

## I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

*One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.*

*Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)*

**Date:6/15/2017**

### Contact Information

Organization Name: Best Buddies Pennsylvania	Executive Director Name: Matthew Sousa
Address: 491 Allendale Road, Suite 302 King of Prussia, PA 19406	Executive Director E-mail: matthewsousa@bestbuddies.org
Phone: 888-604-7376	Board of Directors Chair Name: Alia Pustorino
Website: www.bestbuddies.org/pennsylvania	Primary Contact Name: Milli Protheroe
Year Incorporated: 1989	Primary Contact E-mail: milliprotheroe@bestbuddies.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes  No  Not Sure

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes  No  Not Sure

Donor Advised Fund(s)  Fund for Chester County  Don't know/Not sure

### Field/s of Interest:

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

### Organization Information:

**Geographic Area Served:** Chester County

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:** Students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities

**Mission:** Best Buddies is 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).

**Proposal Summary:** BBPA is requesting support for our School Friendship program, which creates one-to-one friendships between students with and without IDD in middle school, high school, and college.

### **If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

Mission, Vision & Strategy     Governance & Leadership     Strategic Relationships

Fundraising & Development    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Budget \$ <u>620,508</u>	6 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>89</u> % of budget for program expenses	16 _____ # of Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	15 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>10</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	370 _____ # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Special Events, Private and Corporate donations, Philadelphia Insurance Companies

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ 10,000



### *Organization Background*

Best Buddies Pennsylvania (BBPA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities and autism. Our vision is to put ourselves 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, Best Buddies Pennsylvania 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.

Best Buddies was founded in 1989 when Anthony Kennedy Shriver observed the unjustified lack of opportunity for people with IDD to socialize with their peers without disabilities. Best Buddies has grown from one original chapter to over 2,150 middle school, high school and college chapters located in all 50 states along with 54 international locations.

For over 50 years, the Kennedy family has been a driving force in supporting people with IDD. Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics, and seeing the friendships being formed at these international events, Anthony was inspired to start Best Buddies. Mrs. Shriver 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 intellectual disabilities.

Best Buddies Pennsylvania (BBPA), with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh was established in 1994, as a state affiliates of Best Buddies International. In the past few years, BBPA has reached some major benchmarks. We have expanded our Friendship program to include middle schools, furthering our goals of breaking down social barriers. We also brought on a new state director and a new program manager to strengthen the growth of our programs. BBPA had over 80 student leaders with and without IDD attend the 2016 Best Buddies International Leadership Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, training and preparing them to lead successful Friendship program chapters in the coming school year. One of the participants with IDD was chosen to give a speech in front of over 3,500 people, sharing his personal story and inspiring others to promote our mission of inclusion.

### *Funding Request*

Best Buddies Friendship builds one-to-one friendships between students with IDD and those studying the standard curriculum, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Through their participation, people with IDD form meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities that many other individuals enjoy.

Whether it be working, volunteering or going to school, the performance of activities on a regular basis seems characteristic of a satisfying and rewarding life. These rights are often taken for granted by people without IDD. However, like students and adults in the general population, individuals with IDD also require activities and stimulation in order to feel fulfilled. Research has found that young people who lack friends can suffer from emotional and mental difficulties later in life (Ferrer & Fugate, 2008). Students with IDD may sit alone in the cafeteria or hide in the



back of any setting where socialization is required to avoid ostracizing and bullying. A recent study revealed that 83% of young people with IDD in this age group have undergone some type of bullying (Reiter and Lapidot-Leftler, 2007).

In the United States, roughly 15% of children with disabilities ages 6-21 spend more than 50% of each school day separated from their peers without disabilities ([www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)). In Pennsylvania, 44% of students with IDD spend the majority of their day separated from their peers, a much larger majority than the national average (U.S. Department of Education: Special Education, 2015). Conversely, friendships are an essential facet of human life, which allow us to discover the nuances of interpersonal relationships leading to improved social skills and increased emotional support. Interacting socially with others can be one of the greatest sources of joy and satisfaction in our lives, yet people with IDD continue to face isolation and exclusion from mainstream society.

