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Dear Best Buddies family,

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

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

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

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

In Friendship,

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

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

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

An estimated 81%* of adults (18+) with IDD do not have a paid job in the community. This is where the Best Buddies’ Jobs program steps in. The Best Buddies’ Jobs program helps participants with IDD prepare for and secure supportive employment. This is a mutually beneficial venture for job candidates with IDD, businesses offering employment and society as a whole: not only do participants have the potential to garner substantial benefits and earn a cumulative income exceeding $900,000 over a 30-year period, but these individuals can also contribute up to $153,000 in tax revenue and diminish the need for nearly $895,000 in federal SSI and Medicaid benefits during the same span.

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

For more information, please visit BESTBUDDIES.ORG

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

And she did just that.

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

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

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

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

Launches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Partnerships

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

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

1987 - 1996

• In 1987, Anthony Kennedy Shriver launches 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 - 2008

• In 1998, Best Buddies hosts the first Best Buddies Miami Gala.
• In 1999, Best Buddies launches e-BUDDIES®, a cutting-edge online friendship program.
• In 2000, Best Buddies holds the inaugural Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, a 100-mile bike ride from Boston to Hyannis Port.
• In 2003, Best Buddies has participants in all 50 states on the US.
• In 2004, Best Buddies launches the nationally televised inaugural Volvo Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle, a 100-mile bike ride along the Pacific Coast Highway.

2009 - 2019

• In 2009, Best Buddies launches Best Buddies Friendship Walk.
• In 2010, Best Buddies has programs in 50 countries around the world.
• In 2011, Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES® Ambassadors to teach participants with IDD communication and self-advocacy skills.
• 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 2022, 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.
Best Buddies has been an integral part of my life for many years. I have done it since high school and it has given me friends and many opportunities to grow that I wouldn’t have gotten anywhere else. Catherine and I have actually been friends since the 5th grade but Best Buddies gave us something that we could still do together when our schedules started to change in high school. Catherine is my best friend and I hope we stay friends forever. My life is better with her in it.”  - Allison

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Impacted</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,387</td>
<td>120,408*</td>
<td>1,204,080</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**One-To-One Friendship**
- Elementary School Chapters: 14
- High School Chapters: 1,535
- College Chapters: 528
- Total Program Participants: 180
  - Elementary Schools: 11,896
  - Middle Schools: 56,855
  - High Schools: 23,806
  - e-Buddies: 4,102
  - Citizens: 9,415

**Integrated Employment**
- Participants Employed: 1,866
  - Weekly Hrs. Worked: 37,675
  - Yearly Hrs. Worked: 1,846,052
  - Yearly Taxes Paid: $5,541,849
  - Yearly Wages Earned: $27,709,247

**Leadership Development**
- Ambassadors: 6,044
- College Promoters: 618
- Middle School Promoters: 850
- Elementary School Promoters: 68
- Total Program Participants: 850

**Inclusive Living**
- Countries: 4
- States: 50
- High School Promoters Chapters: 26
- Middle School Promoters Chapters: 85
- Elementary School Promoters Chapters: 352
- College Promoters Chapters: 12

*All program stats are as of 12/31/2022, and reflect the most recent Best Buddies program year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).
*Total number of participants does not include residents in Living location(s) and participants in the new pre-ETS curriculum, not listed.
We are BEST BUDDIES.

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

Mission

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

Vision

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

Who We Serve

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

Programs

Best Buddies programs sit on the four key mission pillars below:
One-to-One Friendships, Integrated Employment, Leadership Development and Inclusive Living.
One-To-One Friendships
Builds friendships between people with and without IDD, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded.

**BEST BUDDIES, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, and Citizens**
Creates an inclusive community for students and adults with IDD, helping them become socially integrated with their peers at every age.

**e-BUDDIES**
Provides opportunities for participants with and without IDD to develop one-to-one friendships online and create connections using the power of technology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BEST BUDDIES, Living**
Provides individuals with and without IDD an opportunity to live together in a vibrant, educational community that supports all residents in advancing their employment, financial literacy, continued education, and life skills as they work to achieve their personal goals.
Emily and Courtnei, Friendship Program buddy pair

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

**BEST BUDDIES, Elementary, Middle, High Schools & Colleges**

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

**BEST BUDDIES, Citizens**

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

**e-BUDDIES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their genuine connection has not gone unnoticed.

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

Ryan and Timothy's meaningful friendship has inspired a culture of inclusion at their school. Ryan is now the chapter president and has had an active role in growing their presence on campus. Ryan and Timothy demonstrate that so much can be learned from individuals of all abilities when we have integrated classrooms, peer groups, and communities.
Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with IDD into the community through supported employment. The focus is on facilitating competitive, integrated job placements that allow participants to earn an income, pay taxes and work in an environment alongside their peers in the community, leading to full inclusion and independence. Coaching is provided in essential job interviewing skills, and once employment is secured, there is assistance with on-the-job training.

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

There is 34 cities in 18 states with active Best Buddies Jobs program as of December 31, 2022.
Elaina
Integrated Employment
kubik, Odenton, MD

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

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

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

Within a month, Elaina achieved that goal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Top 5 Jobs Participants**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Buddies Jobs: Around The World

11 Countries*
92 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 12/31/2022
Best Buddies educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and change agents. Through the Ambassadors and Promoters programs, participants inspire their communities to build a more inclusive world for people with IDD.

