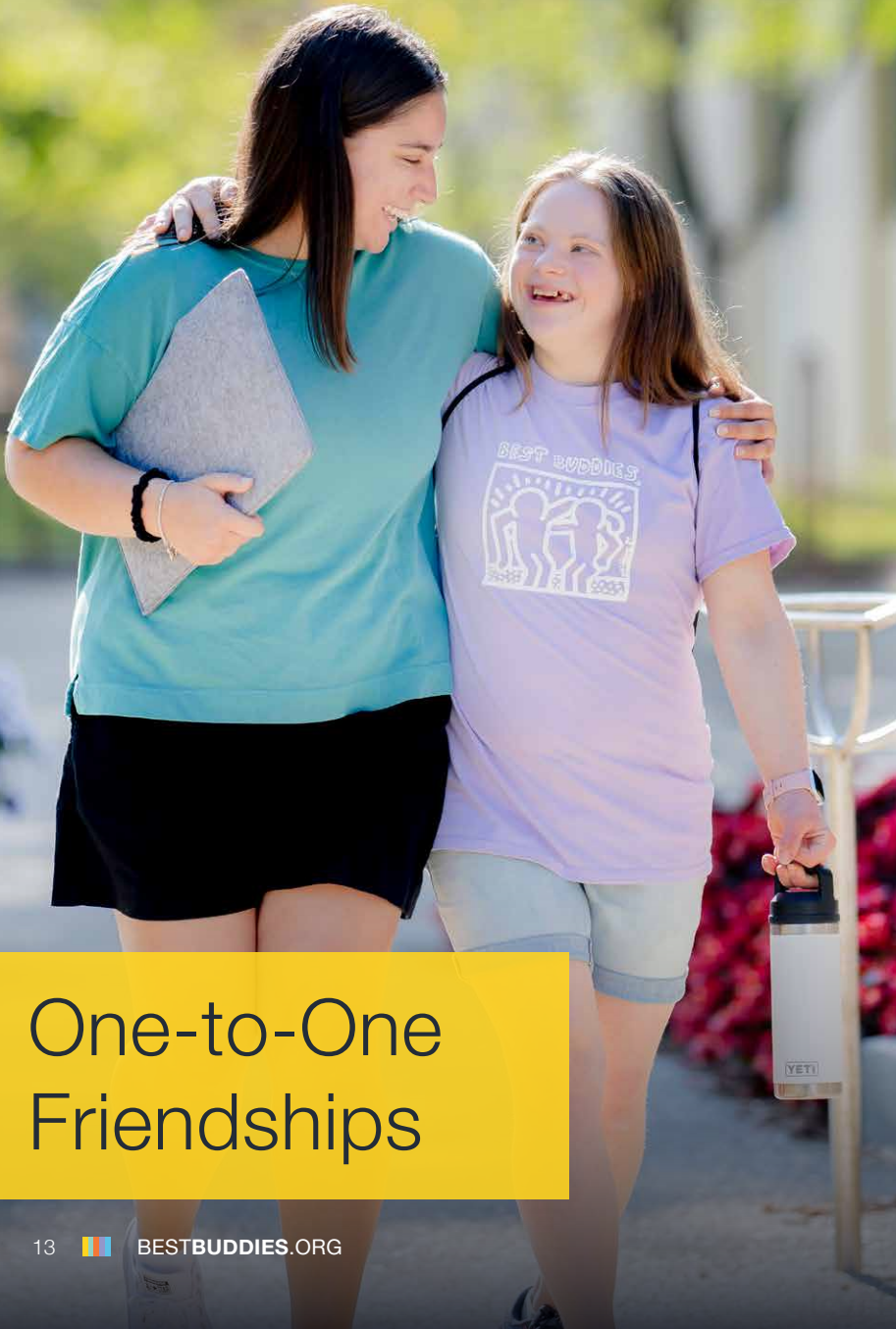
Offers individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live together in a vibrant, educational community that supports all residents in advancing their employment, financial literacy, continued education, and life skills as they work to achieve their personal goals.

## Family Support

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

### Eunie's **BUDDIES**®

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



## One-to-One Friendships

Without love, support, and friends, life may feel isolating – this is a reality people with IDD have faced throughout history. Best Buddies offers people with IDD the chance to have a friend, gain self-confidence and self-esteem and share interests, experiences, and activities that many other individuals enjoy.

### **BESTBUDDIES.** Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools & Colleges

Best Buddies offers students with IDD the opportunity to have a friend and enjoy common interests, experiences, and social activities in the Middle School, High School, and College programs. Each friendship pair commits to speaking and spending time together every week throughout the year. These programs create lasting friendships and help facilitate an environment of inclusion throughout the school and in the community.

### **BESTBUDDIES.** Citizens

For people with IDD, the absence of meaningful friendships extends into adulthood. Best Buddies Citizens pairs adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with adults without IDD in corporate and civic communities. Citizen buddy pairs commit to a one-year friendship in which they will talk once a week and see each other twice a month. These relationships commonly grow into friendships that last a lifetime.

### **e-BUDDIES.**

This program creates social inclusion and friendships for people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in a virtual space. Technology is an integral part of society and by participating in e-Buddies, participants can develop the skills needed to communicate across a variety of platforms.



Emma and Harrell, Friendship Program buddy pair

# Emma & Harrell

## One-To-One Friendships

Souhegan High School,  
Amherst, NH

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Integrated Employment

Best Buddies Jobs assists participants in finding meaningful employment, earning a competitive income, receiving benefits, and working alongside others in the community. The program offers people with IDD the opportunity to become financially independent, removing the need for government assistance or parental support. A focus on competitive, professional opportunities is what sets the Best Buddies Jobs program apart from other employment services.

### **BESTBUDDIES.** Jobs

Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with IDD into the community through supported employment. The focus is on facilitating competitive, integrated job placements that allow participants to earn an income, pay taxes, and work in an environment alongside their peers in the community, leading to full inclusion and independence. Coaching is provided in essential job interviewing skills, and once employment is secured, there is assistance with on-the-job training.

The Jobs program prides itself on developing employment opportunities in professional environments and focuses on white-collar jobs such as receptionists, mail room assistants, file clerks, office assistants, front desk assistants, and retail associates. Employers range from some of the top law firms and talent agencies to well-known retail businesses and luxury hotels.



