



BEST BUDDIES

CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

2026

2026 PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



BEST BUDDIES

CHAMPION OF THE YEAR



One-To-One Friendships



Integrated Employment



Leadership Development



Inclusive Living



Family Support



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, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Who We Serve

Best Buddies serves individuals with IDD and their families. The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, and other undiagnosed disabilities.

THE KENNEDY SHRIVER COMMITMENT

President Kennedy presents a pen to sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver after signing Maternal, Child Health and Mental Retardation Bill - The White House, October 1963

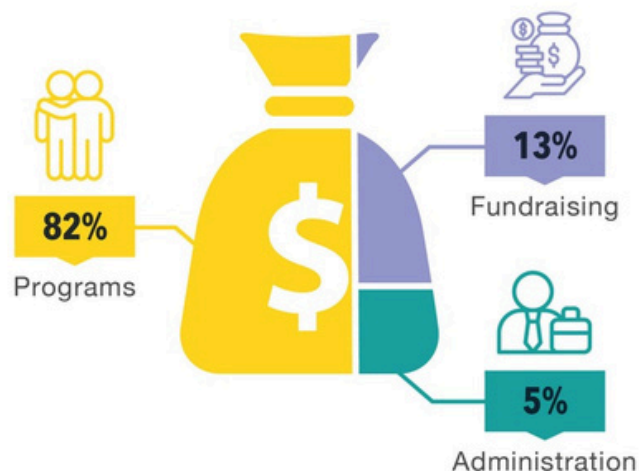
For more than half a century, the Kennedy family has been at the forefront of global efforts to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Starting with the family matriarch Rose Kennedy, the Kennedys have always been strong proponents of helping individuals with IDD, who for years were shut away, powerless to change society's negative perception of them.

President John F. Kennedy founded the first President's Committee on Mental Retardation. He also welcomed a person with IDD to the White House, thus becoming the first head of state anywhere in the world to receive a person with IDD as an official guest.

His sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was the founder and driving force of the Special Olympics. Mrs. Shriver also served as a board member of Best Buddies International in continued support of her son Anthony's efforts to enhance the opportunities available to people with IDD. Her husband, the late Sargent Shriver, the first Director of the Peace Corps, was also an active supporter of Best Buddies for many years.

Influenced by his family's commitment to the issues of individuals with IDD, Anthony Kennedy Shriver founded Best Buddies International in 1989 at Georgetown University. Under Anthony's leadership, Best Buddies has expanded its programs across the United States and internationally, creating a positive impact on the lives of millions of people with and without disabilities worldwide.

Where The Dollar Goes...



Contributions to Best Buddies are judiciously spent, with the majority of these funds directly applied to the enrichment of the organization's programs.

Expenses for calendar year 2023 based on Best Buddies International's Form 990.



About Best Buddies

The foundation of Best Buddies is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

About Champion of the Year

Best Buddies Champion of the Year is a competitive fundraising campaign that unites and recognizes leaders of inclusion in local communities nationwide. Through nine weeks of raising funds and awareness for **Best Buddies in Minnesota**, our Champions will generate countless opportunities for true friendships, competitive jobs and valuable leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Minnesota. The campaign will culminate with the Champion of the Year Gala that includes a silent and live auction, dinner, dancing and more to celebrate the Champions' collective impact and name the ultimate Champion of the Year!

This event plays a key role in funding the Best Buddies programs here in Minnesota. This year our goal is to raise **\$420,000** to open more school programs across the state, provide leadership development and disability awareness training for individuals with and without IDD, and expand our life-changing social inclusion program for adults in the community.



Minnesota Champion of the Year Gala

Saturday, November 14th

Royalston Square | Minneapolis

5:00 - 11:00 PM

Learn more: www.bestbuddieschampion.org/minnesota

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



PRESENTING SPONSOR \$25,000

- Dedicated to one company and written as “Best Buddies in Minnesota Champion of the Year Gala Presented by XYZ Company”.
- Recognized as Presenting Sponsor on all event materials and signage (digital and print), including pre-event email communications sent to over 9,800 people.
- Three featured social media posts on all @bestbuddiesmn channels highlighting your company’s support with opportunity for video promotion of the event from company representative.
- Three tables (30 seats) to the Gala with front row seating and complimentary champagne for each guest.
- Executive speaking role within the event program.
- Up to 30 second commercial about your company to be played during the event program.
- A two-page ad in the Gala program book (distributed to 550 guests).
- Company logo on Gala Step & Repeat photo backdrop.
- Company logo with featured placement and link to company’s website on the Gala website.
- Verbal recognition by emcee at the Gala and personalized plaque presented during the event.
- Opportunity for Best Buddies staff to host a free Disability Awareness & Etiquette training for company employees.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