**BEST BUDDIES, Ambassadors**

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

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

**BEST BUDDIES, Promoters**

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

Each Promoters chapter is led by a chapter president from the student body and a faculty advisor and is assigned a Best Buddies staff person who offers regular support and guidance. Once formed, Promoters chapters host events, activities, and fundraisers where they advocate for people with IDD, and promote the Best Buddies mission.
“Hello everyone! My name is Hunter Huff, and I’ve been a proud member of Best Buddies for nine years. My life before joining this organization was very challenging. It was hard for me to make friends. I had issues socially connecting, and I only interacted with people at lunch, school events, birthday parties, and other social gatherings. One big reason I didn’t have a lot of friends is that not everyone understood who I was and that I was just a normal human being who just happened to be on the Autism spectrum.

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

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

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

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

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

The Best Buddies Living program supports inclusion by:

- Developing programs that foster an opportunity for residents to experience living with friends and colleagues. Programs include weekly shared meals, fitness classes, cultural events, holiday parties, social activities, and sports.

- Offering an environment that encourages the development of independent living skills, life-changing relationships, and educational pursuits in connection with a college or university. Through an affiliation with a nearby school, all residents can immerse themselves in campus life, attending sporting events and enjoying fitness and dining facilities alongside their student peers.

- Matching people with and without IDD in a residential experience, and providing a supportive environment that encourages full-time or part-time employment.

As of December 31, 2022, Best Buddies operated four Living residences; two in Washington, D.C. (Georgetown and Union Market), one in Miami, FL and one in Los Angeles, CA.
AnnCatherine
Best Buddies Living Resident
Georgetown, Washington D.C.

Anne Catherine, also known as AC by her friends, joined the Best Buddies Living program in Georgetown in September 2022—a decision that would shape her future in ways she never imagined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- AnnCatherine, Best Buddies Living resident

“Best Buddies Living is more than just a place to live. It’s a community filled with wonderful people who have become my family. I enjoy attending group events and dinners, where I get to meet and connect with others who understand me on a deeper level.” - AnnCatherine, Best Buddies Living residents
2022 was a year of remarkable growth and achievements for Best Buddies’ International Programs (IP).

Key Updates

- Streamlined country accreditation and enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization’s global programs
- Hosted an in-person staff forum in Santiago, Chile, that promoted worldwide engagement and collaboration.
- Hired a new program manager to introduce new perspectives and to help further our initiatives.
- Translated all leadership conference materials into Spanish.
- Expanded Best Buddies’ programs into the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Portugal, and we also expanded the Best Buddies Jobs program into Costa Rica, Ecuador and Serbia.

Looking ahead to 2023, IP aims to establish new regional government, corporate and foundation partnerships, strengthen current programs in operation, and successfully launch Best Buddies in Abu Dhabi, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall.
Signature Events

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

June 3-4, 2022 | Boston to Hyannis Port

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Core Hydration and Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation returned to Massachusetts for its 23rd year. The Challenge weekend kicked off Friday, June 3 with a dinner reception at John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum & Library. On Saturday, June 4, hundreds of riders took to the start line at the JFK Library for the picturesque 100-mile ride portion of the event, from Boston to Hyannis Port. The Challenge concluded with a New England-style clambake and live musical entertainment by the Manhattan Band.

Best Buddies Challenge: California

October 15, 2022 | Marin County, CA

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

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

Anthony K. Shriver with Best Buddies Ambassadors Matthew, Jermaine, Paul, and Stacey at the 2022 Best Buddies Challenge: California, presented by Core Hydration & Safeway Foundation
Best Buddies Challenge: Miami

November 18, 2022 | Miami, FL

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

Best Buddies Miami Gala

November 18, 2022 | Miami, FL

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

Best Buddies Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford with Global Ambassador Delaina and her brother Jaime at the 2022 Best Buddies Miami Gala
Best Buddies Breakaway Camps

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

**Malibu, CA**

**March 30 – April 3, 2022**

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

**December 7 – December 11, 2022**

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

**Asheville, NC**

**September 21 – September 25, 2022**

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

**Sonoma, CA**

**May 25 – May 29, 2022**

*Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Sonoma Presented by Core Hydration* was based out of the Farmhouse Inn in Forestville, CA, and brought participants through the wine country and redwoods of Sonoma County.
Best Buddies' Celebrating Mothers
May 7, 2022 | Malibu, CA

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

Best Buddies Balls & Proms

Best Buddies Balls/Proms are an exciting way for Best Buddies’ state offices and chapters to celebrate friendship. Best Buddies participants are the stars of the show, and local program leaders help create a night that attendees will never forget.
The Best Buddies Friendship Walk continued to grow and expand, raising awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Best Buddies Friendship Walks are fundamental in supporting local Best Buddies programs dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with IDD.

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

Best Buddies Champion of the Year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jobs Employee of the Year: Zach Smith, NFL Network

Outstanding International Country: Best Buddies in Mexico

Spirit of Courage: Margo Meley, Connecticut

Best Buddies looks forward to the return to the Indiana University campus and an in-person conference experience in 2023!
EKS Day

Created in 2010, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day* serves as a unique opportunity to celebrate her legacy, indomitable spirit and life-long commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Even during a time when society did not, Eunice Kennedy Shriver believed in the abilities of people with IDD and led the effort to end the physical and social isolation they endured.