Jeet, Best Buddies Jobs participant  
Ally Financial

# Jeet

## Integrated Employment

### Ally Financial

### Chicago, IL

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

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

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

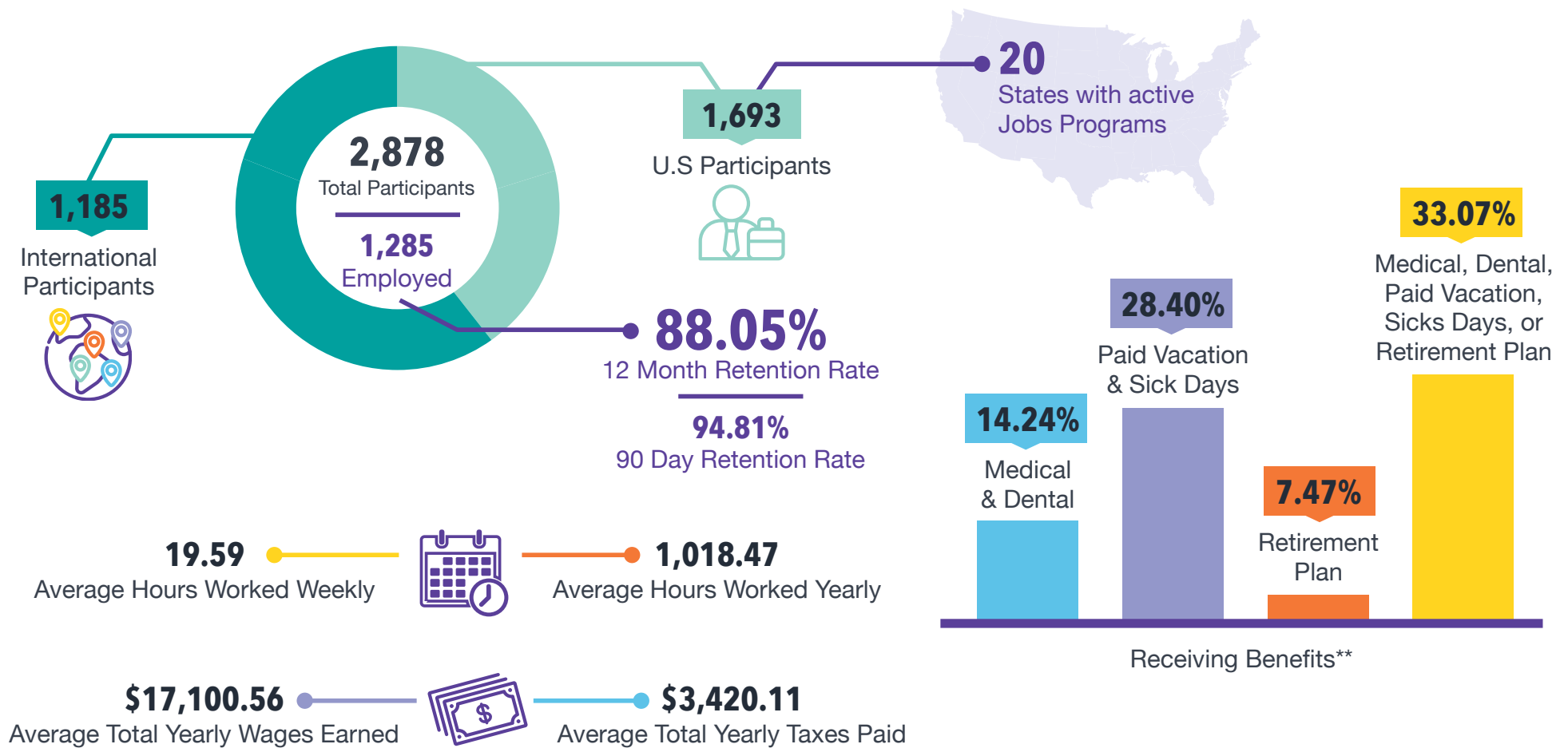
Ultimately, Jeet was hired at Ally Financial with the assistance of Best Buddies and over two years of office work experience.