Bullying has also become a major issue between students with and without IDD. “Adolescents with developmental disabilities have higher rates of victimization (19%-94% vs. 12%-41%) and perpetration (16%-83% vs. 10%-44%) compared with typically developing peers” (Sterzing et al, 2012). This social dynamic adds more strain to the divide between the student populations. Bullying not only creates an unsafe environment, but it prohibits people with IDD from wanting to make friends.

An investment from the Chester County Community Foundation towards our School Friendship program will help sustain the program and ensure more students with and without IDD are able to partake. With your support, BBPA will be able to support the almost 600 participants in Chester County, impacting over 6,000 people in the community on the importance of inclusion for people with disabilities. To measure our program impact, we use three tools:

- Best Buddies Annual Survey- The survey is the evaluation tool used by Best Buddies International to identify outcomes and performance for programs. The surveys were developed by Michael Hardman, Ph.D, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Utah. The surveys are impartial and confidential, and analyze factors such as whether participants enjoyed the experience, if they would recommend it to others, and if they gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by people with IDD. New questions are added each year.
- Friendship Update- The chapter president completes this form and returns it to the program manager by the first of each month. This tool is useful for the chapters to evaluate the quality of the matches on a regular basis, and for the program manager to monitor progress and make recommendations for improvement if necessary.
- Mid and End Year Reports- At the end of each semester, Best Buddies staff use information submitted from the mid and end year reports from the chapters, along with detailed information gathered throughout the semester, to complete a comprehensive report on each chapter. The reports indicate quantitative and qualitative data including number of matches and quality of matches (based on number of matches meeting the commitment), and goals that the program manager has developed with the chapter leadership for the following semester. Mid and end year reports are completed in January and June, respectively.

BBPA staff recruit, train, and guide faculty and student leaders in running successful chapters.



At each middle and high school, a faculty advisor and a special education advisor work with student leaders to recruit students with IDD (buddies) to be matched in one-to-one friendships with students without disabilities (peer buddies). College chapters work with faculty advisors and with host site coordinators who work at host sites-organizations that provide material and employment support to adults with special needs-to recruit participants with IDD. Best Buddies requires that new friends contact each other once per week and that they spend time together at least twice per month.

One major key to the success of our project design is the one year commitment required of all buddy pairs. This continuity allows meaningful friendships to develop. Group activities and fixed structure of the program allows for accountability, as well as a safe and caring community that surrounds and nurtures each individual friendship. Student leaders set the tone, demonstrate effective participation, and mentor chapter members. The overall cost for the Friendship program in Chester County is \$40,239.

*Timeline*

Jul-Aug	Best Buddies reps attend Leadership Conference. Best Buddies staff meet with student leaders and plan for the fall semester.
Sep	Pennsylvania chapter presidents recruit student volunteers
Oct	Best Buddies conducts Local Leadership Training Day. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #1
Nov	Buddy pairs submit friendship update #2. Chapters hold group activities.
Dec	Student leaders submit mid-year reports. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #3
Jan	Chapters host group activities to kick off the new semester. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #4.
Feb	Select incoming chapter presidents and register for 2016 Leadership Conference. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #5.
Mar	March is Best Buddies Month. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #6.
Apr	Staff conducts annual survey. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #7.
May-Jun	Chapters hold end of year events and activities. Buddy pairs submit friendship update #8

The Friendship program is important to fund because it is helping to break down social barriers, helping students with IDD connect with their peers. The program fulfills the first pillar of the Best Buddies mission to create on-to-one friendships, and helps us reach our overall goal of a more inclusive community. There is no other program like the Friendship program for people with disabilities in Chester County.

The Friendship program impact and results will be shown through the results of our annual survey, bi-annual reports, monthly friendship updates, and testimonials from school staff, participants, and parents.