*EKS Day* promotes a global call for individuals to commit to actions of change, inclusion, and acceptance for people with IDD. Across the United States and in 100 countries, EKS Day is celebrated with love, justice, faith, hope and courage – her five key values. Activities included sports clinics, picnics, leadership trainings and disability rights awareness efforts.

March

Best Buddies Month

What began as a one-day celebration of the Best Buddies mission evolved into a month-long festivity to reflect on the importance of inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities every March. In 2022, the celebration began with the annual *Spread the Word: Inclusion campaign* that encouraged participants to showcase how they promote inclusion in their communities. Throughout the month, participants hosted virtual chapter parties, awareness activities, and engagement campaigns to honor their unity in advancing opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and inclusive living.
Domestic Net Asset Summary

Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.22)

Domestic Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$12,273,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$2,712,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Corps.</td>
<td>$6,004,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$11,410,711</td>
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</table>

Domestic Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$25,931,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$4,317,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$1,859,413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Domestic Revenue

$33,814,848

Total Domestic Expenses

$32,008,839

Total Domestic Net Assets

$32,390,590

* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2022 based on Best Buddies International’s Form 990
** "Other" represents revenue generated from a collection of sources including: Chapter Dues, Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, Investment Income and Cause-Related Marketing.
*** Gross consolidation of International Licensees that operate as their own NGOs.
## Financials

### Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.22)

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$7,313,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$19,507,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$59,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable, net</td>
<td>$1,156,818</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant receivable</td>
<td>$3,199,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventory artwork</td>
<td>$58,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$523,258</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,818,276</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>$461,645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>$85,105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>$1,152,473</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,723,223</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less Accumulated Depreciation</strong></td>
<td><strong>($555,250)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Net</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,167,973</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing lease right-of-use, net of amortization</td>
<td>$78,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating lease right-of-use, net of amortization</td>
<td>$3,529,660</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Right-of-Use Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,607,948</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term contributions receivable, net</td>
<td>$871,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>$91,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - Rosetta Bakery x Best Buddies</td>
<td>($66,160)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - deferred compensation plan</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$896,717</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets** **$37,490,914**

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$655,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$606,706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compensated absences payable</td>
<td>$125,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of financing liabilities</td>
<td>$31,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current portion of operating liabilities</td>
<td>$1,069,510</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,489,534</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Security deposit</td>
<td>$22,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred compensation plan liability</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term portion of financing liabilities</td>
<td>$47,239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term portion of operating liabilities</td>
<td>$2,541,191</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-Term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,611,091</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,100,624</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restriction</td>
<td>$5,425,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restriction</td>
<td>$26,964,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$32,390,290</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **$37,490,914**

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*Domestic Net Asset Summary*

*Statement of Activities for calendar year 2022 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990*

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

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

---

*Domestic Revenue*

**Total Domestic Revenue** **$32,108,839**

**Total Domestic Expenses** **$25,931,940**

**Net Assets**

**Balance Sheet (as of 12.31.22)**

**Net Assets (beginning of year)** **$33,193,893**

**Change in Net Assets** **$1,706,009**

**Net Unrealized Gains (Losses)** **($2,509,312)**

**Total Domestic Net Assets (end of year)** **$32,390,590**

---

*Domestic Expenses*

**Programs** **81%**

**Administration** **13%**

**Fundraising** **8%**

---

*Total Assets** **$37,490,914**

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Image: Best Buddies Friendship Program participants
Board of Directors

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

Olivia Culpo  
Actress

Mark DeVincentis  
Managing Director  
Crescent Capital Group LP

Tamsen Fadal  
TV Anchor, Executive Producer & Author

Joshua Felder  
Global Ambassador  
Best Buddies International

Robert Friedman  
Partner  
Holland & Knight

Aaron Gershenberg  
Managing Partner  
SVB Capital

Todd Michael Glaser  
Developer

Evan Hainey  
Partner  
Untitled Entertainment

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

Alexander Hernandez-Dessauer  
Partner/Principal  
Ernst & Young

Jamie Hintlian  
Partner/Principal  
Klingman & Associates

Gerard A. Klingman, CFP  
President  
Klingman & Associates

Carl Lewis  
U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist

Chris Lindstrom  
Professional Football Player  
Atlanta Falcons

James Lintott  
Chairman  
Sterling Foundation Management

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

Thomas Quick  
Philanthropist

Anthony Kennedy Shriver  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
Best Buddies International

Eunice K. Shriver II  
Founder  
Lumber Liquidators

Tom Sullivan  
Founder  
Young Leaders Council Chair  
Best Buddies International

Garett Tomasek  
Founder  
Corestate Capital Group

Ralph Winter  
Founder  
Bernie Yuman Mgmt.

Bernie Yuman  
President
Executive Team

Honorary Board Members

Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Special Olympics Int.