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

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

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

# Key Jobs Program Stats



## Top 4 Jobs Participants Highest Salaries With Benefits

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

# Top 4 Jobs Participants Highest Hourly Rates

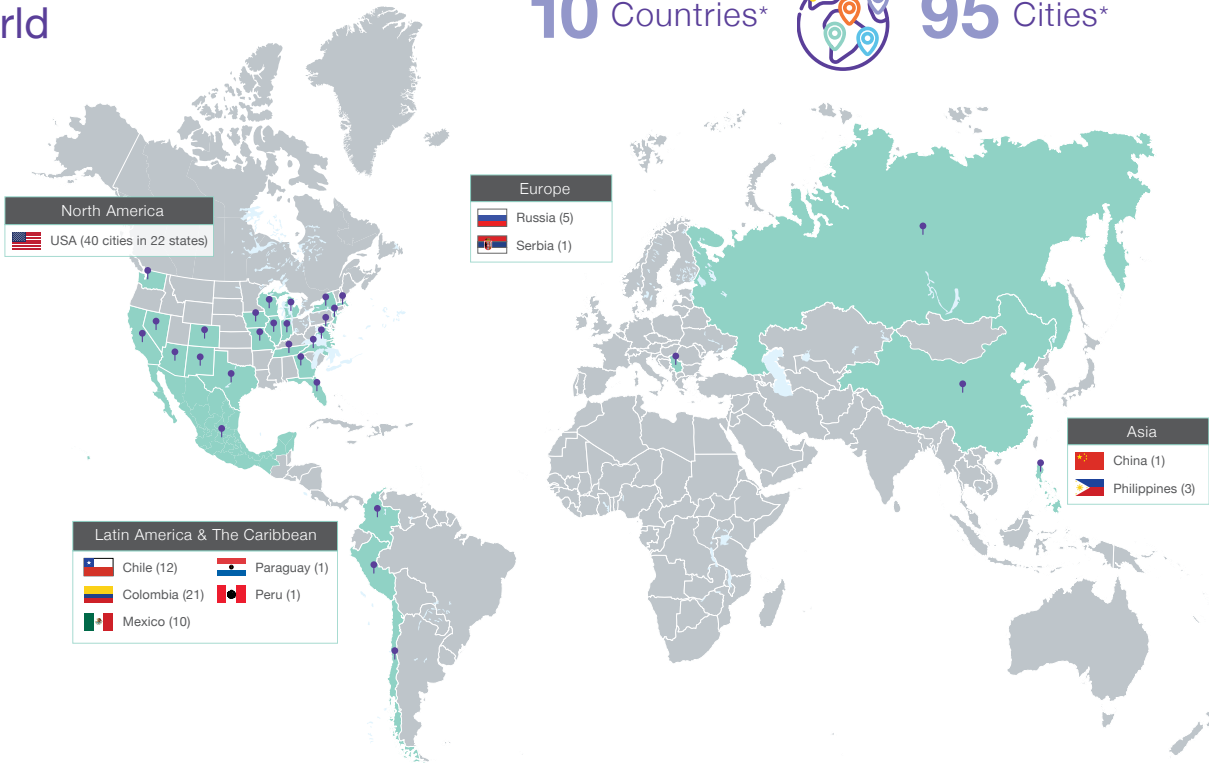


# Best Buddies Jobs Around The World



Lily, Best Buddies Jobs participant  
Panera Bread

10 Countries\* 95 Cities\*



\* Global jobs stats are calculated based on total jobs participants and U.S. Average hours and wages.  
 \*\* Represents benefits received by US BB Job participants.  
 \*\*\* All Jobs Program stats are as of 12/31/2024



## Leadership Development

Best Buddies educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and change agents. Through the Ambassadors and Promoters programs, participants inspire their communities to build a more inclusive world for people with IDD.

### BESTBUDDIES® Ambassadors

Best Buddies Ambassadors is a program that provides training for participants with and without IDD in speech writing, public speaking, and self-advocacy. Ambassadors develop the skills to share their life stories, promote Best Buddies programs, network, and, most importantly, advocate.

Ambassadors participate in trainings focused on the art of public speaking and advocacy. Once trained, they share their stories and become more involved and empowered as citizens. Ambassadors are encouraged to speak about opportunities for people with IDD, present at recruitment fairs and Best Buddies events, and develop partnerships in the community.

### BESTBUDDIES® Promoters

Best Buddies Promoters empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD by organizing and attending special events that promote inclusion. Students attending a school without a special education program can join a Promoters chapter to develop connections with people with IDD or can start one by contacting their local Best Buddies state office.

Each Promoters chapter is led by a chapter president from the student body and a faculty advisor and is assigned a Best Buddies staff person who offers regular support and guidance. Once formed, Promoters chapters host events, activities, and fundraisers where they advocate for people with IDD, and promote the Best Buddies mission.



Kiontis, Best Buddies Global Ambassador

# Kiontis

## Leadership Development

### Global Ambassador

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

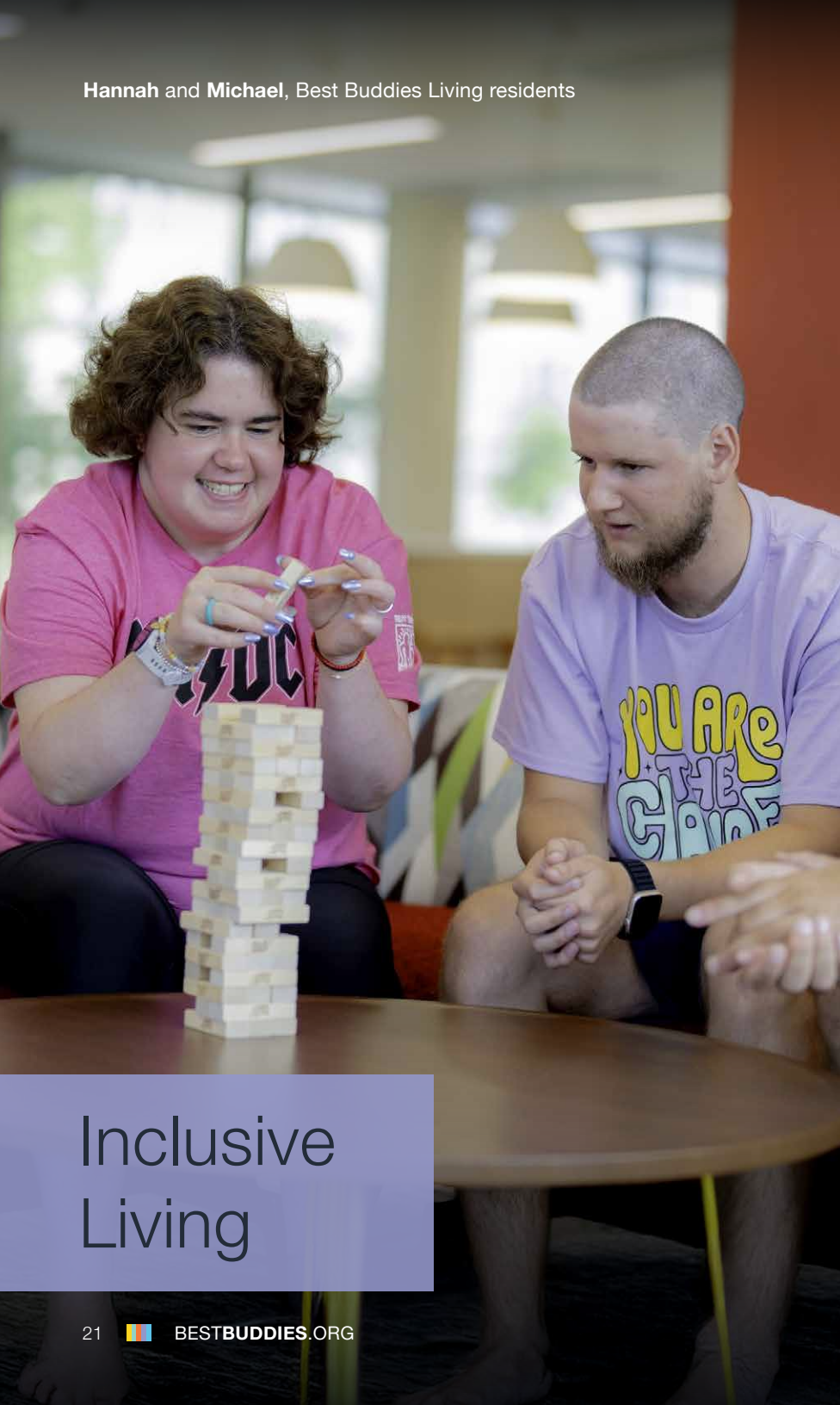
But then, something remarkable happened. A teacher saw in me what I couldn't yet see in myself—my potential to help others. She encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone and join Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to fostering inclusion and friendship. That decision changed everything. The unexpected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

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

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

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

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



## Inclusive Living

Supporting and empowering individuals with IDD to live as integrated, contributing members in the larger community is the next frontier in the movement to create a more inclusive society. Best Buddies Living fosters a dynamic environment where people with IDD can learn, grow and thrive.

