

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Best Buddies Friendship program participant  
Calvin Carrillo & Global Ambassador  
Cindy Crawford



BEST BUDDIES





# BEST BUDDIES<sup>®</sup>



BESTBUDDIES<sup>®</sup> Three Mission Pillars:

- One-to-One Friendships
- Integrated Employment
- Leadership Development





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## Message from Our Chairman

Dear Friends,

2017 was another breakthrough 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).

When I started Best Buddies nearly three decades ago at Georgetown University, I never imagined that this organization would impact the lives of more than 1.2 million people annually with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across the globe, spanning nearly 50 countries and six continents. This is such a blessing and truly a testament to the power of friendship and inclusion.

In 2017, Best Buddies raised nearly \$12 million dollars 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 opened a new state office in Charlotte, North Carolina, further expanding our services and mission across the United States. Best Buddies also launched a new Jobs program in Moscow, Russia, to serve a new community of individuals with IDD 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.

2017 was all about jobs, jobs, jobs! Employment for people with IDD truly is one of the most important issues of our time given the fact that 81% of adults (18+) with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community. With your support and the employers who hire our talented Jobs participants, our Best Buddies Jobs program is changing the game. Currently, we have over 1,000 individuals worldwide with IDD placed in jobs that match their skills, talents and interests. Our Jobs participants, in the U.S., work an average of 22 hours a week and make an average of \$12.28 per hour, an amount much higher than the minimum wage in many U.S. cities. Our Jobs participants are working hard, breaking barriers and showing the world just how capable, talented and driven they truly are.

This year's growth was supported by partnerships with innovative corporations such as the TJX Companies, Inc. who are changing the game for people with special abilities. The TJX/Best Buddies Jobs partnership was established with a vision to create employment opportunities for our Jobs program participants, while also creating a more diverse and inclusive culture for TJX stores in major cities throughout the U.S, including Baltimore, Chicago, Florida and New York City. Together, I know that we will reach our goal of 500 placements within the next five years, which will have a profound impact on the lives of the Jobs participants and the overall business success of TJX Companies.

As we look ahead into 2018, I have no doubt in my mind that Best Buddies will continue to expand its programs globally, building a more inclusive society that celebrates our friends with special abilities for the unique gifts they offer to this world.

Every success we achieved in 2017 is a direct reflection of the hard work, generosity and sheer dedication from our supporters, participants, volunteers, and staff, who make our mission possible. Thank you for your commitment to Best Buddies. What we have accomplished together over the span of nearly three decades has been extraordinary but I know the best is yet to come. Let's continue disrupting the status quo. Let's continue making an even greater impact with our mission to eradicate the societal barriers for individuals with special abilities. Together, we will change the world, one friendship, one leader and one job at a time.

In friendship,



Anthony Kennedy Shriver  
Founder, Chairman & CEO



Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman & CEO,  
Best Buddies International with his buddy and  
Global Ambassador Jorge Morilla



## Why We Matter

Over the past 50 years, 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 amount of people within the IDD community that are stereotyped, marginalized and live life as an invisible minority is staggering. Unfortunately, it is common for people with IDD to be without a job and 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 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 \$1 million over 30 years and contribute \$250,000 into the economy, rather than costing the government approximately \$750,000 each in Federal SSI and Medicaid support 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, and 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 [www.bestbuddies.org](http://www.bestbuddies.org).

\*National Core Indicators 2013-2016



Global Ambassador **Jack Mayor**  
with his mother **Diana Mayor**

## Letter from a Parent

Our son, Jack Mayor, was fortunate to be selected to attend the 2017 Best Buddies Leadership Conference (BBLC) for the Ambassador track and even more blessed to be chosen to speak at Closing Ceremonies. Jack did an amazing job delivering his message. We are still in shock that this actually happened knowing what Jack’s life was like before we found Best Buddies.

The backstory to how we found Best Buddies and what has transpired since that day for Jack makes me want every parent of a child with a disability to find their way to Best Buddies. As a parent of a child that struggles daily, you just want your kid to be happy, feel loved and wanted. Best Buddies has given that to my son and so much more than we ever expected.

Jack started his freshman year at a high school that averages roughly 1,000 kids per grade. It was a huge difference and adjustment from the 150 kids he was used to. He cried every day, wouldn’t get on the bus and didn’t know any kids in his classes. He did indeed sit alone at lunch and cry. He CRIED every day at school. He felt all alone and even though we have a very large family he could talk to at home, he entered that school with feelings of fear and dread every single day.

Within the first month of freshman year, Jack lost it! He developed a severe case of OCD that affects his thoughts and was clinically depressed. He talked about killing himself at the age of 14. Jack slept in our room on the floor for over two months so we could watch him and know he would be safe. Jack has four siblings and all of our lives dramatically changed. Our house and lives literally came to a standstill. I refer to that time three years ago as the “shut down!” He woke up and had no life in his eyes. My happy boy, who loved hard, was a kid I didn’t recognize anymore. We woke up with fear every day as to what our days held with Jack. You’d give anything for someone to rescue your kid and throw him a “life preserver.” Well, Best Buddies did that for Jack and our family. Best Buddies honestly saved Jack and rescued our family along the way.

We approached school and changed classes around for Jack and in the process found out about Best Buddies. And, then, the game changer happened for Jack and our family: WE MET JOSIE RUND! Josie was paired with Jack through their high school club and from the moment Jack and Josie connected, it was like watching the most breath-taking sunset and the most amazing fireworks show combined all in one. Their relationship/friendship is one of the most beautiful things I have ever witnessed. To see my first born son, who has struggled every single day of his life, be filled with pure LOVE for someone who is not related to him, heals my heart. When you are told repeatedly through IEP reports, appointments for official diagnosis and psychological evaluations that your child will NEVER hold a meaningful relationship, as their parent, your heart has yet another piece of it broken off. To be a spectator and watch what has unfolded between Jack and Josie, I am blessed to be part of ONE EPIC STORY!

Josie took a lonely soul and breathed life back into my boy. She made my Jack whole again. She gave him her friendship and in turn, without even realizing it, Josie gave Jack his voice. She made Jack feel loved and wanted.

Best Buddies gave Jack his Josie. Best Buddies in turn gave us, Jack’s parents, HOPE! Hope for a better future for all kids like Jack. Best Buddies threw my boy that “life preserver” when he needed it most and managed to heal a family. We have prayed very hard for Jack to be happy and to be the best “Jack” he could be. Watching our son deliver his speech at the Best Buddies Leadership Conference assured us that God is hearing those prayers and has a bigger plan for Jack than we can imagine. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for giving my boy the opportunity, the confidence to tell his story and most importantly, his Josie. I am and will be forever grateful.

Diana Mayor  
Naperville, Illinois



# BESTBUDDIES®

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 IDD.

## 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 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.

## Goals | The 2020 Initiative

Best Buddies created the 2020 initiative in 2011, with the goal of opening offices in all 50 states by the end of 2020. The initiative also includes plans to train 4,000 Buddy Ambassadors, develop 1,000 jobs for people with IDD around the world, and increase the number of school-based chapters to 2,500. As a result of these ambitious efforts, Best Buddies hopes to become a household name by the end of 2020.

## Programs

Best Buddies programs sit on the three key mission pillars listed 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.

**BESTBUDDIES. Middle Schools, High Schools and Colleges**

Creates an inclusive school environment for students with and without IDD during times of social and emotional development.

**BESTBUDDIES. Citizens**

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

**e-BUDDIES.**

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

## Integrated Employment

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

**BESTBUDDIES. Jobs**

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

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.