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

#### CORPORATIONS

**$500,000 and Above**
- CORE Hydration
- Safeway Foundation

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

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

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

**$25,000 to $49,999**
- AbbVie
- Admiral Transfer & Rigging
- AETNA INC.
- Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America
- Bank of Hawaii
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- Braman Motors
- Brauer Material Handling
- Crescent Capital Group
- Dart Group Foundation Inc
- Eaton Vance Management/Morgan Stanley/Parametric
- Enterprise Holdings
- Fifth Generation Inc.
- Holland & Knight LLP
- Insight Global
- Kelly Services
- Lawrence A. Moens Associates, Inc.
- Macy Cycle & Fitness
- MALS PALS
- Mark Edward Partners LLC
- Match Group
- Mercedes-Benz
- Merck - HQ
- Midland National Life Insurance Company
- Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, LP
- Mosaic Global Sales LLC
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Pantheon Venture
- Pfizer, Inc
- PWG Charitable Foundation
- Race Roster
- Raymond James Financial, Inc.
- Rubin Family Foundation
- Serva
- Seyfarth
- Sony Music Entertainment
- Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits State Street Corporation, State Street Global Markets, LLC
- Stanford Health Care
- TD Bank

**$10,000 to $24,999**
- ABC Promotions Unlimited Inc.
- Aftria Group Inc.
- American Equity Investment Life Ins. Co.
- Ansys, Inc.
- Arc Stores
- Arizona Coyotes Foundation
- Atlantic Management Corporation
- BankUnited, N.A.
- BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.
- Bloomberg L.P.
- BNY Mellon
- Buffalo Sabres Foundation
- Canon
- Channel RE LLC
- Cheshire Half Marathon
- Climatec, LLC
- Compass Group - National Headquarters
- Cooper’s Steel Fabricators, Inc.
- CSAA Insurance Services, Inc.
- Diversant ACS Solutions
- DLA Piper LLP
- DNICORP
- Dome Construction
- Douglas Elliman Real Estate
- Eastern Bank Foundation
- Genovese Jobile & Battista PA
- GTE Financial & Foundation
- Handz2Mind
- Hardwick Tactical Corporation
- Health Care Service Corporation
- ImpactWayv, Inc.
- JOH Kids 360
- Jones Lang LaSalle America Inc.
- Kendra Scott LLC
- Kokua Na Lani
- KOVAR
- Kramer Casey Enterprises
- Royal Media Partners
- Lipscomb University
- Loan Pronto, Inc
- MAG Aerospace
- McCormick & Co., Inc.
- Meaningful Beauty, LLC
- Midstate Auto Group Inc
- Moore Communications Group, Inc.
- Movement Mortgage Foundation
- Nordson Corporation Foundation
- Northeast Florida Association of Realtors Inc.
- Ocean Automotive Group
- Old National Bank Foundation
- Ole Smoky Distillery, LLC
- Oracle Corp
- Participant Media, LLC
- PECO Corporate Relations
- Pentair Management Company
- Phantom Administrative, LLC
- Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation
- Prairie Meadows
- Promoter Line Incorporated Festival & Concert Division
- Qintell
- RBC Capital Markets, LLC
- Rock-It Cargo U.S.A., LLC
- Royal Yacht SARL
- Sandy Spring Bank
- Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.
- Speedway Children’s Charities
- Spotify - US Headquarters
- SPT Inc.
- Sullivan Investment Corporation
- Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation
- Swire Properties Inc., Miami
- Tavistock Development Management, LLC
- Team Construction, LLC
- The Advance Financial Foundation
- The Bellamy Companies LLC

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Anthony K. Shriver with ambassadors and actor Jason Lewis (far right), receiving a check donation from Karl Schroeder, Safeway Northern California Division President, at the 2022 Best Buddies Challenge: California, presented by Core Hydration & Safeway Foundation.
The Comcast NBC Universal Foundation
The Driven Group LLC
The Meltzer Group
The National Football League Foundation
The PNC Charitable Trusts
The Town of Golden Beach
The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
The Walt Disney Company
TheraPeeds Inc.
TUUCCI LLC
United Phoenix Firefighters Association, Inc.
Universal Music Group - Santa Monica
Value Store It Management, Inc.
Vegas Golden Knights Foundation Inc.
Warren Averett Companies LLC
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Wood-Bitterman Charitable Lead Trust

