MISSION PILLARS

One-To-One Friendships
Integrated Employment
Leadership Development

Mahmoud
Jobs Program Participant

Jada
Ambassador Program Participant

Margaret & Jenna
Friendship Program Buddy Pair
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Message From Our Chairman

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

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

In friendship,

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

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

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

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

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

Why We Matter

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

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

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

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

Luky Hadley, Mother of Best Buddies Ambassador Michael Hadler

*National core indicators 2016-2017
Best Buddies International is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.

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

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

Programs
Best Buddies programs sit on the three key mission pillars below:

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

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

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

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

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

An estimated 81% of adults (18+) with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community. The Best Buddies Jobs program has participants employed full time who each have the potential to earn a total income upwards of $1mm over 30 years and contribute $250k in taxes back into the economy, rather than costing the government approximately $750k each in Federal SSI and Medicaid support during that time period.

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

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

BEST BUDDIES, Promoters
Empowers youth to become advocates for people with IDD and help open new Best Buddies chapters and programs by organizing special events that promote awareness to the disability rights movement.
### 2019 BB Global Programs Snapshot*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Chapters</th>
<th>Total Participants</th>
<th>Impacted</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Schools</strong></td>
<td>530</td>
<td>12,744</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High Schools</strong></td>
<td>1,432</td>
<td>63,971</td>
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<td><strong>Colleges</strong></td>
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<td>29,796</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countries</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continents</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Jobs**
- 1,369 total buddies employed
- Avg. weekly hours worked: 27,380
- Avg. yearly hours worked: 1,341,620
- Avg. yearly wages earned: $16,703,169
- Avg. yearly taxes paid: $3,340,633

**Citizens**
- 7,328 total participants

**e-Buddies**
- 1,660 total participants

**Ambassadors**
- 781 total participants

**Promoters**
- 334 total participants

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*BESTBUDDIES. All global programs stats, including the Jobs participants stats, are as of 01/01/2019. Avg. hrly. wage = $12.45. Avg. hrs. worked per week = 20 (in the U.S.).

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

Launches

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

Partnerships

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

Key Events

- Best Buddies’ Leadership Conference attendance increased by 89% in 2018 with 157 participants in attendance from expansion states. For the first time in history, Alaska was represented at Leadership Conference.
- In April 2018, Best Buddies Global Ambassador Tom Brady travels to Qatar to launch an integrated employment initiative in partnership with the country’s Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Qatar Museums and Best Buddies Qatar participants.

Julian Edelman with buddies Nick and Jason at the 2018 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Pepsi-Cola and Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation
Milestones

Anthony Kennedy Shriver founded the original Best Buddies Chapter while a junior at Georgetown University in 1987.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Buddies Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and Lauren Potter with Best Buddies participant at the 2018 Best Buddies Mother’s Day Weekend Brunch in Malibu, CA.
Without love, support and friends, life would be empty — a life people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have often been forced to live throughout history. Best Buddies offers people with IDD the chance to have a friend, gain self-confidence and self-esteem and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.
In today’s schools, students with IDD often enter the same building and walk the same hallways as their peers, but they are left out of social activities. These students miss out on so many key elements of the school experience such as finding friends to sit with at lunch, attending homecoming or prom, joining a club or meeting a friend with whom to share their experiences.

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

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

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

In 2018, e-Buddies served 1,660 total participants. These participants exchanged more than 30,000 e-mails, and also posted more than 500 messages on the e-Buddies Community message boards. e-Buddies was also used as a teaching tool in the classroom by more than 100 special education teachers and other disabilities professionals across the country.
“Life before Best Buddies was definitely different. I didn’t have my best friend Katie in my life, that’s for sure! Katie and I have been matched for two years in the Riverside Intermediate and Junior High School Chapter where we have been buddy director and chapter president. Katie and I have a lot of fun together doing all kinds of activities. We make slime, have sleepovers, bake cakes, play video games, and go bowling just to name a few.