\*National Core Indicators 2015-16

### One-to-One Friendships



### Integrated Employment



### Leadership Development



## Leadership Development

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

**BESTBUDDIES. Ambassadors**

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

**BESTBUDDIES. 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.





# Global Programs Snapshot: 2017

**2,498** | **120,182** | **1,201,820**  
 Total Chapters | Total Participants | IMPACTED

**50** States  **48** Countries  
**6** Continents 

 <b>Middle Schools</b>	 <b>High Schools</b>	 <b>Colleges</b>
<b>594</b> = <b>13,404</b>	<b>1,197</b> = <b>63,355</b>	<b>489</b> = <b>27,709</b>
Chapters   Total Participants	Chapters   Total Participants	Chapters   Total Participants

 <b>Citizens</b>	 <b>e-Buddies</b>
<b>6,026</b>	<b>1,581</b>
Total Participants	Total Participants

 <b>Jobs</b>	<b>23,474</b>	<b>\$14,124,775</b>
	Avg. Wkly. Hours Worked	Avg. Yrly. Wages Earned
<b>1,067</b>	<b>1,150,226</b>	<b>\$2,824,955</b>
	Avg. Yrly. Hours Worked	Avg. Yrly. Taxes Paid
Total Buddies Employed		

 <b>Ambassadors</b>	 <b>Promoters</b>
<b>802</b>	<b>218</b> = <b>5,712</b>
Total Participants	Chapters   Total Participants

\*All BESTBUDDIES-global program statistics, including the Jobs participants statistics, are as of 12/31/17. U.S. average hourly wage (\$12.28) and hours per week (22) were used to calculate global jobs statistics.



Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Best Buddies International with program participants at the 2017 Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Indiana



# 2017 Highlights

## Launches

- ▶ Best Buddies opens a new state office in Charlotte, North Carolina and area offices in Ft. Myers, Florida and Long Beach, California.
- ▶ The Best Buddies Jobs program, which places skilled participants with employers, begins operating in Palm Beach, Florida; Paramus, New Jersey; and Fresno, California. For the first time in Best Buddies Jobs history, the organization exceeded 400 domestic placements in a calendar year.
- ▶ Best Buddies opens offices in Gdarisk, Poland to serve a new community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on a global scale.
- ▶ Best Buddies International Programs launches a year-long peer-to-peer Exchange program with participants and staff in the United States and Russia Best Buddies programs.
- ▶ Best Buddies launches the Best Buddies Jobs program in Moscow, Russia, making it the first Jobs program for the organization in Europe.

## Partnerships

- ▶ A&E Network's *Born This Way* docuseries, featuring Best Buddies participants, earned six Primetime Emmy nominations for its authenticity and originality. The show took home the awards for "Outstanding Casting for a Reality Show" and "Outstanding Cinematography for a Reality Program."
- ▶ In an effort to raise awareness and promote the organization's mission through the U.S., Best Buddies joined forces with Celebrity Cruises and Shaw's and Star Market in dynamic corporate partnerships.
- ▶ Singer Austin Mahone and actress Minnie Driver join Best Buddies as Global Ambassadors.

## Key Events

- ▶ Best Buddies Global Ambassador Cindy Crawford and daughter Kaia Gerber hosted the inaugural *Best Buddies Mother's Day Brunch* in Malibu, California, an event honoring mothers of Best Buddies participants. The event raised \$300,000 directly benefitting Best Buddies.



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



# 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, BESTBUDDIES® becomes America's first national, unified, social, and recreational program for people with 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 BESTBUDDIES® Citizens with the goal of pairing adults with IDD with their working peers who do not have disabilities.

1994-1998

- Best Buddies launches BESTBUDDIES® Jobs, a supported employment program, targeting high-paying, white-collar jobs for people with IDD in Florida, California and Massachusetts.
- Best Buddies establishes BESTBUDDIES® High Schools with the goal of pairing special education students in one-to-one friendships with high school volunteers.
- The BESTBUDDIES® 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 *Vo/vo 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)."
- For the first time, Best Buddies has programs in 50 countries around the world.
- BESTBUDDIES® Ambassadors becomes Best Buddies' seventh formal program.

2011-2015

- BESTBUDDIES® Jobs expands to Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, CA.
- BESTBUDDIES® 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 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Best Buddies launches the *I'm In To Hire* campaign to promote the business benefits of hiring people with IDD.
- In October 2015, A&E Network partnered with Best Buddies International and premiered a new docu-series, "Born This Way," which chronicled the lives of seven young adults with Down syndrome, several of whom were Best Buddies participants.

2016-Current

- BESTBUDDIES® 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.



Matthew DeCotis at the Best Buddies Challenge:  
Hyannis Port





# One-to-One Friendship Programs

Without love, support and friends, life would be empty – a life people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have often been forced to live throughout history. Best Buddies offers people with IDD the chance to have a friend, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.

Christina Hundley and Miss Maine Teen USA 2017 Victoria Timm  
Friendship program participants



# One-to-One Friendship Programs

## Middle Schools High Schools Colleges

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 Schools, High Schools and Colleges 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 they help facilitate an environment of inclusion throughout the school and in the community.

## Citizens

For people with IDD, the absence of meaningful friendships extends into adulthood. After age 21, some individuals with IDD may never spend time with anyone besides a paid caregiver and family. Best Buddies Citizens pairs adults with IDD in one-to-one friendships with other adults without IDD in corporate and

civic communities. Volunteers 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 for a lifetime.

## e-Buddies

Computers are an integral part of society, yet only 54% of people with disabilities report using a computer or other electronic device to access the internet.\*

By joining e-Buddies, participants can develop the skills necessary to become technology-literate, and therefore, able to compete for higher-level employment and communicate using a variety of sources.

e-Buddies is an e-mail pen pal program that pairs people with IDD in one-to-one e-mail friendships with peer volunteers who do not have IDD. Participants from the 50 U.S. states, as well as international participants from various countries, are matched based on age, gender and

common interests. e-Buddies agree to e-mail each other at least once a week for one calendar year. This program offers a safe way to make a new friend and connect with someone across the country.

In 2017, e-Buddies served 1,581 total participants. These participants exchanged more than 40,000 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 over 114 special education teachers and other disabilities professionals across the country.

\*Kessler Foundation 2012



Shaedon Smith & Daniel Signor  
Friendship program participants





**One-to-One Friendships**  
Trinity Hogben & Megan Phelps  
Friendship program participants

## Trinity Hogben & Megan Phelps

“Where do I even begin? Best Buddies has opened so many doors for me – but most importantly, it has shown me the road to inclusion and friendship. I have met my lifelong best friend, Megan.

In seventh grade during gym class, I noticed a girl about my height with long dirty blonde hair that always seemed to be off on her own. That day, I decided to go over and talk to her. This girl was not ordinary, she was extraordinary. She was shy and quiet at first but once I got to know her, she was a bundle of energy, light and positivity. I did notice, though, that she didn't speak. Later on, I would find out that she could talk but chose not to. Megan has what is known as selective mutism autism. She chooses not to talk in public places due to her social anxiety. This disability does not define her, it is only a part of her story. Getting to know her more and more everyday was so much fun. As our friendship grew, I discovered Best Buddies. We joined Best Buddies together and never did we think a single club could impact us so much.

We walked across the stage together on the day of our eighth grade graduation, we entered high school together, and have been through everything life has thrown us – together. Before I met Megan, I never knew how incomplete my heart was. Megan was that last puzzle piece to my heart. Whenever we can, we are together. See me texting on my phone? I'm probably texting Megan. See pictures of me on social media? Guaranteed they are with Megan.