$5,000 to $9,999
33 Floors
4R Ventures LLC
Abarta CC Beverage LLC
Abdo Consulting Group, Inc.
AdventHealth
All Community Events
Ally Financial Inc.
Anheuser-Busch
Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield
Aramark Global Business Services
Basker Epstein
Baywood Hotels Inc.
Berchem Moses PC
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust
BMO Harris Bank
Bose McKinney & Evans LLP
Brabants Enterprises Inc.
Brandon Hyundai
Brunello Cucinelli USA Retail, Inc.
Buch Construction, Inc.
Business Computer Rentals LLC
Businessolver Foundation
BWG Strategy, LLC
Capital One - McLean
Car Crafters, Inc.
Cardinals Charities
Career Group Companies
CentsMark
Charlotte Knights Charities
Chevron Products Company
Christopher’s Fine Jewelry
Cognizant
Colliers International - WA Commonwealth Edison Company
Continental Casualty Company
Coza Technologies, L.L.C.
Credit Union of Texas Culinary Institute LeNotre
Current Builders Construction Services, Inc.
DDA Services, Inc.
Delaware North Companies Sport Services, Inc.
Deloitte Services LP
Elder Law Firm of Kirson & Fuller
Employee’s Community Fund of The Boeing Company
EM-Power Services, Inc.
Envoy Global
Equitable Trust
Eventbrite, Inc.
Evolution Risk Advisors, Inc.
Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa
Farnam Street Financial, Inc.
Findlay
First Hawaiian Bank
Florida Power & Light Company
Focalpoint Securities, LLC
Founders Series of Lockton Companies, LLC
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP
Frontstream
Glens Falls National Trust And Investment Group
Goldman Sachs Gives
Good Karma Brands Milwaukee, LLC
Goodman Campbell Brain & Spine
Harvest Sensations
Hawaii Protective Association, LLC
Hilton
Hyannis Air Service, Inc.
Hy-Vee, Inc.
Inktel
International Paper
Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
J.C. Edwards Corporation
J.E. Dunn Construction Company
J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
Johnson Bank
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Engineering A Brighter Future
Junior League of Indianapolis Kosair Charities Committee, Inc.
Law Offices Of Samer Habbas & Associates
Layton Construction Company, LLC
Lemonade Insurance Agency, LLC
M. A. Mortenson Company
Major League Baseball Players Trust
Matson, Inc.
Miami United Way, Inc.
Memorial Healthcare System
Miami University
Misericordia Home
Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial
Montgomery College
Networking To Help Children Inc
Nicor Gas
North Shore LI Chapter of Unico National
Northwest Pump & Equipment Co.
Otis Elevator Company
Outfront
Park Hotels and Resorts
Phantom Fireworks
Philips
PNC Foundation
Polk County Auditor’s Office
Prisma Health
Property Works
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Reliaquest
Rhino Capital Advisors LLC
Roger Reynolds, CPA
Ronald Book PA
RSM US LLP
Sandia National Laboratories
SBM Management Service, LP
Sea Otter Securities Group LLC
Sodexo, Inc. & Affiliates
Sonic Automotive Inc.
STAG Industrial, Inc.
Sun Communities Operating LP
Sun Life Financial
Synergy Productions LLC
Technology Advice
Texas Roadhouse Intermediary LLC
The Boerke Company, Inc.
The Cellular Connection, LLC
The E.W. Scripps Company
The J.M. Smucker Company
Timothy E. McNutt, Sr. D.D.S.
Total Wine & More
TTexiles LLC
TUV Investments LLC
UMPC Changing Medicine
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
United Food And Commercial Workers Union
UNM Hospitals
USPS Money Order
Variety - the Children’s Charity
VyStar Credit Union
Wasabi Ankeny
WHAS Crusade For Children, Inc.
Zuckerman Gravely Management, Inc.

FOUNDATIONS
$250,000 to $499,999
Taft Foundation

$100,000 to $249,999
Fudacion MAPFRE May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
The Frederick A. Deluca Foundation
The Golisano Foundation

$50,000 to $99,999
Accenture
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
Delman Family Charitable Fund
Fidelity Investments
Liberty Mutual Foundation
M.J. Murdoch Charitable Trust
MoneyGram Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999
AbbVie
Achelis and Bodman Foundation
CenterPoint Energy Foundation
Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust
Enterprise Holdings
Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation Inc.
Hawaii Community Foundation
Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation
Kessler Foundation
Manpowergroup Foundation Inc.
Mosaic Global Sales LLC
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Taco Bell Foundation, Inc.
Texas Mutual
The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation
The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
The Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation
The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation
The Merricas Foundation Inc.
The Rees-Jones Foundation
The Walt Disney Company
United Way of Central New Mexico
William S. Abell Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
Anne L. and George H. Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust
AAPT Family Charitable Activities
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas Community Foundation of Central Georgia
Connelly Foundation
Donald B and Dorothy L Stabler Foundation
DuPage Foundation
Fairfield County Community Foundation
George Kaiser Family Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Harper Family Foundation
IPA Foundation
Jack Buncher Foundation
Jana Foundation Inc.
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Karpus Family Foundation
KOVAR Libra Foundation
Maine Community Foundation
Marr-Anderson Family Foundation
Merrill Family Foundation Inc
New Mexico Oil and Gas Association
Nora Roberts Foundation Inc
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Old National Bank Foundation
OrthoIndy Foundation
Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation
Rochester Area Community Foundation Depository, Inc.
Speedway Children’s Charities
Suncoast Federal Credit Union Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc.
Texas Women’s Foundation
The Dresher Foundation Inc.
The Eamon Foundation
The Feigenbaum Foundation
The G.R. Lincoln Family Foundation
The George C. Marshall Foundation
The Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation
The Laffey McHugh Foundation
The Sorenson Legacy Foundation
The Thomas W. Bradley Foundation Inc.
The Wawa Foundation Inc.
Valley Kids Foundation
Vanguard Charitable
Wells Fargo Foundation
$5,000 to $9,999
Commonwealth Edison Company
Crale Foundation Inc
Crosser Family Foundation
Field Family Foundation
Freeman E. Fairfield Foundation
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
GN Wilcox Trust
Greater Washington Community Foundation
International Paper
Junior League of Indianapolis
Kelley Foundation
Major League Baseball Players Trust
Matthew A. and Mildred Hunter Foundation
Maui United Way, Inc.
McInerny Foundation
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation
Networking to Help Children Inc
Nicol Gas
Nusenda Foundation
Phillips Charitable Foundation Inc
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation
PNC Foundation
PNM Resources Foundation
Richard R. & Karen Bertrand Charitable Fund
Robin Family Foundation
Rotary Club of Deerwood Charities, Inc.
Sandia National Laboratories
Shutterfly
Stockner Family Foundation Inc
State Farm Companies Foundation
Target Foundation
Tesori Family Foundation Inc
The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Foundation
The Bloedorn Foundation
The Carolina Panthers Charities
The Chorro Foundation
The Fuller Foundation, Inc.
The Gheens Foundation
The Glens Falls Foundation
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation
The James & Juli Boehm Foundation
The John E. Fogarty Foundation
The Katharine Matthes Foundation
The Lindy Lou Foundation
The National Football League Foundation
The Silicon Valley Bank Foundation
The William & Sheila Konar Foundation
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
Valley Community Foundation
Variety - The Children’s Charity