### BESTBUDDIES<sup>®</sup> Living

The Best Buddies Living program encourages people with and without IDD to live together in a vibrant community that focuses on supporting residents in accomplishing their life goals and dreams.

The Best Buddies Living program supports inclusion by:

- Developing programs that foster an opportunity for residents to experience living with friends and colleagues. Programs include weekly shared meals, fitness classes, cultural events, holiday parties, social activities, and sports.
- Offering an environment that encourages the development of independent living skills, life-changing relationships, and educational pursuits in connection with a college or university. Through an affiliation with a nearby school, all residents can immerse themselves in campus life, attending sporting events and enjoying fitness and dining facilities alongside their student peers.
- Matching people with and without IDD in a residential experience, and providing a supportive environment that encourages full-time or part-time employment.



Yvenie, Best Buddies Living resident

# Yvenie

## Inclusive Living

### Best Buddies Living Resident Los Angeles, CA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Eunie's **BUDDIES**.

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

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

Family  
Support



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

# Tata & Nikki

## Family Support

### Eunie's Buddies Mentee and Mentor Miami, FL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# International Programs

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

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

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

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

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



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



Best Buddies Jobs participant from Best Buddies Colombia



Best Buddies Dominican Republic match up party



Best Buddies Serbia country director and Best Buddies Jobs participant



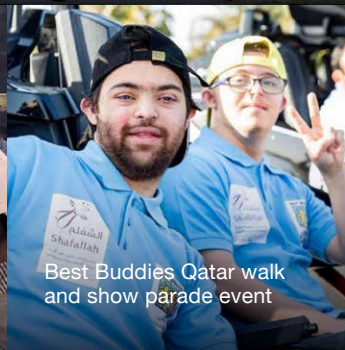
2024 BBFW: Canada



Best Buddies Philippines PEP Session on Tech/AI



Best Buddies Panama cooking class



Best Buddies Qatar walk and show parade event

# Best Buddies Around The World

**43** Countries & Territories



**5** Continents



Revised 1.30.25

# Signature Events



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

The purpose of special events is to garner support, funds, and awareness for the Best Buddies mission. There are numerous ways to get involved with Best Buddies events including attending events, volunteering, and pursuing sponsorship opportunities.

# Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port

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

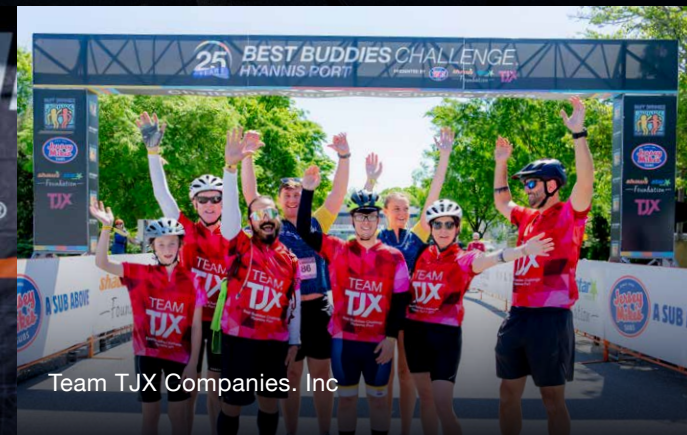
The *Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port*, presented by Shaw's and Star Market Foundation and the TJX Companies, Inc. returned to Massachusetts for its 25th Anniversary. The Challenge weekend kicked off Friday, May 31 with a dinner reception at John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum & Library. On Saturday, June 1, hundreds of riders took to the start line at the JFK Library for the picturesque 100-mile ride portion of the event, from Boston to Hyannis Port. The Challenge was capped off by a celebratory clambake and included a special musical performance by guitar legend Don Felder, formerly of the Eagles, at Craigville Beach. In total, the event raised \$4 million for Best Buddies programs.



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



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



Team **TJX Companies, Inc.**



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



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



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

# Best Buddies Challenge: California

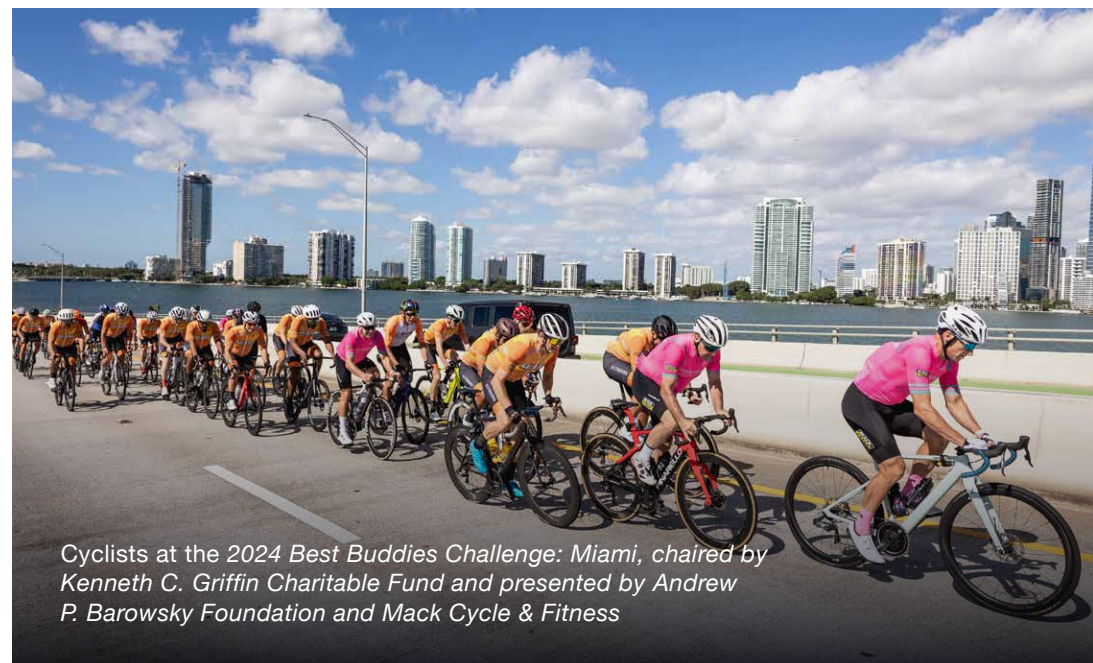
October 18-19, 2024 | Marin, CA

The *Best Buddies Challenge: California*, presented by the Safeway Foundation returned to California for its 20th year. The event kicked off with the welcome reception at the iconic Summit Skywalker Ranch on Friday, October 18, where guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and a program hosted by Best Buddies International Founder, Chairman & CEO Anthony K. Shriver that highlighted the achievements of the Best Buddies Global Ambassadors and key supporters. On Saturday, October 19, hundreds of cyclists took to the starting line at the Summit Skywalker Ranch for an 80 or 38-mile ride through Tomales Bay, Point Reyes, and the Marin countryside led by pro-cyclists Geraint Thomas and Alberto Contador. The event was capped off with a gourmet lunch, wine tasting and live entertainment and raised \$2.5 million for Best Buddies programs.