A few words from my best buddy, but most importantly my best friend:

“

Best Buddies has helped me gain friendships and experiences that I never had before. Before I met Trinity, I was very lonely. Since Trinity and I met we are best friends, we love to spend time together doing fun things. I get to participate in more activities than I did before. I am included – I love Trinity and I'm glad she is my best friend.

My love for Megan grows and grows day by day. We are so close that she has started talking to me outside of school. After joining Best Buddies, I realized how many people in the world were looking for the Megan to their Trinity. Best Buddies allows everyone to have a friend, no matter who you are or what you are capable of.

Being the person who puts a smile on someone's face is definitely the best feeling ever.”

~ Trinity Hogben





# Integrated Employment Program

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, as well as, inclusive and competitive in terms of pay.

**Jorge Armando Alfonso**  
Jobs program participant



# Integrated Employment Program

## Jobs

Best Buddies Jobs furthers the integration of people with 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 depends 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, mailroom 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, 2017, include California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

## Jobs Highlights

### OUR PARTICIPANTS

Best Buddies Jobs participants work an average of 1,150,226 hours per year and earn approximately \$14.1 million combined annually.

### HIGHEST SALARIES

**Michael D.** earns \$51,168 per year at Genentech in California. He also receives medical, dental and vision care, fitness center access, retirement plan, paid vacation, sick days and holidays, as well as complimentary transportation.

**Cristen M.** earns \$48,692 per year at Holland & Knight in Boston. She also receives life insurance, medical and dental care benefits, retirement plan, as well as paid vacation, holidays and sick time.

**Curt H.** earns \$42,120 a year at William Morris Endeavor in California. Curt also receives holiday pay and health care benefits.

**Anthony S.** earns \$41,769 per year at Keiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center in California. He also benefits from Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Wellness Programs, company discounts, and free or reduced meals.

**Paul P.** earns \$41,600 a year at Whiting Turner in California. He also receives medical, dental and vision care, as well as, access to an education assistance program, life insurance, retirement plan, paid vacation, holiday and sick days.

**Billy O.** earns \$41,600 a year at Eaton Vance in Massachusetts. Benefits include medical and dental care, retirement plans, paid sick and vacation days.

### HIGHEST HOURLY WAGES

Jobs participant	Hourly Wage	Employer / Location
Michael D.	\$24.60	Genentech / CA
Cristen M.	\$23.41	Holland & Knight / MA
Anthony S.	\$22.95	Keiser Permanente / CA
Chantom P.	\$20.60	Central Park Conservancy / NY
Curt H.	\$20.25	William Morris Endeavor / CA
Ashley W.	\$20.00	Institute for Community Inclusion / MA

### RECEIVING BENEFITS

- Medical & Dental: 15%
- Paid Vacation/Sick Days: 21%
- 401K Plan: 1%

### 2017 KEY JOBS PROGRAM STATS\*

- Average Total Weekly Hours worked: 23,474
- Average Total Yearly Hours worked: 1,150,226
- Average Total Yearly Wages Earned: \$14,124,775
- Average Total Yearly Taxes paid: \$2,824,955

\*Global jobs stats are calculated based on total jobs participants and U.S. average hours and wages.

Jennifer Montañós  
Jobs program participant









**Integrated Employment**  
Kevin Joyce  
Jobs program participant

## Kevin Joyce

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) / Massachusetts

It took Kevin a while to find a job that was the right fit. As he tells it, he spent years “working with other job agencies in efforts to find a good job, which came with a lot of frustration and [few] results.” Kevin experienced firsthand what we already know: that many of the jobs in today’s workforce are either inaccessible to, or limiting for, individuals with disabilities. He needed a workplace that would not only set clear expectations for him, but also help him find opportunities for growth. Kevin found that in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Hired in December of 2016, Kevin works as the office automation clerk at the FAA’s New England Region office. He is in charge of scanning and archiving files for the department, and he has added real value to the office.

Here’s what the Deputy Director had to say about Kevin:

“Kevin is particularly skilled in computer work. He was hired and initially asked to scan and file thousands and thousands of Federal Aviation Administration Orders and Guidance to help create an electronic file. Kevin turned out to be a very fast worker. He enjoys working and enjoys the people he works with as well. He has done work for many of our staff and recently scanned and created hundreds of land acquisition files we had no room to store in the office.”

The hire was as beneficial for Kevin as it was for the FAA. He works full time, makes well above minimum wage, receives benefits and has a great natural support system.

“

Financially, I’m in a better place. I know that I can do the things that I love and help my family.

On top of the financial benefits, Kevin also feels that, finally, his work is valuable.

“

My work is important and helps the government and helps the region. What I do really matters. I never felt that most of my other jobs ever accomplished anything. I want my job to have meaning. [Now] I can look at myself in the mirror and say yes you have a good job and you’re lucky to have it.

Kevin hopes down the road to be able to continue his education, try to move up the ladder, increase his pay, and continually try to challenge himself. There is no doubt that he’ll be able to do just that.





# Leadership Development Program

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.

Larry Larkin  
Best Buddies Ambassador speaking at the 2017  
Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle



# Leadership Development Program

## 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 state 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, given their skills and awareness as advocates. 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, 2017, Best Buddies had more than 800 trained active Buddy Ambassadors, in 16 states and 22 countries. Many Ambassador program participants attended the *Best Buddies Leadership Conference* in July and took part in novice or advanced speechwriting 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 bring 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, embrace and accept people of all abilities setting an example for their peers and the community at large.

Caley Versfelt, Ambassador  
Leadership Development program participant





**Leadership Development**  
**Jack Mayor**  
Ambassador program participant

## Jack Mayor

“Hello everyone! My name is Jack Mayor. I’m 17 and a soon-to-be senior at Neuqua Valley High School in Illinois. I became an Ambassador for Best Buddies last year and I am loving every single second of it and I will tell you why. Before I share my story about Best Buddies with you, I want to share some things about myself. One in 68 kids are diagnosed with autism and it affects one in 42 boys. I am one of those 42 boys. I was diagnosed with autism at the age of six. Life with autism is a daily struggle. I am different but I am also unique and I have been blessed with special gifts like super memory when it comes to calendars. Now that you know some things about me, I’ll get back to why I am here today. That is all because I found the best organization on this planet...Best Buddies.

Before I became involved in this wonderful organization during my freshman year of high school, my life was very different. My life was very lonely. Although I have two brothers, and two sisters, I was sad. I was depressed and I hated everything about school. I sat alone at lunch and had no friends. That’s the thing with autism – it’s very hard to make and keep friends since most people don’t get me and I have a hard time reading people’s emotions. I did not want to go to school. My parents spoke to my teachers and then something absolutely amazing happened – I got involved in Best Buddies. Through Best Buddies, I met somebody that has become my very best friend. Josie is her name. I know that this is going to sound all dramatic, but it is the honest truth... Josie changed my life. She was the President of my high school’s chapter and I am sure she saw how bad my heart hurt. Josie would call my mom every week and make plans to do fun things with me. It wasn’t only the fun things she did with me, she took the time to get to know me... the REAL ME! She would always stop and talk to me in the halls, cheer me on at my basketball games and swim meets. She’d dance with me at Homecoming and Spring Fling.

She also celebrated “Mayor Thanksgiving” with us, which included all 54 members of my immediate family. You see, Josie is part of my family. Josie gets me, knows me and loves me. Josie doesn’t see my autism, she makes me feel like my autism doesn’t matter. She gave me something that is priceless... her true friendship.