GOVERNMENT

$500,000 and Above
California Department of Developmental Services
New Mexico Public Education Department
Rehabilitation
$100,000 - $249,999
Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools
California Department of Rehabilitation
Central Valley Regional Center
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services
Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services
$10,000 to $24,999
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Bernalillo County, New Mexico
College of New Jersey
Golden Gate Regional Center
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
$5,000 to $9,999
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Delaware Legislature
Harbor Regional Center
Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Miami-Dade County, Florida Office of Management and Budget
$25,000 to $49,999
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Delaware Legislature
Harbor Regional Center
Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Miami-Dade County, Florida Public Schools
New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
New York Adult Career & Continuing Ed Services, VR
Regional Center of Orange County
Rhode Island Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner
Social Security Administration
State of Kentucky
Texas Workforce Commission
Utah Department of Human Concerns
Westside Regional Center
$25,000 to $49,999
Alta Vista Regional Center
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Fairfax County, Virginia
Iowa Department of Education
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Human Services
Peoria Care and Treatment Board, Illinois
Regional Center of the East Bay
San Andreas Regional Center
U.S. Department of State
$100,000 to $249,000
Team Eaton Vance/MSIM/Parametric
Team Guardino
Team King James Buddies
Team MACK Cycle
Team Natixis
$50,000 to 99,000
Team Steptoe
$25,000 to $49,000
Team Current Builders
Team Kates & Barlow
Team MAG
Team Mal’s Pals
Team Miami Country Day Upper School
Team New York Life NH
Team Real Fun Content
Team ServiceNow
Team Smart & Horford
Team Snyk
Team Sunshine
Team Volvo
Team Webcor

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

TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS

$250,000 and Above
Team Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)
$10,000 to $249,000
Team Eaton Vance/MSIM/Parametric
Team Guardino
Team King James Buddies
Team MACK Cycle
Team Natixis
$50,000 to 99,000
Team Steptoe
$25,000 to $49,000
Team Current Builders
Team Kates & Barlow
Team MAG
Team Mal’s Pals
Team Miami Country Day Upper School
Team New York Life NH
Team Real Fun Content
Team ServiceNow
Team Smart & Horford
Team Snyk
Team Sunshine
Team Volvo
Team Webcor

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

Cyclists on Team SVB at the 2022 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Core Hydration and Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation
Agriculture
Devil Mountain Nursery
Empower Farms

Animal Services
Bark Public
Barking Bad
Camp Bow Wow

Construction
Consort

Awards

Team Best Buddies Citizens
Team Bike Zone of Cape Cod
Team Blazing Saddles
Team Blue Brook Management
Team Bobcat Buddies
Team Boeing
Team Bonjai & The Funky Bunch
Team Citizens Catch 'Em All
Team Cliff's Crew
Team Creekside High School
Team Cruzin' 4 Inclusion
Team Danielle & Coley's Buddies
Team Dylan's Dominators
Team Gallo
Team Greenberg Traurig
Team Gunnnison Consulting Group
Team Henry
Team Holland & Knight
Mission: Possible
Team Jacksonville Citizens Group
Team KIDS 360
Team Macon Friends for Makin' Friends
Team Mali
Team Malo
Team Marks Buddies
Team Marlowe
Team Meg
Team Merck - North Jersey
Team Nov@ / p/b PRthirteen
Team Pintle Construction
Team Plant High School
Team Ratchet and Clank
Team Ravenwood High School
Team RockDJ
Team Seminole Ridge High School
Team Tavistock
Team Ten Pins - Cape Cod Cruisers
Team The James Gang
Team THS Best Buddies
Team Tom
Team UF Best Buddies
Team Wyatt - Domestiques
Team Xcitebike Racing

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS
Agriculture
Devil Mountain Nursery
Empower Farms

Animal Services
Bark Public
Barking Bad
Camp Bow Wow

Construction
Consort

Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson
Mas Tec
Whiting Turner

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

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

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

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

BESTBUDDIES.ORG  40

BEST BUDDIES

Civic Edge Consulting
Atema Partners

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

Food & Beverage
99 Restaurant
Amazon
Amazon Fresh
AMC Dine In Theater
Anise
Apple Bees
ASM - Aquarium of the Pacific
Bahama Buck's
Bertucci's Italian Restaurant
Best Buddies X Rosetta Bakery
Bickford Senior Living Home
Big Bowl
Bishop Moore Catholic High School
BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
BJ's Wholesale
Blaze Pizza Disney Springs
Bon Appetit at Google
Bosque Brewing Company
Cafe Blu
Capital One Restaurant
Carrabba's Italian Grill
CAVA
Centerville Pies - Sandwich
Chartwell's
Cheesecake Factory
Chick-fil-A
Chili's
Clean Juice
Compass Group
Law Firms
A Legal
Basker Epstein Kearon Aldeia & LoTurco
Bielsinska Law
Chasen and Boscolo
Elder Law Firm of Kirson & Fuller
Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson
Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman
Holland & Knight
Kates & Barlow
Latham & Watkins
Manatt, Phelps &Phillips, LLP
Pacific Workers’ Compensation Law Center
Rayas Law
Seyfarth Shaw
Shuffield Lowman
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.
The Ferraro Law Firm