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

– Adyson

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

– Katie
Since its inception, Best Buddies Jobs has assisted thousands of participants in earning an income, paying taxes, receiving benefits and working in an environment alongside others in the community. The Jobs program offers the opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to become financially independent through their own efforts, removing the need for government assistance or parental support. This program focuses on white-collar jobs, which sets it apart from so many others. Best Buddies assists individuals in finding jobs that are enjoyable, inclusive and competitive in terms of pay.
Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) into the community through supported employment. The focus is on developing competitive, integrated jobs that allow participants to earn an income, pay taxes and work in an environment alongside their peers in the community, leading to full inclusion and independence. Best Buddies Jobs conducts a person-centered approach with each participant, working with the individual to ultimately achieve his or her personal employment goals. Coaching is provided in essential job interviewing skills, and once a job is secured, there is assistance with on-the-job training. Job placement for participants depend on factors such as their skills and abilities, location and vocational preference. Once fully adjusted to their job, Best Buddies supports participants with job coaching for continued career development. The Jobs program prides itself on developing employment opportunities in professional environments and focuses on white-collar jobs such as: receptionist, mail room assistant, file clerk, office assistant, front desk assistant, and retail associate. Employers range from some of the top law firms and talent agencies to well-known retail businesses and luxury hotels. The states with active Best Buddies Jobs programs as of December 31, 2018, include California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

### Key Jobs Program Stats

- **2,179** Total Participants
- **1,396 Total Employed**
- **850** U.S. Participants
- **13** States with active Jobs Programs
- **94%** Retention Rate
- **21.8%** Paid Vacation/Sick Days
- **13.7%** Medical & Dental
- **7.9%** Paid Vacation/Sick Days
- **1,34162** Yearly
- **27,380** Weekly
- **1,329** International Participants
- **850** U.S. Participants

### Top 5 Jobs Participants

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Company</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Dykman</td>
<td>Genentech, San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>Complimentary Transportation, Dental Care, Fitness Center, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Other, Retirement Plans, Sick Pay, Vacation Pay, Vision Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristen Maxwell</td>
<td>Holland &amp; Knight, Boston, MA</td>
<td>Life Insurance, Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Retirement Plans, Dental Care, Sick Pay</td>
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<td>Julian Ocampo</td>
<td>Jones Lang LaSalle, Operations Coordinator</td>
<td>Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Fitness Center, Free or Reduced Meals, Sick Leave, Sick Pay</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Asbury</td>
<td>Jones Lang LaSalle, Operations Coordinator</td>
<td>Vacation Pay, Medical Care, Fitness Center, Dental Care, Free or Reduced Meals, Sick Pay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Zysman</td>
<td>Jones Lang LaSalle, Operations Coordinator</td>
<td>Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Medical Care, Wellness Programs, Fitness Center, Company Discount, Dental Care, Free or Reduced Meals, Sick Pay</td>
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### Highest Hourly Rates

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Dykman</td>
<td>$24.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cristen Maxwell</td>
<td>$23.41</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hammond</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Hoffman</td>
<td>$25.40</td>
<td>New York City, NY</td>
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*All Jobs Program stats are as of 12/31/18.*
Terence McKnight
Best Buddies Jobs participant, Capital Region

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

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

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

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

— Dave, Chief People Officer at Gannett

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ambassadors

Best Buddies Ambassadors is a program that provides training for participants with and without IDD in areas of speech writing, public speaking and self-advocacy. Ambassadors develop the skills to share their life stories, promote Best Buddies programs, network, and most importantly, advocate. The program prepares people to become active agents of change and informed, compelling advocates for the disability rights movement.

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

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

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

Promoters

Best Buddies Promoters empowers youth to become advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by organizing and attending special events that promote inclusion and bringing awareness to the disability rights movement. Students attending a school without a special education program can join a Promoters chapter to develop connections with people with IDD, or can start one by contacting their local Best Buddies state office.

Each Promoters chapter is led by a chapter president from the student body and a faculty advisor, and is assigned a Best Buddies staff person who offers regular support and guidance. Once formed, Promoters chapters host events, activities, fundraisers and assemblies where they advocate for people with IDD, educate the public about inclusion and promote the ideals of Best Buddies’ mission. Throughout the school year, Best Buddies encourages all Promoters chapters to host as many activities as possible on and off campus that are inclusive of people with IDD.