Best Buddies gave me Josie. They gave me the confidence to speak in public. They also give other people with intellectual disabilities the chance to advocate for themselves. This organization makes me want to change things for all kids like me. Best Buddies took my worst days and made them my best. Everyone deserves their best days and every kid deserves Best Buddies.

As an Ambassador, my personal goal and hope is to help get this organization in every single middle school and high school across the world. My take on Best Buddies is that all kids will benefit from it. Typical kids get involved and become great role models and leaders. Kids like me have the opportunity to walk away with someone who can change your life.

I made a bunch of new friends. I actually like school now. I am extremely happy. My life starting my senior year is dramatically different from when I started my freshmen year and I know that this wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for this organization.

My heart, my soul and my life have definitely been enriched by Best Buddies. Thank you to Mr. Anthony Shriver for creating an organization that gave me hope, confidence and, of course, my Josie.

Your outstanding support creates stories of success every day, many that are like my own... the story of Jack and Josie. A story about a girl, who saw a broken boy, and healed him with the greatest thing of all... true, selfless love. Best Buddies, Josie, and people like you gave me new life. A life that fills me with excitement and joy, instead of fear and loneliness. My life is new, my life is better, my life is the best. And you’re all the reason.”





# Signature Events 2017

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 more prominent events are featured on the following pages.

Celebrity Chef Guy Fieri and Buddies at the 2017 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port and Guy Cooking with Best Buddies Celebrity Chef Food and Wine Festival





Best Buddies Program Participants during the Best Buddies Tom Brady Football Challenge at Harvard Stadium

## BEST BUDDIES CHALLENGE.



Cyclists departing from the start line at the Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port



Program participants Stephen and Sarah participating in the Guy Cooking with Best Buddies event during the 2017 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port

# Signature Events



**Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port**  
presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw's Foundation and Star Market Foundation  
June 2-3, 2017  
Boston & Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port presented by Pepsi-Cola, Shaw's Foundation 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 Tom Brady Football Challenge and the Guy Cooking with Best Buddies Celebrity Chef Food and Wine Festival and concluded with celebrity tandem races, a celebratory clambake and a private concert by the legendary Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, who rocked the crowd with several of their classic hits.

Best Buddies Global Ambassador Tom Brady at the 2017 Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port



# Signature Events



Best Buddies Ambassador Charles Calhoun & Governor of California Gavin Newsom at the *Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle*



Attendees at the *Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle* pose for a picture at the Hublot photobooth



Cyclists ride along the California coastline as they make their way to Hearst Castle in San Simeon

**Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle**  
*presented by Pepsi-Cola*  
September 8-9, 2017  
San Simeon, California

The *Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle presented by Pepsi-Cola* is a 100, 60, 30 or 15-mile cycling adventure along the picturesque coastlines of California, arriving at the renowned Hearst Castle in San Simeon, with an optional 5K run/walk led by Olympian Carl Lewis. The event concluded with an exciting finish line village, a festive barbeque and an energetic performance by California's Soulville Band at the Hearst Ranch.



# Signature Events



Professional cyclists George Hincapie, Chris Froome, and Christian Vande Velde along with Anthony K. Shriver and the Best Buddies Challenge: Miami riders



Iggy Azalea performs at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala: Expansion in India



Guests enjoying themselves at the Miami Gala's cocktail reception and silent auction



**Best Buddies Challenge: Miami**  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual Best Buddies Miami Gala  
November 17, 2017  
Miami, Florida

The *Best Buddies Challenge: Miami* is a world-class cycling event limited to just 50 riders. This 62-mile ride, starting and ending at Marlins Park, featured a Tour de France-style police escorted peloton with road and intersection closures, support vehicles and three fully-stocked rest stops. The Challenge was followed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual *Best Buddies Miami Gala: Expansion in India* at Ice Palace Studios in Wynwood. This star-studded event included a gourmet dinner, a top-notch auction and a special musical performance by four-time Grammy nominated, multi-platinum Australian rapper Iggy Azalea.

Riders support the cause as they cycle through the streets of Miami with a full police escort

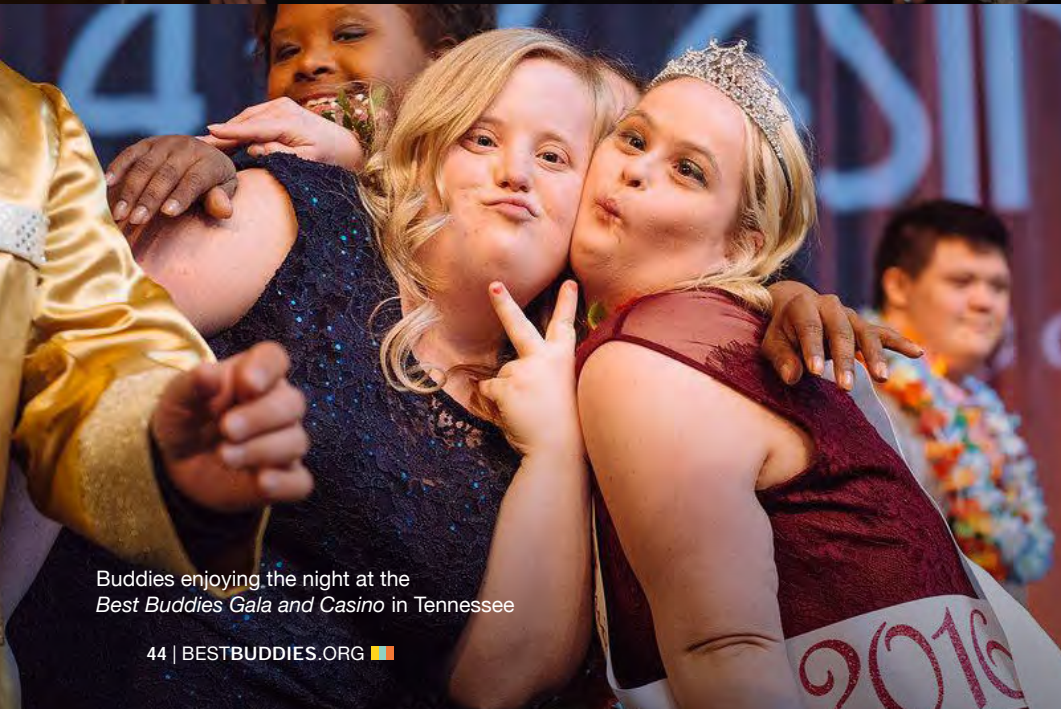




Program participants having a ball at the *Best Buddies Gala* in Jacksonville, Florida



Program participants at the *Best Buddies Be An Angel Gala* in North Carolina



Buddies enjoying the night at the *Best Buddies Gala and Casino* in Tennessee



# Signature Events

## Best Buddies Social Events

Best Buddies social events include Galas, Chef Tasting events and our fastest growing revenue model, Champion of the Year. These events bring together community leaders, corporate partners and philanthropists throughout all areas of our country. They celebrate the opportunity to come together for one evening to make an incredible impact in the communities we all live in and love. The funds raised are used to help program participants form meaningful friendships, secure employment and develop skills that allows them to serve as advocates for themselves and their peers. Best Buddies Tennessee gambled the night away and far exceeded their goal of raising \$315,000. Their Gala and Casino night raised over \$350,000 to support the programs and initiatives in Nashville. The Capital Region hosted a beautiful cocktail reception for 600 adult guests who had the opportunity to experience the Best Buddies mission firsthand. After the reception, with live and silent auctions, as well as, an amazing live appeal, the guests were invited to move onto the upper level atrium in the Reagan Building where they celebrated the more than 800 students dancing the night away at the *Best Buddies Prom*. The students all cheered for the adult guests attending when it was announced that they had raised more than \$300,000 to support the students and build a jobs program in their area. In total, Best Buddies Social Events across the U.S. raised more than \$4.2 million for individuals with IDD.

