

About Best Buddies



International Headquarters

Miami, Florida www.bestbuddies.org

Connecticut Headquarters

28 Washington Avenue, Second Floor, North Haven, CT 06473 www.bestbuddiesct.org

Our Mission

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).

Vision

Best Buddies International (BBI) envisions a world where people with intellectual disabilities are recognized for their abilities, embraced by society, and valued in the workplace.

Who We Are

Best Buddies® is the world's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing opportunities for friendship and jobs for people with intellectual disabilities. For over 20 years, Best Buddies has been providing quality, accountable programming that aids in the socialization, independence, and inclusion of people with IDD. Best Buddies Connecticut, a state affiliate of Best Buddies International was opened in 1995. 89% of all revenue goes directly to Best Buddies program for people with intellectual disabilities, while only 11% is spent on administration and fundraising.

History of Service

Best Buddies was born when founder Anthony Kennedy Shriver recognized that people with intellectual disabilities lacked opportunities to socialize with their non-disabled peers. Believing that friendship is key to building the self-esteem essential to a happy and productive life, Anthony incorporated Best Buddies as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in 1989. Today, Best Buddies offers seven programs: Best Buddies Middle Schools, Best Buddies High Schools, Best Buddies Colleges, Best Buddies Citizens, e-Buddies®, Best Buddies Jobs and Best Buddies Ambassadors.

Our Programs in Connecticut

Our programs in Connecticut include Best Buddies Middle Schools and High Schools, which match students with IDD in one-to-one friendships with their non-disabled peers within each school; Best Buddies Colleges, which pairs college students with adults from the local community who have IDD; Best Buddies Citizens, which pairs non-disabled adult volunteers from the community in one-to-one friendships with adults with IDD; and e-Buddies, which provides opportunities for integration, computer literacy training, and writing skills through e-mail, pen-pal type friendships. Best Buddies provides valuable support to Connecticut students with and without IDD by offering social and leadership skills development and training.

Participants

With more than 1,500 chapters around the world, Best Buddies positively impacts the lives of 700,000 participants with and without intellectual disabilities, as well as their respective network of family, friends, and employers. In Connecticut, Best Buddies currently serves more than 2,500 people at 48 Middle School, High School and College Chapters, as well as our adult program, Citizens, impacting more than 25,000 residents in the state.

What People Are Saying...

"Because of our friendship and Best Buddies, we are breaking down social barriers and norms – showing others the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities."

- Best Buddies Participant

"My family and I are passionate about the Best Buddies program because it has had such a positive impact on all of our lives."

- Best Buddies Parent

"As Faculty Advisor I commend Best Buddies for its dedication to providing an avenue for special needs individuals to interact in a real way with the general education population. As a mother of a Down Syndrome child, I am fully aware of how important it is for our special young adults to have quality mentors who really care about their growth. Our buddies are constantly watching their regular education friends to pick up social cues. During these high school years friendship is so important. Our buddies grow and mature alongside their friends. They feel accepted and feel that their opinions and needs are worthy of expression. Our regular education population grows in patience and compassion. Our buddies grow in independence and self-confidence. Thank you Best Buddies for your work in equalizing the playing field and for being such a strong advocate for the members of our population who otherwise would not have a voice."

- Best Buddies Advisor
and Parent

Best Buddies Connecticut Special Events 2011

Market your business while supporting friendships in your community!

Sponsorships are available as a package or individually for the following events. We offer a variety of marketing benefits and opportunities to get involved.

For more information on sponsorship or our events please contact:

Melissa Izzo, Development Coordinator, at 203.234.3996 or Melissalizzo@bestbuddies.org

Best Buddies Connecticut Talent Showcase

March 31, 2011

Best Buddies will host a Talent Show and reception in honor of Best Buddies Month 2011. Best Buddies participants from schools across the state will sing, dance, and act their way across the stage, or create visual art to be raffled off to lucky audience members. Join parents, students, and local businesses in celebrating the abilities of our participants.

Best Buddies Connecticut Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

March 27, 2011 | Sacred Heart University, Fairfield

Sacred Heart University will host a Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at their facility in Fairfield. Teams of athletes with and without disabilities will compete to win in this challenging sport. It promises to be an exciting, fun-filled event.

Best Buddies Connecticut Friendship Walk

April 30, 2011 | North Haven Middle School, North Haven

BBCT will host its 3rd annual Friendship Walk through the picturesque streets of North Haven. Over 600 walkers from schools, organizations, and communities across Connecticut will create teams with friends and family to raise funds and awareness for Best Buddies programs. The event culminates in a celebration with food, entertainment, and fundraising prizes.

www.bestbuddiesct.org/walk

Best Buddies Connecticut "Bowl For The Buds"

Fall 2011 | AMF Lanes, Milford and Callahan's Bowl-O-Rama, Newington

Join Best Buddies Connecticut as we host the fourth annual *Bowl for the Buds* bowl-a-thon. One hundred teams have the chance to spotlight their bowling skills, compete for prizes, and show their support for Best Buddies.

www.bestbuddiesct.org/bowl

Business Buddies: Networking with Heart

Quarterly | Statewide, various food and drink establishments

Business Buddies is a social networking event that provides an opportunity for professionals to come together and have fun for a good cause. Business Buddies provides the opportunity to make new friends, gain new clients, and meet new people in a relaxed casual environment.



