

Best Buddies



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Jamie Davis, Area Executive Director
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Mission

Best Buddies 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).

Vision

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

How to Help

We are currently seeking board members to help advance the mission of Best Buddies throughout central Illinois and have year-round volunteer opportunities for individuals to serve on event committees for our signature events. Do you want to bring inclusion to your workplace or school? Contact us today to learn how you can become a part of the global Best Buddies movement!



What started as a volunteer program on the campus of Georgetown University in 1989 has grown into the largest global nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for one-to-one friendship, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Best Buddies impacts nearly one million individuals in all 50 states and in more than 54 countries worldwide through eight official programs:

- **Friendship Programs:** Best Buddies Middle Schools, Best Buddies High Schools, Best Buddies Colleges, Best Buddies Citizens, e-Buddies
- **Employment Programs:** Best Buddies Jobs
- **Leadership Development Programs:** Best Buddies Ambassadors and Best Buddies Promoters.

Locally, Best Buddies works in partnership with 19 middle schools, high schools, colleges and community organizations to create peer-to-peer friendships for more than 1,500 participants through the Best Buddies Middle Schools, Best Buddies High Schools and Best Buddies Colleges programs. The focus of our school-based programming is to create more inclusive schools and communities through the gift of friendship by breaking down the barriers

Signature Events

Best Buddies Champion of the Year Gala

October 5, 2018
 Trailside Event Center, Peoria Heights
bestbuddieschampion.org/centralillinois

Night Golf Tournament

September 7, 2018
 Mt. Hawley Country Club
jamiedavis@bestbuddies.org

Best Buddies Friendship Walk

April 2019
 The Corn Crib, Normal
bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/normal

that naturally exist between individuals with and without disabilities.

“Being the president of Best Buddies is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I will always be grateful for the amazing friendships and the wonderful people that this club has brought into my life. Being the president is a lot of work and a ton of dedication. But it is the most awarding title you will ever hold, knowing that you are touching people’s lives every day.”
 —Kammi, East Peoria High School Chapter President

BEST BUDDIES CHAPTERS

Augustana College	Illinois State University	Pekin High School
Bloomington High School	Illinois Wesleyan University	Richwoods High School
Bradley University	Jefferson Middle School	Rolling Acres Middle School
Centennial High School	Knox College	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Central Junior High	Normal Community High School	Western Illinois University
Dunlap High School	Normal Community West High School	
East Peoria High School		
Eastern Illinois University		