Best Buddies program participant Katy & Chef Steve at the Best Buddies *Tastebuds* event in Pennsylvania





Attendees at the Best Buddies Friendship Walk in South Florida



Friendship Walk participants having a great time in Indiana



Participants at the Friendship Walk in South Florida



# Signature Events

## Best Buddies Friendship Walks

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 Friendship Walks play a key role in funding Best Buddies programs dedicated to one-to-one friendships, leadership development and integrated job opportunities for Best Buddies participants. In 2017, more than 40,000 participants in 45 cities walked to raise awareness for inclusion, friendship, leadership and opportunities for people with IDD. These Friendship Walks, Best Buddies' largest series of community awareness events, collectively raised \$4,443,372 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.

The *Best Buddies Friendship Walk* in D.C. brought together friends and family from all walks of life





The *Best Buddies Prom* in the Capital Region at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center



*Best Buddies Prom* in D.C.



Guests gather at the *Best Buddies Friendship Ball* in Massachusetts

# Signature Events



## Best Buddies Proms

*Best Buddies Proms* – and the support and fun they bring to the mission – are a growing way the organization’s state offices and chapters are sharing their work and celebrating program participants. *Best Buddies Proms* were celebrated across the country in 2017, through 37 local events held from coast to coast with thousands of participants in attendance. In 2017, over 800 students from 14 high schools came together to dance and celebrate inclusion at the *Inland Empire Prom*, the largest *Best Buddies Prom* in Southern California. Actress and *Best Buddies* supporter Charlotte McKinney also attended the prom as Samuel Castro’s date, the buddy director at Bloomington High School. The *Nashville Best Buddies Prom* was held in February, and during the day of the prom participants were offered the opportunity to have hair and makeup done at local salons. These salons were secured by staff and the services were provided at no charge to the participants. This year at the Nashville Prom, participants were even treated to a special song from a surprise guest – Hunter Hayes. Hunter saw a video from a buddy, Rachel, inviting him to attend the prom. He said he couldn’t refuse!

A night of friendship is shared among program participants at the 2017 *Best Buddies Capital Region Prom* presented by TCMA





Best Buddies participants from Florida having a blast at Leadership Conference



Leadership Conference attendees gather for a group session



David Quilleon, SVP, Global Mission, State Development & Operations, Anthony K. Shriver, and student leaders from University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Outstanding Chapter winners for the 2016-2017 academic year



Best Buddies participant Angelica Allsup speaking at the Best Buddies Leadership Conference



### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference

In July 2017, more than 2,200 teachers, volunteers and community leaders gathered from across the globe to unite in Bloomington, Indiana for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference: *Pass The Torch*. The event emphasized the importance of preparing and empowering the future leaders and advocates of the world with the skills and knowledge to move the mission of equality forward. The 2017 conference proved to be a once-in-a lifetime experience for attendees who came together to discuss social inclusion, leadership and community, fundraising, and advocacy for people with IDD. Speakers and special guests such as *Born This Way* star Megan Bomgaars, leader in the inclusion revolution and human rights defender Anastasia Somoza and motivational speaker Kevin Wanzer challenged attendees with and without IDD to explore their full potential as leaders and advocates, tap into their power to motivate and encourage others, and translate awareness into quality friendships between people of all abilities. Through lessons from global leaders in the disability rights movement, inspiring performances, moving testimonies and empowering education sessions, thousands of attendees returned from the conference inspired and motivated to change the world!



Molle Noble & Katie Harting  
Friendship program participants



### Best Buddies Month March 2017

What started 22 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 important, it is a time to show the world the significance of these essentials in every individual's life. In March 2017, Best Buddies' chapters and individual volunteers showcased their passion for Best Buddies by participating in community carnivals, regional dances and school-wide assemblies.

Eunice K. Shriver lifetime supporter and  
Honorary Board Member of Best Buddies  
International



## Signature Events

### EKS Day July 20, 2017

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day* was created in 2010 in her honor, to inspire people to remember her legacy and embrace the movement she founded to bring awareness to the disability rights movement. EKS Day promotes a global call for individuals to commit actions of inclusion, acceptance and unity for people with IDD. The seventh annual EKS Day was observed on July 20 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.



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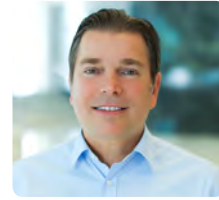
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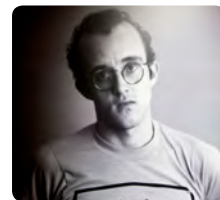


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“All the programs Best Buddies can provide – leadership training, employment for people with intellectual disabilities, one-to-one friendships, and mentoring opportunities – none of it would ever be possible if it was not for our generous supporters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

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

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# Meet Our Supporters

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Patricia & Bobby Nail  
Lydia & Rodolfo Prio Touzet  
Jonas Prising  
Jan Miller & Jeffrey Rich  
Marilyn & Ronald Rotter  
Matthew Sabel  
Michael Schlesinger  
Monica & James Shay  
Michael Skirvin  
Tom Sullivan  
Sandra & Anthony Tamer  
Jorge Unanue  
Michael Van Handel

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

Wendy & Jim Abrams  
Farkhad Akhemedov  
Angela Atema  
Mark Attanasio  
Paulo Bacchi  
Jeff Baker  
Jeff Baum  
Stephen Beneto  
Michael Bernatchez  
Lucy & Henry Billingsley  
Brad Blank  
Carla Boragno  
Yulia Bordovskikh  
Rebecca Bowman  
Anne Brewer  
Romero Britto  
Richard Carlisle  
Andrew Conrad  
Martin Coughlin  
Karl Couyoumjian  
Kristina Daglio  
Barbara & Don Daseke  
Alicia Doligale  
Santiago Dominguez  
Brendan Donovan  
Charles Durham  
Scott Duke Ensell  
Horst Ferrero  
Ana & Tony Figueroa Cisneros  
Thomas Fisher  
Mary & Mark Freitas  
Robert Friedman  
Janessa Gerken  
Diane & Neil Goodhue  
Roy Gori  
Randall Goss  
Darryl Green  
Kenneth Griffin  
Christina Griffith  
Aziz & Nur Hamzaogullari  
Allen Hansen  
Field Harrison

David Herro  
Jose Hevia  
Michael Hughes  
Joel Jacob  
Serita Jakes  
Honorable Patrick Kennedy  
Dennis Lauchner  
Philip Levine  
Carl Lewis  
Mary Jane Mark & Mark Losada  
Donna Lucas  
Lisa & Andre Lutoff-Perlo  
Michael Markowitz  
Michael Marrone  
William Martin  
Jack McGinnis  
Carlos Migoya  
Philip Moses  
Dylan Olson  
William Oroure  
Marley & Brett Overman  
Jeff Palacios  
Dolores Pistacchio  
Bruce Rader  
Ronnie Rand  
Peter Raphael  
Kenneth Reilly  
Yamiledt Restrepo  
Loren Ridinger  
Jackie Soffer & Craig Robins  
Timothy Rooney  
TC Schuttler  
Christian Searcy  
Marlyne Sexton  
Connie & Joseph Shay Sr.  
Aina & Anthony Shriver  
Mary Anne Shula  
Glenn Singer  
Richard Slifka  
Vincenzo Stankard  
Robert Sullivan  
Lola Thomas  
Lee Thompson  
Barry Trotz  
Patricia Villareal  
Nan Bush & Bruce Weber  
Merle & Dan Weiss  
Emily & Michael White  
John Winter  
Scott Wolf