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

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

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

Last summer I attended the 29th Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference as an ambassador. I went with no expectations, and I was beyond stunned when I was selected to speak at Closing Ceremonies. This all happened because someone saw something greater in me that I didn’t see in myself! My life has changed tremendously since February 2017 when I joined Best Buddies on a lark. This organization has helped me gain a greater sense of confidence and belief in myself. Best Buddies has helped me open my eyes to my unlimited potential. If you have an intellectual or developmental disability, don’t doubt yourself. Use your voice. Don’t be afraid to speak up and stand up for yourself! Be a voice for others, especially if they don’t yet have one, and always empower others who do. I want to finish with a quote from our Founder Anthony K. Shriver’s uncle, President John F. Kennedy, Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country; Go forth and empower others!
Signature Events

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

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation and chaired by Tom Brady, is a 100, 50 or 20-mile cycling adventure from Boston to Hyannis Port, with an optional 5K run/walk. The event kicked off with the Best Buddies Tom Brady Football Challenge and the Guy Cooking with Best Buddies Celebrity Chef Food and Wine Festival, presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation and concluded with a celebratory clambake and a private concert by the legendary Rick Springfield, who rocked the crowd with several of his hit songs.
The Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle presented by Pepsi-Cola is a 100, 60, 30 or 15-mile cycling adventure along the picturesque coastlines of California, arriving at the renowned Hearst Castle in San Simeon, with an optional 5K run/walk. The event concluded with an exciting finish line village, a festive barbeque and lively performance by Soulville California Band, who performed several top 40 songs and classic hits at the Hearst Ranch.
The Hublot Best Buddies Challenge: Miami presented by Abaco Wines, Braman Miami, Mack Cycle & Fitness, and Pepsi-Cola is a 100K six-star cycling event, limited to just 50 cyclists beginning and ending at the St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort in Miami. The ride was led by Tour de France winner Chris Froome. The Challenge was followed by the 22nd Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala: Le Cirque de la Nuit at Mana Wynwood. This star-studded event included a gourmet dinner, a top-notch auction and a live performance by multi-platinum hip-hop artist Flo Rida.
The Best Buddies Breakaway Camp: Malibu offered cyclists a world-class, four-day riding experience through the scenic canyon roads and rock-studded hillside of the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Cyclists pedaled from coast to valley through remote, twisting and winding canyon roads past cliff-side Malibu mansions and acres of forest.

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

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

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

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

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk continues to be the number one walk in the country raising awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Best Buddies Friendship Walks play a key role in funding Best Buddies programs dedicated to one-to-one friendships, leadership development and integrated job opportunities for participants. In 2018, more than 40,000 participants in 49 cities walked to support for inclusion, for people with IDD. These Friendship Walks, Best Buddies’ largest series of community awareness events, collectively raised $4,603,180 for local programs! Each Friendship Walk provides an opportunity to showcase the Best Buddies mission in action at the local level. Proceeds from the Best Buddies Friendship Walk provide necessary resources for people with IDD to become more independent and valued members of our society.
BEST BUDDIES SOCIAL EVENTS

Across the country, Best Buddies social events are providing a platform to unite community leaders, corporate partners and philanthropic trailblazers in educating and mobilizing their communities on the urgency of a more inclusive culture. Funds raised through these unique and powerful events such as Galas, Chef Tastings and Champion of the Year goals are used to help program participants form meaningful friendships, secure employment, live independently and develop skills that allow them to serve as advocates for themselves and their peers.

In 2018, these social events raised $5 million dollars for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a 19 percent increase over the previous year. Contributing greatly to this growth was our second signature event, Champion of the Year which generated over $2.9 million, an astonishing 100 percent increase from 2017. Through this accelerated growth, our events are galvanizing our communities and creating greater support for the Best Buddies mission.
Friendship Program Participants Lenny and Bryan at the 2018 Best Buddies Prom: Nashville

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

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

**BEST BUDDIES BALLS / PROMS**

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

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

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

Will & Chandler
Friendship Program Buddy Pair

Founder, Special Olympics International
Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Special Olympics athlete