# Best Buddies Challenge: Miami

November 16, 2024 | Miami, FL

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



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



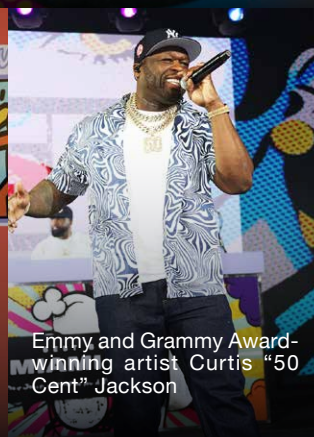
2024 Spirit of Leadership Award recipient **Guy Fieri** with Best Buddies Ambassadors **Chris Harrington, Michael Jaxtimer-Barry** and **Cassidy Bauer**



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



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



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



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

# Jersey Mike's Subs Best Buddies Miami Gala

November 16, 2024 | Miami, FL

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

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

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

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

# Best Buddies Breakaway Camps

**Malibu, CA Spring April 24-28, 2024**

**Aspen, CO Fall September 4-8, 2024**

**Malibu, CA Winter December 4-8, 2024**

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

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





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

## Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers

May 4, 2024 | Nashville, TN

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

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

## Best Buddies Friendship Balls & Proms

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



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

# Best Buddies Friendship Walk

The *Best Buddies Friendship Walks* continued to grow and expand, serving as a significant platform for raising awareness and funds in support of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). In 2024, more than 48,000 participants across 76 cities joined the cause, collectively raising over \$5.8 million. These walks have positively impacted communities nationwide, creating spaces for new friendships, unlocking promising opportunities, and, above all, promoting inclusion for all.



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



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Nashville



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Portland



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Tampa Bay



Participants at the 2024 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: Alabama

# Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala

*Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala* is a competitive fundraising campaign that brings together and celebrates leaders of inclusion in local communities across the nation. Champion Candidates dedicate themselves to raising funds and awareness for Best Buddies during their campaigns. The culmination of these efforts is the Champion of the Year celebration, where the Champions are honored, and the individual who raises the most funds is named the *Champion of the Year*.

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



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



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



Best Buddies Global Ambassador **Mollie Noble**



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



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

# Best Buddies Leadership Conference

July 19-21, 2024 | Bloomington, IN

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

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



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





Special Olympics Founder  
**Eunice Kennedy Shriver** and  
Special Olympics participants

## EKS Day

Created in 2010, Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day serves as a unique opportunity to celebrate her legacy, indomitable spirit and life-long commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Even during a time when society did not, Eunice Kennedy Shriver believed in the abilities of people with IDD and led the effort to end the physical and social isolation they endured. EKS Day promotes a global call for individuals to commit to actions of change, inclusion, and acceptance for people with IDD. Across the United States and in 100 countries, EKS Day is celebrated with love, justice, faith, hope, and courage – her five key values. Activities included sports clinics, picnics, leadership trainings, and disability rights awareness efforts.

## March Best Buddies Month

What began as a one-day celebration of the Best Buddies mission evolved into a month-long festivity to reflect on the importance of inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities every March. In 2023, the celebration began with the annual *Spread the Word: Inclusion* campaign that encouraged participants to showcase how they promote inclusion in their communities. Throughout the month, participants hosted virtual chapter parties, awareness activities, and engagement campaigns to honor their unity in advancing opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and inclusive living.



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

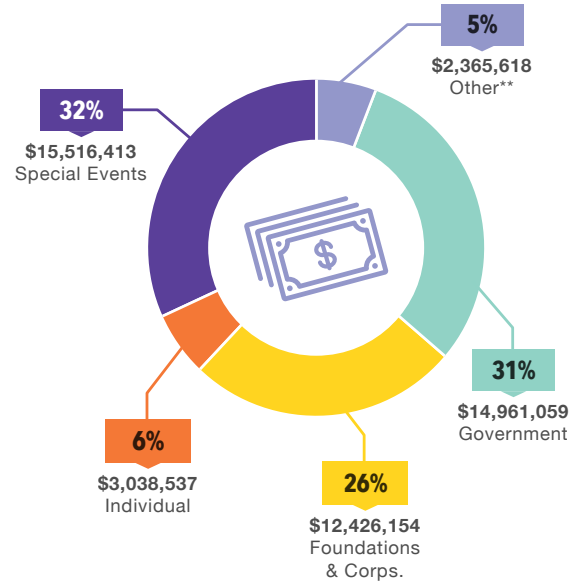
Matthew Von Der Ahe, Best Buddies Global Ambassador and actor from the film "Champions"



# Financials

## Consolidated Statement of Activities\* (as of 12.31.24)

### Domestic Revenue



**\$48,307,781**

Total Domestic Revenue

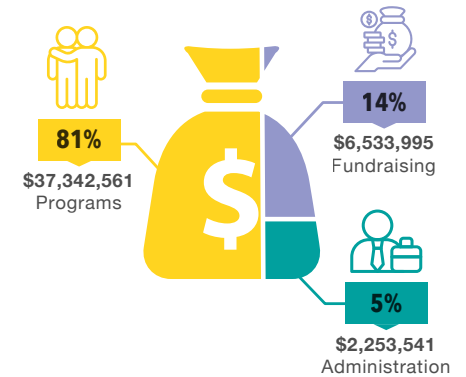
**\$30,000,000**

Total International Revenue\*\*\*

**\$78,307,781**

Total Gross Revenue

### Domestic Expenses



**\$46,130,097**

Total Domestic Expenses

### Domestic Net Asset Summary

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

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

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

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

\* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2023 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990

\*\* "Other" represents revenue generated from a collection of sources including: Chapter Dues, Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, Investment Income and Cause-Related Marketing.

\*\*\* Gross consolidation of International Licensees that operate as their own NGOs.