Why Support Best Buddies?

There are eight million people nationwide with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

One in 10 families in the United States is affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities.

People with IDD are often stereotyped, bullied, marginalized and live life as an invisible minority.

Best Buddies is the world's largest program dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation for people with IDD.

Best Buddies programs give young adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities their first experience in leadership while instilling lifetime commitments to community service.

Overall, contributions to Best Buddies are judiciously spent, with the majority of these funds directly applied to the enrichment of the organizations' programs. Our total annual budget demonstrates that 89% of all monetary contributions are allocated to one of the six Best Buddies programmatic divisions that directly integrate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"Buddies International outperforms the majority of nonprofits in America with respect to fiscal responsibility." - Charity Navigator

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Year long partner sponsorships

\$20,000 Title Sponsor- Prime Marketing Opportunities

- Event Naming Opportunity – company name will be associated with a Best Buddies Connecticut event to be mutually agreed upon based on sponsor's objectives
- Prominent logo placement on all printed and electronic materials for 2011 special events including: postcards, invitations, registration forms, posters, and flyers (*subject to print deadline*)
- Year-long institutional acknowledgment, including featured placement in e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsors pages, with link to company website
- Recognition in all media, press releases, PSA's, radio and newspaper advertising when available
- Signage at each event, including: sponsor banner, company banner (provided by company) and other event-appropriate signage opportunities including: walk route and mile marker signs, basketball court signage, stage signage, at venues, etc
- Promotional booth and display space/table at events with exposure to attendees
- Opportunity to make official start announcement at the 2011 Friendship Walk
- Eight (8) complimentary teams for Wheelchair Basketball, with opportunity for opening remarks
- Eight (8) complimentary teams at Bowl for the Buds
- Complimentary entrance for twenty (20) to all Business Buddies events, including happy hours and wine tastings
- Opportunity to speak at all Best Buddies Connecticut events, including opening remarks
- Sponsor name/logo given key position on the back of Friendship Walk tee shirt and other event shirts
- Full page ad with prime placement and sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Company name/logo on weekly event e-blasts and sponsor acknowledgement in email to database of 6000+
- Social media marketing including Facebook status mentions twice a month and weekly Twitter update mention
- Complementary ad, logo, and link to company website in quarterly Best Buddies Connecticut e-Newsletter
- Opportunity to address Connecticut student leaders at the BBCT Local Training Day in September 2011
- Verbal recognition at all events by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity to sponsor two (2) local Best Buddies Chapters for the 2011-12 academic year
- Opportunity to appoint a corporate representative to serve on BBCT Advisory Board and event committees
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event
- Program presentation at your company about Best Buddies and events

BBCT Talent
Showcase

Friendship Walk

Wheelchair
Basketball

Bowl for the Buds

Business Buddies



"Best Buddies stomps out loneliness, and promotes togetherness both in school and after school!!" - Laurie McNulty, Advisor

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Year long partner sponsorships

\$10,000 Gold Sponsor

- Sponsor name/logo on all printed and electronic materials for 2011 special events including: postcards, invitations, registration forms, posters, and flyers (*subject to print deadline*)
- Year-long institutional acknowledgment, including featured placement in e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsors pages, with link to company website
- Recognition in all media, press releases, PSA's, radio and newspaper advertising when available
- Signage at each event, including: sponsor banner, company banner (provided by company) and other event-appropriate signage opportunities including: walk route and mile marker signs, basketball court signage, stage signage, at venues, etc
- Promotional booth and display space/table at events with exposure to attendees
- Four(4) complimentary teams for Wheelchair Basketball
- Four (4) complimentary teams at Bowl for the Buds
- Complimentary entrance for ten (10) to all Business Buddies events, including happy hours and wine tastings
- Opportunity to speak at all Best Buddies Connecticut events
- Sponsor name/logo given key position on the back of Friendship Walk tee shirt and other event shirts
- Half page ad with prime placement and sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Company name/logo on weekly event e-blasts and sponsor acknowledgement in email to database of 6000+
- Social media marketing including Facebook status mentions twice a month and weekly Twitter update mention
- Complementary ad, logo, and link to company website in quarterly Best Buddies Connecticut e-Newsletter
- Verbal recognition at all events by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity to sponsor a local Best Buddies Chapter for the 2011-12 academic year
- Opportunity to appoint a corporate representative to serve on BBCT Advisory Board and event committees
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event
- Program presentation at your company about Best Buddies and events

BBCT Talent
Showcase

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Business Buddies



BEST BUDDIES.