SIGNATURE SPONSOR \$15,000

- Recognized as sponsor of Heads or Tails game with recognition in all game-related mentions & signage.
- Two tables (20 seats) to the Gala with preferred seating and complimentary champagne for each guest.
- Recognized as Signature Sponsor on all event materials and signage (digital and print), including pre-event email communications sent to over 9,800 people.
- A full page ad in the Gala program book (distributed to 550 guests).
- Two featured social media posts on all @bestbuddiesmn channels highlighting your company's support.
- Company logo with link on Champion of the Year event website.
- Verbal recognition by emcee at the Gala and personalized plaque presented during the event.
- Opportunity for Best Buddies staff to host a free Disability Awareness & Etiquette training for company employees.

PLATINUM SPONSOR \$10,000

- Recognized as sponsor of your choice of one of the following: Cocktail Hour, the Auction, or the After Party, with logo on respective signage.
- One table (10 seats) to the Gala with preferred seating and complimentary champagne for each guest.
- Recognized as Platinum Sponsor on all event materials and signage (digital and print), including pre-event email communications sent to over 9,800 people.
- Half page ad in the Gala program book (distributed to 550 guests).
- One featured social media post on all @bestbuddiesmn channels highlighting your company's support.
- Company logo with link on Champion of the Year event website.
- Verbal recognition by emcee at the Gala and personalized plaque presented during the event.
- Opportunity for Best Buddies staff to host a free Disability Awareness & Etiquette training for company employees.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000

- One table (10 seats) to the Gala and complimentary champagne for each guest.
- Recognized as Gold Sponsor in all digital and print event materials and signage, including pre-event email communications sent to over 9,800 people.
- Quarter page ad in the Gala program book (distributed to 550 guests).
- One featured social media post on all @bestbuddiesmn channels highlighting your company's support.
- Company logo on Champion of the Year event website.
- Verbal recognition by emcee on at the Gala and personalized plaque presented during the event.
- Opportunity for Best Buddies staff to host a free Disability Awareness & Etiquette training for company employees.

SILVER SPONSOR \$2,500

- One table (10 seats) to the Gala.
- Recognized as Silver Sponsor in all digital and print event materials and signage, including pre-event email communications sent to over 9,800 people and @bestbuddiesmn social media posts.
- Logo listed in the Gala program book (distributed to 550 guests).
- Logo included in one post on @bestbuddiesmn social media pages as part of sponsor recognition.
- Company logo on Champion of the Year event website.
- Opportunity for Best Buddies staff to host a free Disability Awareness & Etiquette training for company employees.

NON SPONSORSHIP EVENT TICKETS

Single - \$200

Table - \$2,000

All benefits are based on availability and date of commitment. Deadline for table and print benefits is **Friday, October 30th at 6:00 PM.*

**Tables are limited to ten (10) seats, additional seats will be charged accordingly.*

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT FORM



COMPANY/ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PARTNERSHIP LEVEL (please circle one):

PRESENTING SPONSOR \$25,000 SIGNATURE SPONSOR \$15,000 PLATINUM SPONSOR \$10,000
GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000 SILVER SPONSOR \$2,500

PAYMENT:

CHECK (Please make payable to Best Buddies and send to the Best Buddies office below):

BEST BUDDIES IN MINNESOTA
4570 W 77TH ST., SUITE 240
EDINA, MN 55435

You can provide CC information below OR process payment online by going to
www.bestbuddieschampion.org/minnesota

CREDIT CARD: ____ VISA ____ MASTERCARD ____ AMEX ____ DISCOVER

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: _____ CVV: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

BEST BUDDIES
CHAMPION
OF THE
YEAR
2025

CHAMPION

“ Being a part of Best Buddies and the relationships I have developed through Best Buddies has helped me believe in myself and be confident that I can achieve my dreams, be successful, and feel fulfilled with my life. The leadership opportunities I have had through Best Buddies has helped people see me for who I really am, and allowed me to see others for who they are-- disability or not.”

- Zach , Best Buddies Ambassador



For More Information Contact:
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www.bestbuddieschampion.org

BESTBUDDIES. TAX ID 52-1614576