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

Margaret & John Abdo  
John Adams  
Adam Arents  
Jennifer Aydin  
Luis Barreto  
Eric Bingham

Jason Binn  
Lindsay Bodkin  
Susan Boksen  
Ben Bologna  
Ronald Book  
Michelle Bosch  
Jonathan Bram  
Benjamin Bram  
Jerry Brenholz  
Stefan Brewer  
Clark Briner  
Jason Brown  
Frank Burkeen  
Randall Butler  
Kurt Buttenhoff  
James D. Carreker  
Joseph Cassidy  
Eligio Cedeno  
Randi Chasen  
Sol Choate  
Sandra Cleary  
Gene Coffman  
James Collet  
Kelly Cullen  
Eric Cullison  
Tom Culmo  
Kalley Cutler  
John Dailey  
Debra Daley  
Katheryn Damiani  
David Deschenes  
Andrew Dorko  
Rhonda Dorris  
Lisa Durso  
J. Ellard  
Rob Ellin  
Sheila Erickson  
Lashanna Farley  
Brian Fengler  
Donald Forman  
Eric Foss  
Scott Free  
Cynthia Friedman  
Lisa Frisby  
Lore Gallagher  
Antonio Garcia  
Frances Garrison  
Maureen Gemma  
Hillary & David Gershman  
Kevin Gibbons  
Bob Gilbert  
David Giunta  
Kim & Todd Glaser  
Kim & C. Brody Glenn  
Nolan Gould  
Cynthia Gray  
Donna & Gary Greenfield  
Andrew Hamilton

Michael Hansen  
Alexander Hernandez-Dessauer  
Sally Heyman  
Mark Hintlian  
James Hintlian  
William Hoke  
Charles Hollis  
Jono Huddleston  
Clark Hunt  
Robert Hurley  
Ramnarain Jaigobind  
Rebecca Jelfo  
Roman Josi  
William Kargman  
Mitchell Katz  
Jordan Katz  
Naomi Kaufman  
Sw Kelley  
Aaron Kneas  
Charlotte Kohlmann  
William Kronenberg  
Mike Kruse  
George Larribas  
Chris Larsen  
Donald Lazas  
David Lazerwitz  
Paula Lockhart  
James Lohse  
Monique Lopes  
Eric Lorenz  
Jay Luchs  
Sara Luongo  
Justin Maguire  
John Marshall  
Donald McCree  
Nichole McGinley  
Molly Mclver  
Rosemarie Mohammed  
Vanessa Morelli  
Philip Mount  
Mike Musser  
Margo & Jimmy Nederlander  
Robert Nickerson  
Stifel Nicolaus  
Ted Norberg  
Bernard Nussbaumer  
Bernadette ODonnell  
Michael Olson  
Thomas O'Neill  
Daniel Oswald  
Mona & John Oswald  
Joe Parisi  
Hogunn Park  
Scott Pasley  
Terri Peck  
Katrina & R. Donahue Peebles  
Katrina Peebles  
Joseph Perez

Samantha Peterson  
Amy & John Phelan  
Carl Pierce  
George Pontikes  
Mary Pothier  
Ken & Kim Premo  
Shaun Pulfrey  
Richard Quigley  
Heather Quinn  
Susan Ragon  
Arlys Raymond  
Sarah Richie-Roberts  
Douglas Robertson  
Maggie Rodriguez  
Carlos Rodriguez  
Alexis Rogers  
Barry Rosenberg  
G. Tyler Runnels  
Angela Sanders  
Jill Sanger  
Stephen Sawitz  
Mryna Schlegel  
Don Schleicher  
Matt Schwartz  
Raul Segredo  
Timothy K. Shanley  
Maria Shriver  
Kenneth Slater  
John M. Sobrato  
Scott Sohr  
Melissa & Paul Stewart  
Patricia Sullivan  
Heath Sullivan  
Cindy & Martin Sumichrast  
David Tass  
Colleen Tate  
Ilian Tchourilkov  
Paulette Thabault  
Brad Tilden  
Dennis Tupper  
Marianne Ulcickas Yood  
Brian Vickers  
Richard Voet  
Dessi Volpicelli  
Karen Walsh  
Ryan Watts  
Steve Weiss  
Thomas Werner  
Jay Wheeler  
Robert Wiggins  
Matthew Witkos  
Susan Yu  
Gabriele Zuliani

## FOUNDATIONS

### \$500,000 and Above

Telmex Foundation

# Contributors

## \$250,000 to \$499,999

Annenberg Foundation  
Engelstad Family Foundation  
B. Thomas Golisano Foundation  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

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

American Endowment Foundation  
CWK Foundation  
The GEO Group Foundation, Inc.  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
PHLY Foundation  
Polk Foundation  
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trusts  
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust  
The Taft Foundation  
The TJX Foundation, Inc.

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

Anthony R. Abraham Foundation, Inc.  
Ansin Foundation  
Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation  
Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc  
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
The Batchelor Foundation, Inc.  
The Caesars Foundation  
The Charlie & Moll Anderson Foundation  
Citizens Bank Trust Services  
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas  
The Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Reh., Inc.  
Greater Houston Community Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.  
The Hearst Foundation\*  
Helping Hands Foundation, Inc.  
Highland Street Foundation  
Peacock Foundation, Inc.  
Ann G. and James B. Ritchey Foundation  
Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust  
Vanguard Charitable  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation

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

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Burns Family Foundation  
Catholic Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee  
The Columbus Foundation (CF)  
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial  
Drew Foundation



# Meet Our Supporters

## FOUNDATIONS (continued)

E. G. Watkins Family Foundation  
Helen Bader Foundation, Inc.  
Kessler Foundation  
The Leavitt Corporation  
Loveall Foundation for Children  
The Makarov Foundation  
The Miami Foundation  
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc.  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Patricia Dedman Family Foundation  
The Rees-Jones Foundation  
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation  
UPS Foundation, Inc.  
Yawkey Foundation II

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

1011 Foundation, Inc.  
The 1111 Foundation  
The Achelis and Bodman Foundations  
Albuquerque Community Foundation  
Aon Foundation  
Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation  
Charles E. Benidt Foundation, Inc.  
Boomerang Foundation, Inc.  
Boston Bruins Foundation  
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.  
Joseph Briere Foundation  
Central Indiana Community Foundation  
The Charley Foundation  
CJM Foundation  
Emory T. Clark Family Charitable Foundation  
The Comcast Foundation  
Communities Foundation of Texas  
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee  
The Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation  
Dart Group II Foundation, Inc.  
Desert States Charitable Foundation  
The Discovery Land Company Foundation  
Mark & Mary Freitas Foundation  
The GE Foundation  
The Craig and Kathryn Hall Foundation  
Harley-Davidson Foundation  
Hasbro Children's Fund, Inc.  
Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The Ireland Family Foundation  
KeyBank National Association Trust Division  
The Kimmel Spiller Charitable Foundation  
The Lampert Foundation  
Lennar Foundation  
The Leon J. Simkins Charitable Foundation  
Marshall R. Matley Foundation  
Maui United Way  
The Merrill Family Foundation 05-10  
MGM Resorts Foundation

Miles for Miles Foundation  
MSE Foundation  
National Philanthropic Trust  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation  
The Omega Foundation  
Parsen Foundation  
Dr. Phillips Charities  
Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation  
Marjorie Rockwell Fund for the Disabled  
Schoenleber Foundation, Inc.  
The Senkut Family Fund  
Sherman Fairchild Foundation  
Mabel and Ellsworth Simmons Foundation  
The Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation  
Stackner Family Foundation  
State Street Foundation  
Steve Aoki Foundation  
Tempe Diablos Charities, Inc.  
Trends International Charitable Foundation Inc.  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee  
Todd R. Wagner Foundation  
Warmenhoven Family Foundation  
Waukesha County Community Foundation  
The Weiler Foundation, Inc.  
Whas Crusade For Children, Inc.

