



BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

FACT SHEET

International Headquarters: Miami, Florida

Online: bestbuddies.org, facebook.com/bestbuddies, twitter.com/bestbuddies; instagram.com/bestbuddies

Mission: To establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Vision: To put Best Buddies® out of business.

About Best Buddies: Best Buddies International is the world's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

History of Service: Best Buddies was born 35 years ago, when Founder, Chairman and CEO Anthony Kennedy Shriver recognized that people with IDD lacked opportunities to socialize with their peers without disabilities. Believing that friendship is key to building the self-esteem essential to a happy and productive life, Shriver incorporated Best Buddies as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in 1989. Today, Best Buddies offers the following programs: *Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies®, Jobs, Ambassadors, Promoters and Inclusive Living.*

Participants: With nearly 3,000 chapters around the world, Best Buddies positively impacts the lives of more than 1.3 million people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Countries: Best Buddies operates accredited programs in all 50 states and in 49 countries and territories spanning six continents: **(Africa)** Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda; **(Asia)** China, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines; **(Europe)** Croatia, Cyprus, England, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey; **(Latin America & The Caribbean)** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru; **(MENA)** Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates; and **(North America)** Canada and the USA.