BEST BUDDIES
MONTH
March 2018

BEST BUDDIES
EKS DAY
July 17-21, 2018

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2018 Executive Team

Honorary Board Members
Meet Our Supporters

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

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

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Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Hometown Foundation Inc.
IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation
Janus Family Foundation
The Jewett & Pearl Knox Charitable Foundation
June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Inc.
Lindy Lo Foundation, LTD
The Katharine Matthes Foundation
The McKay Family Charity Fund
The Memorial Foundation
Mennonite Brethren Foundation
John C. and Eunice B. Morrison Charitable Foundation
The Nordson Corporation Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
The Joan M. And Louis B. Perry Family Foundation
The Randall Family Foundation
Rays Family Foundation
Reiman Foundation, Inc.
Rhode Island Foundation
Rite Hite Foundation Corporation
RSI Boston Foundation
Samarian Foundation Inc.
ScarcenSource Foundation
Seattle Foundation
Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation Inc.
The Slater Foundation Inc.
Speedway Children’s Charities
Stackner Family Foundation
State Street Bank And Trust Company
Sumark Charitable Community Foundation
UBS Donor-Advised Fund
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
Vegas Golden Knights Foundation Inc.
Todd R. Wagner Foundation
West Street Charitable Foundation
Whitcomb Charitable Foundation

GOVERNMENT

$500,000 and Above
California Department of Developmental Services
Florida Department of Education
Illinois Department of Human Services

$250,000 to $499,999
Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

$100,000 to $249,999
Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools
California Department of Rehabilitation
Central Valley Regional Center
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities
Delaware Department of Services for People with Disabilities
District of Columbia Department of Education
Georgia Department of Human Resources
Great Lakes Commission
Harbor Regional Center
Indiana Department of Education
Maryland Department of Health
Maryland State Department of Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
New Mexico Public Education Department
New York State Department with Developmental Disabilities
Texas Education Agency

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

$25,000 to $49,999
Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Delaware Legislature
Miami Dade County Office of Management and Budget
Miami-Dade County, Florida Public Schools
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Department of Human Services
Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Human Services
Rhode Island Department of the Post-Secondary Commissioner Westside Regional Center

$10,000 to $24,999
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
City of Tempe, Arizona
Golden Gate Regional Center
Maryland Department of Education and the Arts
Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services
Nevada Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

$5,000 to $9,999
North Carolina Department of Mental Health

IN-KIND

$500,000 and Above
Tom Brady “Heart Foundation”
Jan Miller & Jeff Rich
Maria Shriver

$250,000 to $499,999
Joanne Jaitner
Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III
Silicon Valley Bank

$100,000 to $249,999
BMC
Romero Britto
CBS Radio/98.5 The Sports Hub Clear Channel
Comcast
Guy Fieri
Chris Froome
Aamir Nandenberg
Goorin Bros
Maureen & John Haller
Penney & Gerry Klingman
San Francisco Chronicle
Seyfarth Shaw
Team Sky

$50,000 to $99,999
Accenture Federal Services
CBS/KPIX
Cooking with Kids
E. J. Gallo Winery
Melissa & Mark Gonzi
Alexander Hernandez-Dessauer
Tara & Kenn Hitchcock-Francis
NBAC/HDH
Pacha Group

$25,000 to $49,999
9.9 WBUR
Aventura Worldwide Transportation Service
Richard Belcher
Boston Globe
Classic Party Rentals
Dolce & Gabbana
Rafael Feliz Jr.
Gary Fears
Getty Images
JCD exhaust North America
May Ling & James Lintott
Michael Medinella
Monica & Jimmy Shay
Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits
Tom Sullivan

$10,000 to $24,999
Angen Tour of CA
Boston Globe
Classic Party Rentals
Farmont Hotel
Charmaine & David Gagnon

95
Meet Our Supporters

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

$5,000 to $9,999
Courtland Media
CourtHouse Express
e-structure Technologies, Inc.
Evening Entertainment Group
Genovese Joblove & Battista
Getty ImagesGoorin Bros
Health Warriors
Jacob Dietz
Jacobs Design
King Dahn Event Design
Lacoste,LLC Linens
Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation
NextCare
Peets Coffee & Tea
Edwards Wildman

TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS
$50,000 to $99,999
#TeamMaximus
Team Foster Grant and Friends
Team Jacob - IPC
Team Seyfarth Shaw
Team Webcor

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

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

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Lacoste,LLC Linens
Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation
NextCare
Peets Coffee & Tea
Edwards Wildman

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Team Silicon Valley Bank
Team Tom Brady