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

The Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
Allegis Group Foundation  
The Anne and Ronald Abramson Family Foundation  
Arlington Community Foundation  
The Kyle J. Barker Foundation  
Jeffrey L. Berkowitz Trust  
Boardwalk Buddy Walk Fund  
Bonds Family Foundation  
Stephen P. Bratkowski Foundation  
Cardinals Charities  
CareSource Foundation  
Chloes Cause, Inc.  
Citizens Charitable Foundation  
Cogswell Benevolent Trust  
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region  
Community Foundation of Central Illinois  
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis  
Connelly Foundation  
Cooke Foundation, Limited  
Crystal Trust  
Dave and Sheila Gold Foundation  
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation  
Doligale Family Charitable Foundation Inc.  
The Dresher Foundation, Inc.  
East Tennessee Foundation  
Freeman E. Fairfield Foundation

The Foundation For Those Without A Voice  
The George & Judy Marcus Family Foundation  
The Gerald And Daphna Cramer Family Foundation, Inc.  
The Gheens Foundation, Inc.  
The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation  
John G. Gosnell & Jean R Gosnell Foundation, Inc.  
Greater Green Bay Community Foundation  
Greater Houston Golf Charity  
George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation  
Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation  
Hometown Foundation, Inc.  
Jana Foundation, Inc.  
The Katharine Matthies Foundation  
The Kerr Foundation, Inc.  
The Lansing Foundation  
June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Inc.  
The Lindy Loo Foundation  
The Lowry Murphey Family Foundation  
The Mark Cuban Foundation  
Joseph G. Markoly Foundation, Inc.  
Sam & Mildred Mulay Foundation  
Nashville Predators Foundation  
National Christian Foundation Georgia  
Phoenix Suns Charities, Inc.  
The PNC Charitable Trust  
The Randall Family Foundation  
Rays Baseball Foundation, Inc.  
Rite Hite Corporation Foundation  
Robert R. McCormick Foundation  
Robin Foundation  
RSM Boston Foundation  
Samerian Foundation, Inc.  
SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation, Inc.  
Snyder Family Foundation  
Speedway Children's Charities  
State Street Foundation, Inc. Matching Gift Program  
Stein Family Trust  
Sunmark Charitable Community Foundation  
Taco / The White Family Foundation  
Taco Bell Foundation, Inc.  
The Ernst & Gertrude Ticho Charitable Foundation  
The Tolleson Family Foundation  
UA - - Survivors Trust  
Variety-The Children's Charity  
M Wahlberg Youth Foundation  
The Wawa Foundation, Inc.  
Whitcomb Charitable Foundation

## GOVERNMENT

### \$500,000 and Above

California Department of Developmental Services  
Florida Department of Education  
Illinois Department of Human Services

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

City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii  
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services  
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 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
Texas Education Agency  
We

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

Arizona Department of Education  
Boston, Massachusetts Public Schools  
Maui County, Hawaii Department of Housing and Human Concerns  
Miami-Dade County, Florida Office of Management and Budget  
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

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

Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services  
Delaware Legislature  
Miami-Dade County, Florida School Board  
Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Human Services  
Rhode Island Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner  
Shelby County, Tennessee  
Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Westside Regional Center, California

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

Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
City of Alexandria, Virginia  
City of Phoenix, Arizona  
City of Tempe, Arizona  
County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania  
Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center, California  
Golden Gate Regional Center, California  
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Department of Human Services

Regional Center of the East Bay, California  
Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

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

Butler County, Ohio Board of Developmental Disabilities  
City of Falls Church, Virginia  
City of Peoria, Arizona  
Nevada Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation  
Polk County, Iowa  
San Andreas Regional Center, California

## IN-KIND

### \$500,000 and Above

Tom Brady  
Hearst Corporation\*  
Jan Miller & Jeff Rich  
Maria Shriver

### \$249,000 to \$499,999

Joanne Jaxtimer  
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  
Aaron Gershenberg  
Goorin Bros  
Maureen & John Hailer  
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  
NBC/WHDH  
Pilot Freight Services

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

90.9 WBUR  
Aventura Worldwide Transportation Service  
Ricardo Bellino  
Boston Globe  
Classic Party Rentals

# Contributors

Dolce & Gabbana  
Rafael Feliz Jr.  
Gary Fears  
Getty Images  
JCDecaux North America  
May Liang & James Lintott  
Michael Meldman  
Monica & Jimmy Shay  
Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits  
Tom Sullivan  
Qatar Airways

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

Amgen Tour of CA  
Boston Globe  
Classic Party Rentals  
Fairmont Hotel  
Charmaine & David Gang  
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

Carlton Media  
Courthouse Express  
e .frastructure Technologies, Inc.  
Evening Entertainment Group  
Genovese Joblove & Battista  
Getty ImagesGoorin Bros  
Health Warriors  
Jacob Dietz  
Jacobs Design  
King Dahl Event Design  
LacosteLGi Linens  
Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation  
NextCare  
Peets Coffee & Tea  
Edwards Wildman



# Meet Our Supporters

## TOP FUNDRAISING TEAMS

### \$500,000 and Above

Team Silicon Valley Bank  
Team Tom Brady

### \$250,000 to \$499,999

Team Patriot Pedalers

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

Team Audi  
Team Best Buddies Central Valley  
Team Eaton Vance  
Team Greenberg Traurig  
Team John Hancock  
Team King James Buddies  
Team ManpowerGroup  
Team Maria  
Team Marlowe  
Team Natixis  
Team THEMTEAM

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

Team Believe  
Team Bob's Discount Furniture  
Team Foster Grant & Friends  
Team Gallo  
Team Hearst  
Team Host Hotels & Resorts  
Team Jacob - IPC  
Team Klingman and Associates  
Team Pioneer  
Team Seyfarth Shaw  
Team Team Andrew Ferris  
Team Webcor

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

#TeamMaximus  
Team 1776 Financial & Friends  
Team Ben  
Team Berkshire Hathaway Blake  
Team Big Money and Best Buddies Citizens  
Team BNY Mellon  
Team Carnival Cruise Line  
Team Grinta!  
Team Guess?  
Team Harrington Buck PC  
Team Holland & Knight  
Team Lucas  
Team Mark's Buddies  
Team Raffy Taffy Boom Boom Pow  
Team ServiceNow  
Team Sierra/Olson Steel  
Team Starwood Property Trust  
Team Steptoe  
Team Sunshine  
Team TB12 Maniacs