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"It's just incredible how one act of accepting "otherness" can spread. I believe that Best Buddies will have all students weaved into the fabric of school. Peer interaction is powerful."

- Director of Special Education

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Year long partner sponsorships

\$5,000 Silver Sponsor

- Sponsor name/logo on all printed and electronic materials for 2011 special events including: postcards, invitations, registration forms, posters, and flyers (*subject to print deadline*)
- Institutional acknowledgment, including featured placement in e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsors pages, with link to company website
- Recognition in all media, press releases, PSA's, radio and newspaper advertising when available
- Signage at each event, including: sponsor banner, company banner (provided by company) and other event-appropriate signage opportunities including: walk route and mile marker signs, basketball court signage, stage signage, at venues, etc
- Promotional booth and display space/table at events with exposure to attendees
- Two (2) complimentary teams for Wheelchair Basketball
- Two (2) complimentary teams at Bowl for the Buds
- Complimentary entrance for six (6) to all Business Buddies events, including happy hours and wine tastings
- Sponsor name/logo listed on the back of Friendship Walk tee shirt and other event shirts.
- Quarter page ad and sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Company name/logo on weekly event e-blasts to database of 6000+
- Social media marketing including Facebook status mentions once a month and monthly Twitter update mention
- Complementary ad, logo, and link to company website in quarterly Best Buddies Connecticut e-Newsletter
- Verbal recognition at all events by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity to appoint a corporate representative to serve on event committees
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event
- Program presentation at your company about Best Buddies and events

\$2,500 Bronze Event Sponsor

- Sponsor name/logo on all printed and electronic materials for 2011 special events including: postcards, invitations, registration forms, posters, and flyers (*subject to print deadline*)
- Institutional acknowledgment, including featured placement in e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsor page, with link to company website
- Signage at event, including: sponsor banner, company banner (provided by company) and other event-appropriate signage opportunities including: walk route and mile marker signs, basketball court signage, stage signage, at venues, etc
- Promotional booth and display space/table at event with exposure to attendees
- Two (2) complimentary teams for one event
- Complimentary entrance for two (2) to all Business Buddies events, including happy hours and wine tastings
- Sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Sponsor name/logo listed on the back of Friendship Walk event tee shirt
- Company name/logo on weekly event e-blasts for event
- Verbal recognition at event by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity to appoint a corporate representative to serve on event committees
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event

BBCT Talent
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Business Buddies



"Our Best Buddies program has increased awareness and acceptance of our special needs population and has helped to socially integrate these students into the mainstream."
- **Special Education Teacher**



EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Year long partner sponsorships

\$1,000 Friend Sponsor

- Institutional acknowledgment, including e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsor pages, with link to company website
- Signage at event on : sponsor banner
- One sign at each event (ie: walk route sign, basketball court signage, stage signage, lane signage)
- One (1) complimentary team for event/or complimentary entrance for two (2) to all Business Buddies events
- Sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Sponsor name listed on the back of Friendship Walk event tee shirt
- Company name/logo on event e-blasts for event
- Verbal recognition at event by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event

Single sponsorships

\$500 Single Event Sponsor – Sponsor to choose one event

Talent Showcase, Friendship Walk, Wheelchair Basketball, or Bowl for the Buds

- Institutional acknowledgment, including e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsor page, with link to company website
- Signage at event on sponsor banner
- One sign at event (ie: walk route sign, basketball court signage, stage signage, lane signage)
- One (1) complimentary team for event
- Sponsor acknowledgement listing in event programs
- Company logo on event e-blasts for event
- Verbal recognition at event by Master of Ceremonies
- Opportunity for employee team to volunteer at each event

\$500 Business Buddies Event Sponsor

- Institutional acknowledgment, including e-newsletter, annual report, and on Best Buddies Connecticut web site, event and sponsor page, with link to company website
- Signage at event
- Two (2) complimentary tickets to all Business Buddies events
- Company logo on event e-blasts for event
- Opportunity to speak at sponsored event and provide company information to patrons
- Social media marketing including Facebook status mentions and Twitter updates for event on Business Buddies pages

For information on sponsorships or events please contact
Best Buddies Connecticut at 203.234.3996

Nikki Besitko, State Director, NikkiBesitko@bestbuddies.org
Melissa Izzo, Development Coordinator, Melissalzzo@bestbuddies.org

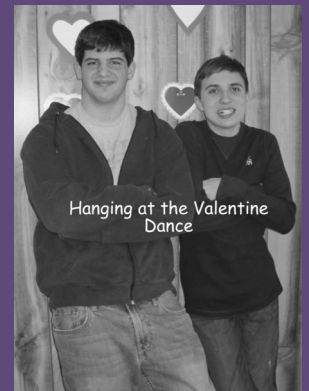
BBCT Talent
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Business Buddies



"Best Buddies has given us a new outlet for creating friendships for Bobby to help him learn what is socially appropriate, firsthand, with other high school students. They provide opportunities for Bobby to experience what it is like to be a "typical teenager."

- Best Buddies Parent & Board Member