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

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

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

ANIMAL SERVICES
Paw Pals, Inc.
Silver BLP Animal Clinic

ARTS & CULTURE
Park West Gallery

AUTOMOTIVE
Findlay Toyota
South Bay Mini/BMW

COMMUNICATIONS
Inktel Direct

CONSTRUCTION & ARCHITECTURE
Millhouse Engineering & Construction

EDUCATION
CAPA-The Global Education Network

FINANCE & INSURANCE
Crescent Capital
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, LP

FITNESS
Blink Fitness

FOOD & BEVERAGE INDUSTRY
Chick-Fil-A
Cold Stone Creamery
Dairy Queen
David’s Restaurant
Duffy’s Sports Grill
Eat Well Nashville
Family Tree Produce
Glory Days Grill
 Kroger
Levy Restaurants
Millers Ale House
O’Hara’s Food & Spirit
Roscoe’s Chicken & Waffles
Seasons Culinary Services
Service Systems Associates
Shaws Supermarket
Sodexo
Sprouts
Star Market
Stop & Shop
Stub Hub Center
Tap42
Tom Thumb
Trader Joe’s
Wegman’s
Wendy’s
Whitson’s Culinary Group
Whole Foods Market

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

HEALTH CARE
CB Orthodontics
Funtastic Dental & Orthodontics
Genentech
HealthStream
Kaiser Permanente
MDVIP
Pharmalogics Recruiting, LLC
Pfizer
UMass Memorial

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

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES / WHOLESALE
D.S. Bull Company, Inc.

LAW FIRMS
Barret Marion Epstein & Kearon, LLP
BrinksLaw
Holland & Knight
The Ferraro Law Group

MANUFACTURING / DISTRIBUTION
Lightbourne Equipment Company
The UPS Store

NON-PROFIT / FOUNDATIONS
Best Buddies International
Good 360

REAL ESTATE
Arrigo Realty and Development
Jones Lang LaSalle

RECREATION
Monani Community Center

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

SPORTS / ENTERTAINMENT
AEG
Boston Red Sox
Cinemark
Contemporary Services Corporation
Flagship Cinemas
Florida Panthers
Golden State Warriors
Kids Love to Dance
Nashville Predators
Nashville Sounds
Orlando Science Center
San Francisco Deltas
Santa Ana Star Casino
Worcester Railers

TALENT AGENCIES
Paradigm

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TCC

TRANSPORTATION
Adams Balloons
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd
SMS International Shore Operations
TGS Aviation Services

WAREHOUSING & STORAGE
D.S. Bull Company, Inc.

Value Store It
2018 Consolidated Statement of Activities* (as of 12.31.18)

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

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

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

International Revenue***: $29,500,000

Total Gross Revenue: $60,218,873

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

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Revised 12.31.18

* Statement of Activities for calendar year 2018 based on Best Buddies International’s Form 990-2018
** “Other” represents revenue generated from a collection of sources including; Chapter Dues, Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, Investment Income and Cause-Related Marketing.
*** Gross consolidation of International Licensees that operate as their own NGOs.
Ohio
Year in Review

Best Buddies in Ohio had an outstanding year in 2018! Together, we reached the following milestones:

- We made 24 Friendship chapters possible. Nearly 500 friends matched together!
- We trained more than 60 Ambassadors in our leadership training program.
- More than 50 student leaders were able to join us at the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference.

Further, I am excited to share that we have our very first Citizens’ match in Cleveland, OH. Casey and Sammy were matched in February and have paved the way for more friendships through our Citizens program in Ohio. They were able to speak at our 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk and have big plans to become Ohio’s 2019 Champion of the Year and attend the 2019 Best Buddies Leadership Conference.

In 2019, we look forward to continuing our impact across the state to achieve the Best Buddies mission. As our name becomes more recognized throughout Ohio, we will be able to do so much more by growing our volunteer base and expanding our programs. We have been charged with engaging employers across our state to hire people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through a grant we received from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC). In the spring of 2019, we will host an event and then work with partners throughout the state to connect them with employees that they may have not considered before.

We are continually grateful to all of our partners for helping us expand our mission — especially, our Advisory Board, Best Buddies Friendship Walk Committee, Champion of the Year Gala Committee, the ODDC, Columbus Foundation, and Nordson Corporation Foundation, who have enabled us to grow and build a strong base of support in Ohio.

“Collaborating with corporate and civic leaders is one of our most distinguishing characteristics.”