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

Auntie Lisa's Team  
Team 6 Degrees  
Team 6Fifteen Cyclery  
Team Antonio Contreras, powered by Ability Revolution, Inc.  
Team Arlington  
Team Atholton High School  
Team B-4/BCCClub  
Team Best Buddies Garden City High School  
Team Blach Construction  
Team Blood Sweat & Gears  
Team Bloomberg  
Team BlumShapiro for BBRI  
Team Carmel Valley Physical Therapy  
Team Carter  
Team Cash Money  
Team Chicago Citizens  
Team Coughlin  
Team Creekside Best Buddies  
Team Crown & Anchor  
Team CVS Health  
Team Daley  
Team Damascus High school  
Team Daniel's Dynamos  
Team DeStefano  
Team Ditka  
Team Duke Brady  
Team Duxbury  
Team Elliott's Alpha Gang  
Team Gaston  
Team Google  
Team Harrington  
Team Henry  
Team I'm in!  
Team Jakey  
Team Jodi  
Team Kates Barlow  
Team Kingwood High School  
Team Land Shark Calvacade  
Team Lexia  
Team Lisa @ Participant Media  
Team Mary Ann  
Team Mom  
Team Nestle  
Team Nicole Burch  
Team OAKTON HS Best Buddies  
Team Palacios  
Team PCG  
Team PG&E  
Team Povoas Pedalers  
Team Revere Bank  
Team Ronin's Roadies  
Team Sadie-Jack Cycling  
Team Santander  
Team SAP NS2

Team Saratoga Springs High School  
Team Serten Advisors, LLC  
Team Seven Lakes High School  
Team Shenendehowa High School  
Team Shulman Rogers  
Team Swirl  
Team The James Gang  
Team The Third Wheel  
Team The Walsh Clan  
Team Trio  
Team Turnberry Strong  
Team TWinners  
Team Washington-Lee High School  
Team We Brake For RosÃ©  
Team WSVN  
Team Yorktown High School

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

Embassy Suites  
Kirtland Inn (Airforce Inn)  
MGM Resorts International

## INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES / WHOLESALE

D.S. Hull Company, Inc.  
Discount Welds

## LAW FIRMS

Barket Marion Epstein & Kearon, LLP  
Bielinska Law  
Holland & Knight  
The Ferraro Law Group

## MANUFACTURING / DISTRIBUTION

Lightbourn Equipment Company  
The UPS Store

## NON-PROFIT / FOUNDATIONS

Best Buddies International  
Good 360  
Temple Judea  
The Orokawa Y in Towson

## REAL ESTATE

Arroyo Realty and Development  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Tavistock

## RECREATION

Monon 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

# Contributors

Micro Center  
Once Upon a Child  
Primark  
Target  
TJ Maxx

## 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  
Propagate Content  
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. Hull Company, Inc.  
Value Store It

# Participating Employers

## ANIMAL SERVICES

Paw Pals, Inc.  
Silver Bluff Animal Clinic

## ARTS & CULTURE

Park West Gallery

## AUTOMOTIVE

Findlay Toyota  
South Bay Mini/BMW

## COMMUNICATIONS

Inktel Direct  
Manpower for Ghirardelli

## CONSTRUCTION & ARCHITECTURE

ASR Interiors  
Millhouse Engineering & Construction

## EDUCATION

CAPA-The Global Education Network

## FINANCE & INSURANCE

Crescent Capital  
Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, LP  
Mastercard Worldwide

## FITNESS

Blink Fitness  
Tanning Boutique

## FOOD & BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

Chick-Fil-A  
Cold Stone Creamery  
Dairy Queen  
Davio's Restaurant  
Duffy's Sports Grill  
Eat Well Nashville  
Family Tree Produce



Where The Money Goes...



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

Revised 09.18.17



Elementary Promoter School Friendship program participants from Best Buddies in Tennessee.

2017 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES\*

**Domestic Revenue:**

Government	\$ 6,449,865
Foundations and Corps.	\$ 4,688,827
Individual	\$ 2,221,216
Special Events	\$ 12,188,323
Other	\$ 1,080,675
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,628,906</b>

**Domestic Expenses:**

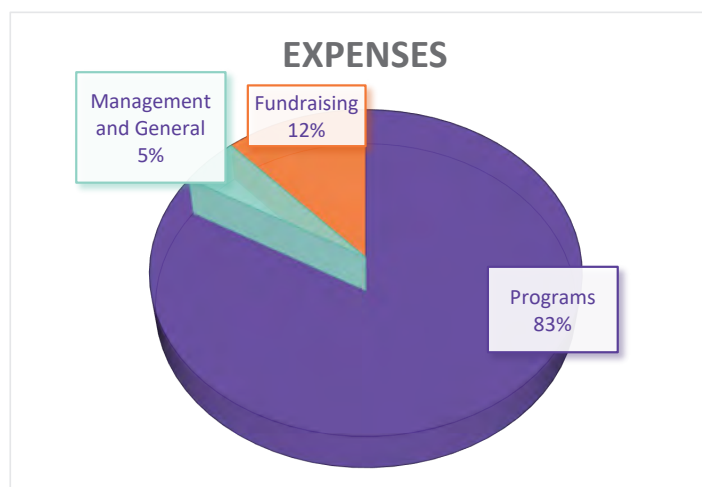
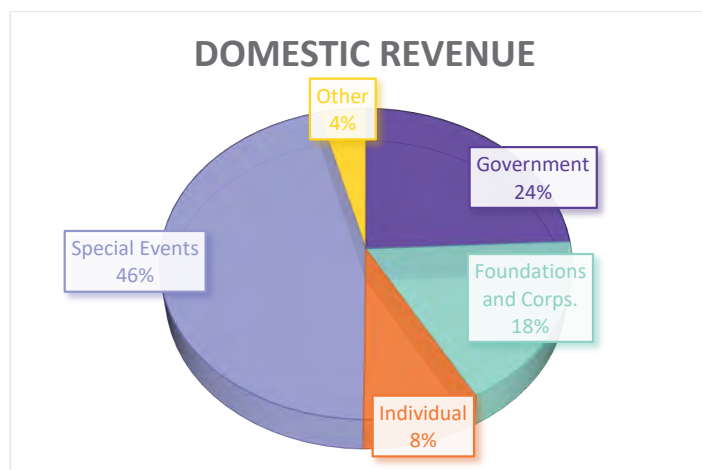
Programs	\$ 21,937,722
Management and General	\$ 1,275,411
Fundraising	\$ 3,076,122
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,289,255</b>

**Domestic Net Asset Summary:**

Net Assets (beginning of year)	\$ 8,997,087
Change in Net Assets	\$ 339,652
Net Unrealized Gains(Losses) on Investments	\$ 44,192
<b>Domestic Net Assets (end of year)</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,931</b>

**International Revenue:\*\*\*** \$ 29,200,000

**Total Gross Revenue:** \$ 55,828,906



\*Statement of Activities for calendar year 2017 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990-2017

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

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

BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS	YEAR TO DATE
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$ 2,024,261
Marketable Securities	1,631,488
Pre-Paid Expenses	496,804
Accounts Receivable	123,989
Contributions Receivable	2,432,930
Grant Receivables	3,673,996
Investments - Deferred Compensation Plan	83,240
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,466,708</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Computers	12,199
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 12,199</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 10,478,907</b>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 553,950
Deferred Revenue	460,787
Deferred Compensation Plan Liability	83,239
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,097,976</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 9,380,931
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,931</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 10,478,907</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE WITH CURRENT YEAR ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 8,997,086</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 383,845</b>
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,931</b>



# BESTBUDDIES® INTERNATIONAL



50 States / 6 Continents / 48 Countries



# Special Thanks

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