# Financials

## Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.24)

### Assets

#### Current Assets

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

#### Property and Equipment

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Computers                                 | \$461,647          |
| Furniture and equipment                   | \$85,104           |
| Auto                                      | \$61,522           |
| Land                                      | \$1,152,473        |
| <b>Total Property and Equipment, Cost</b> | <b>\$1,760,746</b> |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation             | (\$578,759)        |
| <b>Total Property and Equipment, Net</b>  | <b>\$1,181,987</b> |

#### Right-of-Use Assets

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

#### Other Assets

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

**Total Assets \$45,701,688**

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities

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

#### Long-Term Liabilities

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

#### Net Assets

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| With donor restriction    | \$5,945,187         |
| Without donor restriction | \$33,488,980        |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>   | <b>\$39,434,167</b> |

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



Mia and Isla, Friendship Program participants

# Board of Directors



**Cory Alexander**  
Founder & Chief  
Executive Officer  
Alexander Consulting



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



**Olivia Culp**  
Actress



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



**Jack Eichel**  
Professional  
Hockey Player  
Vegas Golden Knights



**Robert Friedman**  
Partner  
Holland & Knight



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



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



**Jamie Hintlian**  
Partner/Principal  
Ernst & Young



**Roman Josi**  
Captain  
Nashville Predators



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



**Gerard A. Klingman, CFP**  
President  
Klingman & Associates



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U.S. Olympic  
Gold Medalist



