Celeena & Rebecca
Friendship program participants
What is Best Buddies?

Global nonprofit dedicated to inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our Mission

Friendship, Jobs, Leadership Development & Living

Empowering people with disabilities by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure rewarding jobs, live independently, and feel valued by society.
How Our Programs Work

Our Key Mission Pillars

One-To-One Friendship
Builds friendships between people with and w/o IDD, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion.

Leadership Development
Educates and empowers people with and without IDD to be leaders, public speakers and advocates.

Integrated Employment
Secures jobs for people with IDD, allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes, and support themselves.

Inclusive Living
Fosters an integrated experience for people with and without IDD to live independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.
BEST BUDDIES IN SACRAMENTO

1989

Best Buddies was founded by Anthony Kennedy Shriver in Miami, FL after launching pilot at Georgetown University.

1990

UC Davis Chapter Opens just one year after Best Buddies was founded, the first chapters in California included UC Davis, UCLA, Palo Alto HS, and others.

2015

Sacramento State Chapter opens the first chapter in 25 years was opened in Sacramento area managed by the San Francisco office.

2018

Center High School chapter opens launching expansion efforts in the greater Sacramento area. 8 schools have opened chapters since 2018.

2021

Best Buddies Jobs launches & Regional Office opens first dedicated staff hired to expand Friendship and Jobs program.
Friendship Programs

Our friendship pillar encompasses programs that offer socialization opportunities for people with and without IDD including:

• Elementary Schools
• Middle Schools
• High Schools
• Colleges
• Citizens
• e-Buddies

Our programs provide meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.
Friendship By The Numbers

Sacramento Friendship Chapters

- **0** Middle/Elementary Schools
- **7** High Schools
- **2** Colleges

Sacramento Friendship Matches

- **47** Buddy Pairs
- **226** Total Participants

- Antelope High School
- Center High School
- Davis Senior High School
- Pioneer High School
- Sacramento State
- UC Davis
- Vacaville High School
- Woodcreek High School
- Oakmont High School
Sacramento Expansion
2021 and beyond

Our goal is to open 5 new chapters to open by July 2022.
Jobs Program

Best Buddies Jobs secures employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes, and continuously and independently support themselves.

The Jobs program places focus beyond the typical jobs in which a person with IDD might be placed. Best Buddies focuses on finding work that matches the job seeker’s interests and talents.

Carlos
Jobs program participant
Best Buddies Colombia
Sacramento Jobs Status

How The Program Works

Matches skilled and qualified individuals with IDD with businesses seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees.

Develops partnerships with employers and assists with the hiring process.

Provides ongoing support to the employee and the employer.

81% of people with disabilities do not have a paid job in the community.

Carolina
Jobs program participant
Mutually Beneficial Experience

- Competitive and inclusive jobs
- Professional environments
- Person-centered approach
- On the job training
- Job placements depending on skills and abilities
- Support for employers
- Awareness orientations
Sacramento Jobs

Since our launch...

- 5 Individuals have been placed in Jobs
- Currently intaking job seekers
- Hosting over 15 presentations to companies and community groups in honor of NDEAM this month
Leadership Development Programs

Best Buddies' leadership programs educate and empower people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and advocates. Best Buddies passionately believes that its program participants can lead the effort within their community and beyond to build a more inclusive world for people with IDD, our programs include:

- Ambassadors
- Promoters
The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is the leading walk in the country supporting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Since 2009, more than 150,000 participants in 60 cities have walked to raise awareness for inclusion, friendship, leadership development and integrated job opportunities for people with IDD. Funds raised at the walks help move our mission forward by funding local Best Buddies programs. Each walk provides a unique opportunity to see our mission in action at a local level. Every dollar raised goes towards making the world a more inclusive, accepting place.

Saturday, April 30, North Natomas Regional Park

www.bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/sacramento
Ways you can help our mission expansion

- **Volunteer:**
  - Be matched with a buddy
  - Volunteer for an ambassador training
  - Lend your skills on our board or FW committee
  - Mock interviews
  - Become an Employer Partner
  - Join us on Walk day!

- **Spread the word:**
  - Connect us with a school, company, job seeker
  - Connect us with others we should partner with or present to
Keep in Touch

Best Buddies Office in Sacramento
1900 Point West, Suite 146
Sacramento, CA

e-Mail
katelynquintero@bestbuddies.org

Visit Us
BESTBUDDIES.ORG

Currently serving the following counties:
- Sacramento
- Placer
- El Dorado County
- Yuba
- Yolo