Manufacturing/Distribution
AAA Candle Company
ABF Freight
Amazon Fulfillment
Atlas Embroidery & Screen Printing
Baby K’tan
BrandsMart USA
Caterpillar
Eggers Imprints
Good 360
Hermes Deliveries
Independent Purchasing Cooperative
Lake Country Manufacturing
LOGO Brands
Northrop Grumman
NPW Companies South Dade
Office Depot
Park Street Companies
Premiere Collectibles
Primary Colors, Inc.
RDS Same Day Delivery
Sakura Finetek USA, Inc.
Telamon - Kem Krest
The UPS Store
Tuuci
Valin Corporation

Non-Profit/Foundations
Best Buddies
Central Park Conservancy
Chicago Park District
Dave & Mary Alper Jewish Community Center
Developmental Disabilities Service Organization (DDSO)
Goodwill - ROC
Harbor Regional Center
Institute for Community Inclusion
Los Angeles Habilitation House
QSAC
Second Muse
Special Olympics Northern California
St. John XXII Catholic Community
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
The Mentor Network
Westside Regional Center
YMCA

Real Estate
Capital Properties
JLLNetwork Community Management
Starwood Capital Group, L.L.C.
Tavistock

Recreation
Amelia Earhart Park - Miami Dade County
Busch Gardens- Tampa
Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center
Learning Tree Daycare
Lucky Strike
Marcus Theatre-2521
Maryland Farms YMCA
Mt Pleasant Ice Arena
National Aquarium
Presidio Golf Course
Princeton University Athletics
Sloomoo Institute

Retail
99 Cent Only Store
99 Cents Only Store (#266)
AEG/Merchandising- Staples Center
Aventura Mall
Bargains In A Box
Barnes & Noble Cool Springs
Bath and Body Works
Big Lots
Big Y
BJ’s Wholesale Club
Boot Factory Outlet
Bristol Farms-Santa Monica
Build A Bear (Store 9)
Burlington
Confidence Shoppe
Cost Plus World Market
Costco
Crate & Barrel
CVS
Dick’s Sporting Goods
Dillard’s
Discount Welds
Disney Store
Divine Flowers
Dollar General
Doug Russell Marine
El Super
Finish Line
Goodwill - Fresno (Blackstone / Sierra)
GoodWill Land of Lincoln
Goodwill Whitestown
Goodwill-Greater East Bay
Hallmark Gold Crown
H-E-B
Home Depot
Home Depot
Home Goods
HomeSense
Hot Topic
Hunters Creek- Once Upon a Child
Hy-Vee
Jewel-Osco
Jondie
Kesslers Diamonds
Kohls
Kroger

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston
Lowe’s & Lowe’s Home Improvement
Lululemon
Macy’s Cycle
Macy’s Furniture Gallery
Market 32
Marshalls
Michaels
MOMs Organic Market
Nike
Nordstrom- Espresso Bar
Nouria Energy
Office Depot
Office Max
Once Upon a Child
Pavilions
Pemberton Farms Marketplace
Primark
Publix
Ralphs
Sam’s Club
Sav A Lot
Scentsational Shoppe
Sephora
Sierra
Smart & Final
Stop and Shop - Edison
T. J. Maxx
Target
The Fresh Market - Delray
The Home Depot
Thrift on Blackstone (MCC Thrift Shop)
Under Armour
UNILQuik
Vector Marketing
Vons
Walgreens
Walmart
Wawa
Weis Market
Wild Cat Tees LLC

Sports & Entertainment
AMC
Arizona Coyotes
Axe Hockey Group
Boston Red Sox
Charlotte Knights Baseball
D.C. United
Entertainment Industry Foundation
Grand Ole Opry
Madison Square Garden
Milwaukee Brewers
Monumental Sports & Entertainment
Nashville Predators
Nashville Sounds
National Football League
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
NewTV
NY Giants
Oakland Athletics
Orlando Science Center
Propagate Content
Santa Ana Star Casino
Staples Center
The Milwaukee Bucks
The Preserve at Eisenhower Golf Course
Topgolf
Universal Studios-Orlando
Washington Football Team
Worcester Railers
Worcester Red Sox

Talent & Staffing Agencies
Aston Carter
Career Group Companies
Career Strategies
K Force

Technology
Accenture Federal Services
Accenture Workplace
Apoqee Computer Technologies
Avid
CIC Boston & Cambridge
Enjoy
Genentech
Nortrup Patents
Office Depot # 3266
Rapid7
Xactly Corporation

Telecommunications
BrightStar
TCC

Transportation
Brightline - Miami Central
Dulles International Airport
Envoy Air
FastPark
Fontainebleau Aviation
McGee Air Services
National Loading Services
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
SMS International Shore Operations
Total Transportation Services, Inc.
Tower WAV
U-Haul Moving & Storage
UPS
Watch City Pharmacy

Warehousing & Storage
Amazon
Amazon- Baltimore
D.S. Hull Company, Inc.
First Class Vending
Imperial Freight Brokers
Iron Mountain - Cerritos
Leadpoint
Park West Gallery
Sebco Books
TDS Logistics LLC
Value Store It
Wawa
2022 was all about jobs for Best Buddies North Carolina (BBNC)! Since our office opened in 2017, launching the Jobs program has been a goal and topic of much conversation. Charlotte, specifically, has a huge need for true competitive and inclusive employment for our neighbors with IDD, and we have been determined to assist in this need.

