

BEST BUDDIES®



BESTBUDDIES®

Friendship, Jobs & Leadership Development

BEST BUDDIES®



Mission

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals 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, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

Programs

Best Buddies 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.



BESTBUDDIES. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

53 Countries



6 Continents

North America



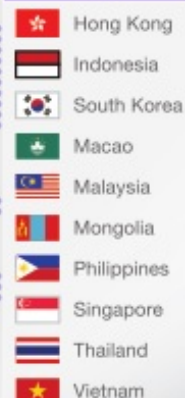
Canada
USA

Europe



Belgium
Bulgaria
Finland
Germany
Greece
Italy
Netherlands
Northern Ireland
Norway
Poland
Russia
Spain
Turkey
Ukraine
England

Asia



Hong Kong
Indonesia
South Korea
Macao
Malaysia
Mongolia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Latin America & The Caribbean



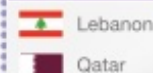
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El Salvador
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Haiti
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Venezuela

Africa



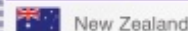
Egypt
Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Tanzania
Uganda

Middle East



Lebanon
Qatar

Oceania



New Zealand



Independent Organization

- *Legal Registration*
- *Board of Directors*
- *Funding*
- *Staff*
- *Start-Up Environment*
- *Training material from BBI*
- *Independent Accreditation*



Project Under Partner Organization

- *Training material from BBI*
- *Sub-accreditation*
- *One point person to run the program*
- *Certain funding for the events*



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT



ALEX DESSAUER,
VICE PRESIDENT



JENNIFER ALLEN,
DIRECTOR



GUSTAVO SORIANO,
SENIOR DIRECTOR



ROBERTO BELTRÁN,
AREA DIRECTOR
LATIN AMERICA



KAI TROLL,
AREA DIRECTOR
EMEA



YELBA GUTIERREZ,
COORDINATOR

BEST BUDDIES[®]

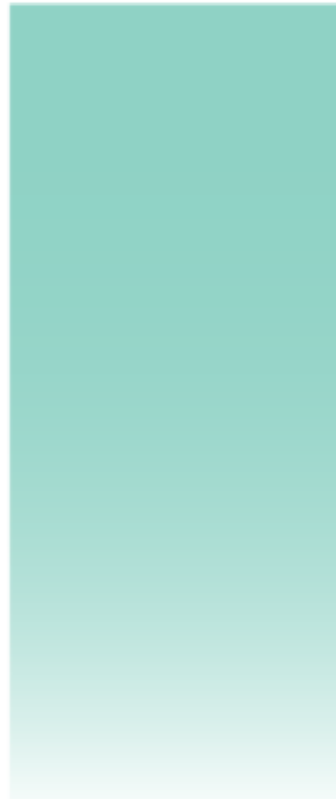


BESTBUDDIES® Four Mission Pillars:

One-to-One
Friendships



Integrated
Employment



Leadership
Development



Inclusive
Living



One-To-One Friendships

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

Jason Delconte & Matthew Barron
Friendship program
Clovercroft Elementary School





One-to-One Friendships

**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.

A man, Paul Brooks, is shown in profile from the waist up, speaking at a clear acrylic podium. He is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt under a dark blue vest. His right hand is raised in a gesture while his left hand rests on the podium. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with stage lights.

Leadership Development

Best Buddies educates and empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to become powerful public speakers, self-advocates and active agents of change. These leaders inspire their peers within the IDD community, employers and the government to join Best Buddies' global movement of friendship and social inclusion.

Paul Brooks
Best Buddies Global Ambassador and Jobs program participant



Integrated Employment

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, and removes the need for government assistance or parental support. This program focuses on white-collar jobs, which sets it apart from so many others, because Best Buddies assists individuals in careers that are not only enjoyable, but also inclusive and competitive in terms of pay.

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.