Catlin Skufca
State Director, Ohio
Ohio Office
1335 Dublin Road, Suite 209-A
Columbus, OH 43215
P 614.928.3383

In early 2018, a friend of Sammy Scovil’s came to Best Buddies in Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC). In the spring of 2019, we will host an event and then work with partners throughout the state to connect them with employees that they may have not considered before.

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“Collaborating with corporate and civic leaders is one of our most distinguishing characteristics.”

Casey, was the perfect fit! She connected them, and it has been a great friendship ever since.

“Sammy has definitely brought so much into my life that I didn’t realize I was missing, said Casey. “When the idea of being matched was first brought up, I was excited but didn’t know what to expect. I knew within a few minutes of meeting Sammy that we were going to be good friends. We instantly clicked and have so much in common. She is one of the most genuine, sweetest and thoughtful individuals I have ever met. We try to get together once a week and we talk almost every day. I’m grateful to have Sammy in my life and I truly think we were made to be friends!”

“We are great friends and have so much in common,” said Sammy. “Ever since we were matched in February we have done so many things together including going to the movies, dinners at Casey’s family’s home, a Pink concert and we even traveled to the 2018 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port in Massachusetts. I know we will be friends forever.”

Mia Pollock, who facilitated this match says, “It is no secret that Best Buddies is a huge part of my life, but one of my favorite things has been watching my family become so involved in the mission. This past year, my sister, Casey, was matched with her buddy, Sammy, and it has truly been a pleasure to watch their friendship grow and flourish! Casey and Sammy embody what it means to be a buddy pair in Best Buddies—they communicate frequently, hang out multiple times a month, and have become very much involved in each other’s lives. Casey truly believes that she has found a lifelong friend! Everyone in my family will attest that Sammy has become a part of the Gifford-Pollock crew.”

Casey and Sammy are the first Citizen’s match in the state and they have big plans to make sure others across the state can be a part of this movement. They spoke at the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Columbus and will compete to be the 2019 Champion of the Year.

“I knew within a few minutes of meeting Sammy that we were going to be good friends. We instantly clicked and have so much in common. She is one of the most genuine, sweetest and thoughtful individuals I have ever met.”

One-To-One Friendship
Key Program Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Chapters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Participants</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One-To-One Friendship
Sammy & Casey

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“I knew within a few minutes of meeting Sammy that we were going to be good friends. We instantly clicked and have so much in common. She is one of the most genuine, sweetest and thoughtful individuals I have ever met.”
Hello, my name is Silas Callison and I am a senior at Grandview Heights High School in Columbus, OH. I became an Ambassador for Best Buddies in Ohio and I have been able to spread Best Buddies’ mission across the state.

I helped start my school’s Best Buddies chapter four years ago and have remained involved as the Buddy Director for our chapter. I’ve had the opportunity to attend Best Buddies International Leadership Conference as both a student officer and as an Ambassador. I have been paired with my friend, Shea McHugh, for two years. Best Buddies creates opportunities for new experiences and provides a friendly environment. Best Buddies has encouraged me to play a bigger part in my school and community. I have made new friends, been active on the wrestling and track teams, managed the football team and took part in several public speaking opportunities.

Everywhere I go in Grandview, I feel included and it is a great feeling. I have met a lot of people in my community and I can show people who I really am. If I’m being honest, I am a Best Buddies celebrity in Ohio!

I will continue to be a part of Best Buddies when I graduate from high school and attend Ohio State University! There are so many students who sit alone at lunch and don’t have a friend who checks in on them. There are still so many adults with disabilities whose only social contact is with family members and/or caregivers. Volunteers will help change this in Ohio. I hope to use my leadership training to continue expanding our programs in Ohio and being an advocate for others.

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A Special Thank You!

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

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

**Copy & Editing**
- Nicole Maddox, Director, Communications
- Kendra Guerrero, Coordinator, Marketing & Communications
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**Global Statistics**
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- Melissa Franco, Creative Design & State Marketing Director
- Beatriz Lozano, Junior Graphic Designer

Thank you,

Mark Lewis, Vice President, Marketing & Strategic Development

Attendants at the 2018 Best Buddies Friendship Walk: South Florida
Mariana & Sara
Friendship Program Buddy Pair
Best Buddies Costa Rica

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Miami, Florida 33131
P 305.374.2233 | F 305.374.5305

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