Thanks to The David and Nicole Tepper Foundation, BBNC hired a job coach and set the Jobs program in motion. BBNC hired a second employment consultant at the end of the year.

Tommy Tremble, a tight end for the Carolina Panthers, served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Charlotte and assisted in making it the biggest walk yet, with over 500 walkers. The Charlotte Friendship Walk fundraised over $50,000. North Carolina launched a second walk site in Raleigh and received amazing support from local schools.

BBNC’s Champion of the Year Gala was held in October at The Fillmore. David and Nicole Tepper, the owners of the Carolina Panthers, both sponsored and attended the event. Along with our amazing Champion of the Year candidates, the Tepper’s matching gift during the Bid from Heart made this our most successful event in Best Buddies NC history. BBNC raised over $220,000 from this event alone. Stephen Dey and his daughter Avery were crowned our Champion of the Year pair.

Adults with IDD are often forgotten and overlooked. The amazing growth of the Citizen’s program and Jobs program proves that this is not the case in North Carolina.

We are dedicated to serving our neighbors with IDD from kindergarten through adulthood and making North Carolina a more inclusive place for everyone!
Jacob And Emily
One-To-One Friendships
Charlotte, NC

“Before Best Buddies, it was difficult to meet new people and create friendships,” Emily said. “Best Buddies has enabled us to make connections, form friendships, and try new activities.”

“I enjoy catching up with Jacob each week and hearing about all Jacob’s accomplishments,” Emily said. “We also talk about any problems and try to help each other find solutions. And we always save time to discuss our favorite TV shows and movies.”

“Emily is open to doing different activities,” Jacob said. “She is easy to talk to and easygoing. I enjoy talking to my Buddy, sharing my day with her, and hearing about hers.”

“I joined Best Buddies in April 2021, and the program has opened me up to a world of amazing people,” Jacob said. “Best Buddies means so much to me, and I recently became an ambassador. I look forward to sharing my stories and helping others through my experiences. One of my favorite activities with Emilly was decorating holiday cookies together while we watched Christmas movies!”

“Since being partnered with Jacob in March 2022, Best Buddies has given me a lifelong friend,” Emily said. “I am able to learn so much from Jacob each week. He constantly challenges himself, juggling many activities between CPCC classes, working at Harris Teeter, and extracurriculars like tennis and theater. Jacob is fearless and is an inspiration! My favorite memory with Jacob was when we celebrated his birthday together. We had a pizza party, played cornhole, and ate some cake - it was a great day!”

Emily says that Jacob is truly a JACK of all trades! He is athletic, hardworking and also quite a scholar!
Michael was one of the first participants to join the North Carolina Jobs program. After joining the program, Mike said his life has vastly improved.

Michael lives independently and has an incredible family to support him. With the help of the Jobs program, Michael landed a job as a dishwasher at MOD Pizza after acing his interview.

“I enjoy my job because it gives me a sense of purpose,” Michael said. “And free pizza, of course.”

While Michael had some previous work experience, he learned that he could continue to self-improve and have fun while working. He enjoys socializing with his co-workers and working hard during his shifts. He has learned important skills like time management and workplace cleanliness, exemplified by his arriving at work on time, sorting the dishes, and cleaning the dishwashing station before he leaves for the night.

“He’s a hard worker,” Michael’s sister said. “He’s always looking for something to do.”

As Mike continues to develop personally and professionally through his job, he aims to learn how to use rideshare services to get to work independently.

Mike is doing incredibly well at MOD Pizza and has increased his involvement in Best Buddies by joining the North Carolina Citizens chapter. He has enjoyed going to the movies and having his buddy visit his workplace. Mike participates in the Friendship Walks and is incredibly thankful for these new opportunities.

“I am thankful for Best Buddies,” Mike said. “It really improved my life.”
Clayton
Leadership Development
Ambassador, Charlotte, NC

Before joining Best Buddies, Clayton felt that he was not given an opportunity to share his hopes and dreams. He felt like no one, besides his parents, had ever asked him what he wanted to do as an adult.

When his mom helped start Best Buddies in North Carolina, he started attending Leadership Development workshops and eventually became an Ambassador for Best Buddies NC. Speech coaches allowed him to tell his story and talk about his hopes and dreams. He felt that he was finally given opportunities to advocate for himself and for others with disabilities.

"Now, I feel very comfortable speaking in front of a group," he says. This new found confidence has helped Clayton get a full-time job.

"Everyone deserves to be heard! Everyone has a story and should be given the opportunity to share it," he says.

Clayton feels that Best Buddies has given voice to his hopes and dreams.

"Everyone deserves to be heard! Everyone has a story and should be given the opportunity to share it." - Clayton

**Leadership Development**

**Key Program Stats NC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambassadors</th>
<th>Promoters</th>
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<table>
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<th>Ambassadors</th>
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The Communications, Marketing and Strategic Development Department thanks Best Buddies International Headquarters, state offices, and International Programs staff for their collaborative effort in creating this report. Individuals listed below played a major role in its development:

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**Art Direction, Design & Imagery**
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Thank you,

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

Thank You!