**Chris Lindstrom**  
Professional Football Player  
Atlanta Falcons



**James Lintott**  
Chairman  
Sterling Foundation  
Management



**Matthew McKinney**  
Co-Founder & Chief  
Executive Officer  
LOOP



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



**Thomas Quick**  
Philanthropist



**Shia Rozier**  
Student  
North Carolina A&T  
University



**James P. Shay**  
Philanthropist



**Fran Sheinberg**  
Ambassador  
Best Buddies International



**Anthony Kennedy Shriver**  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
Best Buddies International



**Eunice K. Shriver II**  
Philanthropist



**Ralph Winter**  
Founder & Principal  
W5 Group



**Bernie Yuman**  
President  
Bernie Yuman Mgmt.

# Executive Team



**Jenny Allen**  
Vice President  
International



**Jeremiah Angel**  
Vice President  
Web & Database Operations



**Jasmin Beckles**  
Vice President  
Data Operations



**John M. Carlin**  
Vice President  
Office of the Chairman



**Missy Collins**  
Vice President  
State Operations



**Lisa Derx**  
Vice President  
Government Relations



**Catherine Anne Hennessy**  
Vice President  
Family Support



**Emily Hunt**  
Vice President  
Programs



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



**Nicole Maddox**  
Vice President  
Communications



**Stephanie Moore**  
Senior Vice President  
Mission Advancement  
& Field Operations



**Mia Mulholland**  
Vice President  
Mission Operations &  
Conferences



**Cary Ombres**  
Senior Vice President  
Global Mission Impact  
& Engagement



**Jessica Schwartz**  
Vice President  
Marketing & Partnerships



**Anthony Kennedy Shriver**  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
Best Buddies International



**Julie Torres**  
Vice President  
Human Resources  
& Operations



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



**Robert Vargas**  
Senior Vice President  
Finance and Operations

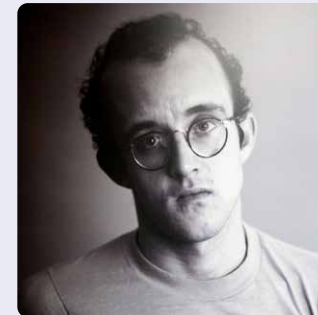


**Mark J. Wylie**  
Vice President  
Talent Relations

## Honorary Board Members



**Eunice Kennedy Shriver**  
Founder, Special Olympics Int.



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



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

- **Fran Sheinberg**, Global Ambassador

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

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| Jose Garrido                  | Meredith Conner                     | Barbara C. Macon                        | Child Development Foundation       | Sandra L. Holmgren                   |
| Stephen Chasse                | Round Room Gives, Inc               | Natalie Mitchell                        | Colliers International - WA        | Kathryn Klimek                       |
| Bryan Irwin                   | Carolyn Bellinson                   | Robert Mitchell                         | Commonwealth Edison Company        | Larry E. Ott                         |
| Andrew Price                  | James Bellinson                     | Lindley Diecks                          | Evolution Risk Advisors, Inc.      | Butler Family Foundation             |
| Julie Tiftt                   | Inktel                              | Christopher's Fine Jewelry              | Fontainebleau Development LLC      | Charles & M R Shapiro Foundation Inc |
| Thomas Diecks                 | David Goldstein                     | Stephanie M. Wertz                      | IMC Financial Markets              | Confluence Wealth Services, Inc.     |
| Donnie Mingus                 | Bachman's Floral, Home and Garden   | Abigail L. Walsh                        | Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation | Dade County Federal Credit Union     |
| Andrew W. Greene              | Brian F. Boyle                      | Alexander R. Buttery                    | Shopping Center Management         | Florida Power & Light Company        |
| Michael Sullivan              | Nicole Rajic                        | Greenberg Traurig                       | Swire Properties Inc., Miami       | Margaret M. Spalding                 |
| Jacob Burger                  | Community Chest of New Britain and  | Jewish Communal Fund                    | The Bloedorn Foundation            | Charlene Huard-Marcoux               |
| Charlie Reed                  | Berlin, Inc.                        | Jill D Brown Living Trust               | The Bob and Marie Gallo Foundation | The J.M. Smucker Company             |
| Jenny Stone                   | Charities Aid Foundation of America | Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial      | The Irene E. & George A. Davis     | Dan Cash                             |
| Salesforce Inc.               | JC Penney - National Headquarters   | The Elder Law Center of Kirson & Fuller | Foundation                         | Benjamin Ballard                     |
| Christelle R. Pradat          | Stephen R. Parker                   | UPMC Life Changing Medicine             | The Katharine Matthies Foundation  | Trulieve Inc                         |
| David Lubarsky                | Eva Parker                          | Alex Simpson                            | The Molina Healthcare Charitable   | Luke Allen                           |
| Jamay Shook                   | Beth McHenry                        | Robert R. Kane                          | Foundation                         | Steven Feller                        |
| Clark Construction Group, LLC | Alternative Investment Management,  | Jonathan M. Mings                       | Universal Insurance Holdings       | Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield      |
| Curran J. Butcher             | LLC                                 | Kendra Scott LLC                        | Vanguard Charitable                | Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for       |
| Lisa Carter                   | Rick Rumford                        | Kenneth Gordon                          | David Herro                        | Autism, Inc.                         |
| Michelle Petrenko             | Garrison Cohen                      | Andrew Fowler                           | Donald Hoffman                     | The Whiting-Turner Contracting       |
| Weitieng Li                   | Laurie A. Utter                     | Chris Doherty                           | Melanie Nussdorf                   | Company                              |
| Kelly Procell Cac             | Donna Simerly                       | Jeremy Camp                             | Shannon Sloop                      | Leslie Little                        |
| Kasey Marty                   | Health Care Service Corporation     | John Adams                              | Ben Silverman                      | Sanofi US Services, Inc.             |
| Shabaz Malik                  | Boston Celtics Shamrock             | Andrew Watson-Hogan                     | Tami James                         | Rob Cancro                           |
| Kristin Weber                 | Foundation, Inc.                    | Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy           | Boundless Health                   | Wesco Distribution, Inc              |
| Host Hotels & Resorts, L.P.   | Dylan V. Schlesinger                | High School                             | Brandon H. Elledge                 | Waukesha County Community            |
| Robert Lake                   | Aramark Global Business Services    | Big Blue Sky Foundation                 | Shirley Phelan                     | Foundation                           |
| Haine School PTO              | Giant Eagle Inc                     | Community Foundation of West            | Matthew Mingus                     | Katherine Reed                       |
| WTS International, LLC        | Siskin Steel & Supply               | Alabama                                 | Sumeet V. Singh                    | Katherine Jones                      |
| Elisabeth Rice                | The Miami Foundation                | Field Family Foundation                 | Brent L. Brooks                    | MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC            |
| Matthew R. Niemann            | Natalie Silverstein                 | Lithia Ramsey Subaru #384               | Jones Lang LaSalle                 | Grapevine Giving Foundation          |
| Karen Hoke                    | Bill Macon                          | Wiremold Company                        | Scott Resnick                      | JOH Kids 360                         |
| Jordan Berns                  | Jim Mooney                          | Joseph P. Parisi                        | Bethany Vietmeier                  | Geoffrey Carroll                     |
| Hillary Simon                 | Grant Pickering                     | Greater Houston Community               | David L. Lanier                    | Vanessa J. Manners                   |
| Kenneth Stiller               | Kyle Passkiewicz                    | Foundation                              | Devin DeStefano                    | Meryl Wolfson - Friedman             |
| Mark J. Mathews               | Automatic Data Processing, Inc.     | Sheila Stabile                          | Maureen DeStefano                  | Robert J. Friedman                   |
| Diane C. Cook                 | Benjamin Rosen                      | Derek Reformat                          | Mandy Welgos                       | Brian Henry                          |
| Johnson & Johnson Foundation  | Robin L. Krueger                    | Hanover Reserve LLC                     | Scott Markovich                    |                                      |

Givinga Foundation, Inc.  
Emily Levine  
Eliza Flug  
Institute for Corporate Productivity, Inc.  
David Ferdman

## FOUNDATIONS

### \$250,000 to \$499,000

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation  
Taft Foundation  
The Golisano Foundation

### \$100,000 to \$249,999

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

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

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

### \$25,000 to \$49,999

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

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

### \$10,000 to \$24,999

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

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

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

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

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

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

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

### \$250,000 to \$375,000

Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation  
The Golisano Foundation  
Taft Foundation

### \$100,000 - \$249,999

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

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

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

### \$25,000 to \$49,999

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

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

#### **\$10,000 to \$24,999**

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

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

#### **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

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

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

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

### **TOP RIDE TEAMS**

#### **\$250,000 and Above**

Team Frazier Life Sciences

#### **\$100,000 to \$249,000**

Team Natixis  
 Team King James Buddies  
 Team Morgan Stanley

#### **\$50,000 to 99,000**

Team Snyk  
 Team ServiceNow

#### **\$25,000 to \$49,000**

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

#### **\$10,000 to \$24,000**

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

### **TOP BBFW TEAMS**

#### **\$25,000 to \$49,000**

Team Diego V.  
 Team MaconFriendsforMakin' Friends

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

#### **\$10,000 to \$24,000**

Team Academy of the Holy Names  
 Team Ben Orent  
 Team Best Buddies UA  
 Team Career Group Companies -  
 Los Angeles  
 Team Champa Bay Jobs Program  
 Team Creekside High School  
 Team Danielle & Coley's Buddies  
 Team DNI Corp  
 Team Dylan's Dominators  
 Team Emeritus  
 Team FSU Best Buddies  
 Team Garrett's Fight  
 Team Holland & Knight  
 Team Mission Possible  
 Team Navy Federal  
 Team Palm Beach Orthodontics  
 Team Peeps With A Purpose  
 Team PH.  
 Team RS&H\_2024  
 Team Seminole Ridge High School  
 Team Seretta Construction  
 Team Shulman Rogers  
 Team GOAT  
 Team KellieBoo 2024!  
 Team Sephora Distribution Center -  
 Las Vegas  
 Team Sephora Distribution Center -  
 Olive Branch  
 Team Special Events  
 Team Walk with Wylie  
 Team West Broward High School

### **PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS**

#### **Agriculture**

Alameda Greenhouse  
 Empower Farms

#### **Animal Services**

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

PetSmart  
Pompano Pet Lodge  
Zionsville Country Vet Clinic

### **Aquaculture**

ARC Shellfish Hatchery

### **Arts/Culture**

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

### **Automotive**

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

### **Communications**

AActiveCampaign  
Civic Edge Consulting  
Conill Advertising  
i4cp  
Kubik  
Quad Graphics

### **Construction**

Fortis Construction  
Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson  
MasTec  
Whiting Turner

### **E-Commerce**

Amazon

### **Education**

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

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

### **Facilities**

ABM Industries  
Ally Universal Security  
Block by Block  
CBRE Microsoft  
PHD Services  
S.A.F.E.  
SBM  
Vonachen Services, Inc.

### **Finance/Insurance**

Ally  
Amwins  
BMO Harris Bank  
Bank of America  
Credit Union of Texas  
Crescent Capital  
First Citizens Bank  
Five Star Federal Credit Union  
H&R Block  
H.I.G. Capital, L.L.C.