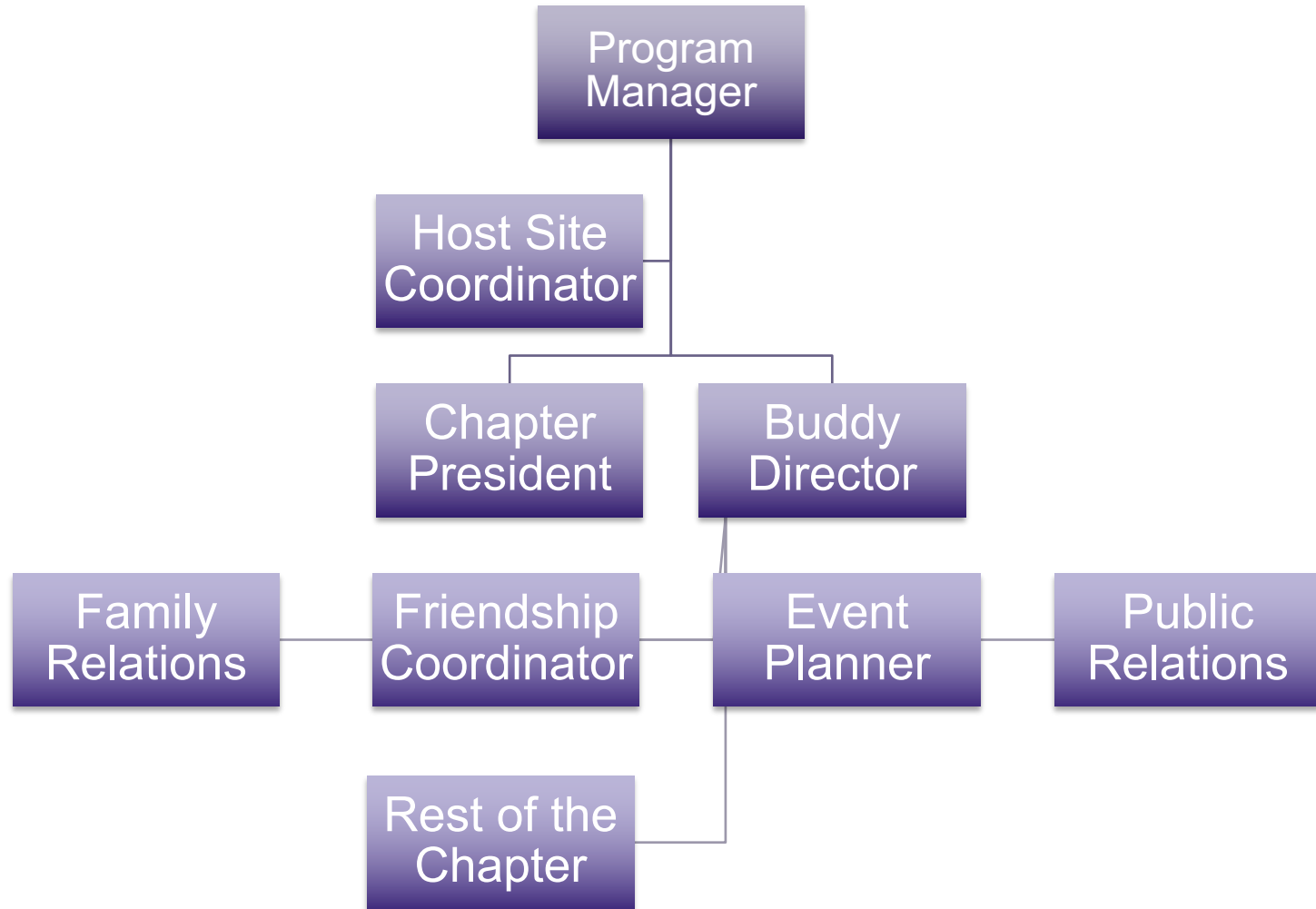
BESTBUDDIES® Living

BEST BUDDIES CITIZENS

Best Buddies Citizens is a program that could help bring inclusive social activities and new friendships to the lives of your participants. Most of our programs in Europe run this program.



Best Buddies Citizens Chapter





Recruitment

- Student volunteer fair
- Community volunteer fair
- From current members
- Presentations at schools or at community organizations

Matching Buddy Pairs

- Age
- Gender
- Interest
- Where they live
- Socioeconomic Class

Commitment

- Speak once a week
- Meet up twice a month
- Submit monthly friendship updates
- Attend group events



Timeline

May-August

- Secure Leadership Committee for next year
- Make sure that the schools and/or organizations are matched

September

- Review applications and conduct interviews
- Local Leadership Training Day
- Matching Ceremony
- Parent Meeting

October-May

- Collect and Review Monthly Friendship Updates
- Group Events (Monthly for Schools, Quarterly for Citizens)
- Monthly Leadership Meetings
- Submit Biannual Reports to BBI

BENEFITS:

- Fosters independence
- Strengthens self-awareness
- Promotes autonomous decision making
- Fun and interactive
- New group outside of family
- Social mentoring and skill development that could help lead to employment eligibility







How does your organization help promote social inclusion for your service users?

How can friendship help foster independence?

What are some challenges do you see with implementing the Best Buddies program at your organization?



BEST BUDDIES PANEL



ANNA KULIKOVA

Best Buddies Russia
Perspektiva



SASHA SHPOTOVA

Best Buddies Russia
Perspektiva



RIIKKA MANNINEN

Best Buddies Finland
Inclusion Finland



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Questions