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

### **Fitness**

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

### **Food/Beverage**

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

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

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

### **Government**

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

### **Health Care**

Addgene  
Addgene  
Advent Health  
Atrius Health

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

### **Hospitality**

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

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

### **Law**

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

### **Manufacturing/Distribution**

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

### **Nonprofit/Foundations**

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

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

### **Oil Industry/Energy/Mining**

Schlumberger

### **Real Estate**

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

### **Recreation**

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

### **Retail**

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

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

### **Sports/Entertainment**

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

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

### **Talent/Staffing**

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

### **Technology**

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

### **Telecommunications**

TCC

### **Transportation**

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

### **Warehousing/Storage**

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



# Missouri Year in Review

What a year it has been! Thanks to our extraordinary supporters, volunteers, and community partners, Best Buddies in Missouri impacted more lives than ever through innovative programs that foster friendships, develop leaders, and promote inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Best Buddies in Missouri had a landmark year, launching 18 new Friendship chapters and engaging a record-breaking 2,500+ student participants! A major driver of this growth has been our expansion in elementary schools, where young student leaders are introduced early to the values of inclusion—lessons they will carry with them throughout their academic journey and beyond.

Another milestone in 2024 was the launch of our Integrated Employment program in St. Louis, marking a powerful step forward in creating meaningful, competitive job opportunities for individuals with IDD. We're incredibly grateful to Blues for Kids for their vital support in helping bring this program to life.

On Saturday, May 4, nearly 900 supporters gathered at Kirkwood Park to celebrate inclusion at our 2024 Friendship Walk. Their incredible energy helped raise awareness for Best Buddies and generated more than \$76,000 to support our programs!

Later in the year, the 2024 Champion of the Year Gala showcased an extraordinary group of Champion Candidates whose dedication broke all previous fundraising records—bringing in over \$150,000 for Best Buddies in Missouri. Congratulations to our Grand Champions, Bennett and Neddle, for leading the charge!

Thanks to the collective efforts of our community, Missouri is becoming a more inclusive, connected, and welcoming place for people of all abilities. While we're proud of the progress made in 2024, we know the journey is far from over—and we're more inspired than ever to build on this momentum in the years ahead.

We invite you to join us in providing these life-changing programs by identifying schools, businesses, funders, and community leaders throughout Missouri whose partnership can advance the Best Buddies mission. Thank you for all you do in support of building a more inclusive Missouri.



**Tim Bommarito**, State Director, Missouri

**Best Buddies in Missouri**

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Ethan and Ben, Friendship program Buddy Pair

# Ethan & Ben

## One-To-One Friendships

### Eureka High School, Eureka, MO

Ethan and Ben have known each other since first grade, but joining Best Buddies in high school has propelled their friendship and empowered each of them to become champions for inclusion.

Before Best Buddies, Ethan had few meaningful friendships and found it difficult to focus, leaving him with little to look forward to. Ben, on the other hand, felt he wasn't doing much for his community and wanted to make a real difference. Best Buddies has been a game-changer, giving Ethan and Ben opportunities to develop leadership skills, connect with their local community, and form an even stronger bond with each other.

Since becoming an official buddy pair, Ethan and Ben have shared countless experiences, from fishing and sledding to bowling and enjoying pizza at their favorite spot. They appreciate each other's easygoing nature—Ethan admires Ben's positivity and flexibility, while Ben loves Ethan's infectious energy and kindhearted personality. Their friendship extends beyond just the two of them, as they spend time with other friends, further fostering inclusion and connection.

Through Best Buddies, both friends have grown as individuals and leaders in their school community. Ethan has become more focused, observant, and social, participating in various events and even performing in their Winter Performance. Ben has taken on leadership roles, including establishing his school's Special Olympics planning committee. Their friendship has been strengthened through their shared experiences, making them not just buddies, but lifelong friends. Best Buddies has empowered them to create a more inclusive environment while positively impacting each other's lives.



## One-To-One Friendships

### Key Program Stats MO

| Elementary Schools |              | Middle Schools |              | High Schools |              |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>22</b>          | <b>892</b>   | <b>15</b>      | <b>254</b>   | <b>23</b>    | <b>925</b>   |
| Chapters           | Participants | Chapters       | Participants | Chapters     | Participants |
| .....              |              |                |              |              |              |
| Colleges           |              | Citizens       | e-Buddies    |              |              |
| <b>7</b>           | <b>278</b>   | <b>33</b>      | <b>56</b>    |              |              |
| Chapters           | Participants | Participants   | Participants |              |              |

“Best Buddies gives me a sense of pride because I know I’m making a difference.” - Ben



“ Being friends with Katelyn brings so much joy into my life. She is someone I know I can call when I need to laugh or smile, and she introduces me to things I never participated in before, like dance and fashion shows. She has taught me so much about living my best life and not letting anything get in the way of my goals and dreams. Katelyn’s confidence and her ability to stand on a stage and captivate an audience truly inspire me. I know we will be friends for a very long time!” - **Sara**

**Sara and Katelyn**, Citizen Program Friendship Pair



Ethan, Best Buddies Ambassador

# Ethan

## Leadership Development

### Ambassador, St. Louis, MO

"I first got involved with Best Buddies through the Maryville University chapter, where I served on the Advisory Board. Today, I'm proud to serve as the State Ambassador for Best Buddies in Missouri, participate in the St. Louis Citizens chapter, and recently received the incredible honor of being named a Global Ambassador for Best Buddies International.

My mom has always been a role model for me. Watching her lead and make a difference inspired me to step into leadership myself. At Maryville, I embraced that opportunity by serving as Buddy Director and joining the executive committee. Those roles helped me realize the impact I could make—and I've been seeking out leadership opportunities in Best Buddies ever since. I love speaking to others about the power of inclusion and friendship, and I'm passionate about using social media to advocate for myself and others.

Best Buddies has truly changed my life. Since joining in 2016, my confidence has grown tremendously. I've learned to embrace who I am and to use my voice to lead and lift others. Along the way, I've met so many amazing people who've supported me—and Best Buddies has become like family.

Everyone has dreams and goals, and while we may face challenges, those challenges should never stop us. There is always a way forward.

“ Best Buddies focuses on what we can do—helping us build meaningful friendships, find fulfilling jobs, and reach for our dreams. - **Ethan**



## Leadership Development Key Program Stats MO

|             |   |              |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| Ambassadors | : | Promoters    |
| <b>11</b>   | : | <b>42</b>    |
| Ambassadors | : | Chapters     |
|             | : | <b>1,257</b> |
|             | : | Participants |





EveryBuddy  
Belongs

EveryBuddy  
Belongs

EveryBuddy  
Belongs

Thank You!

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