



Trae and Jesyah, Buddies Since 2011

Best Buddies 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 and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Research Shows

96%

of Best Buddies participants with special needs say they feel more accepted by their friends.

96%

of peer buddies are more aware that people with IDD can hold jobs in the community.

95%

of peer buddies would work at a company that employs people with IDD.

Best Buddies helps develop the social and leadership skills that make students college and career-ready.

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THE BIG PICTURE

By creating one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, we are erasing the invisible line that too often isolates those with disabilities from our schools, our workplaces, and our lives.

THE NEED

- 83% of adolescents with IDD...have experienced bullying, which puts them at risk for crushing loneliness and depression. (Reiter and Lapidot-Leftler, 2007)
- Despite anti-bullying legislation enacted in 2012, in 2015 Arkansas was ranked 42 out of 43 states examined by a WalletHub study of “bullying prevalence” (www.wallethub.edu)
- The same study, including data obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, StopBullying.gov, the National Education Association, Youthhealthsafety.org and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services showed that Arkansas high school students were more likely than students in 37 other states to miss school because they were afraid to go.
- In 2014, 9,495 students with intellectual disabilities and autism ages 6-21 were enrolled in Arkansas public schools. (ideadata.org)
- Nearly half of Arkansas students with intellectual disabilities spend more than 60% of their school day separated from their peers. (ideadata.org)

FAST FACTS

- Best Buddies opened its Arkansas office in 2015
- There are currently 252 people participating in 10 Best Buddies chapters in Arkansas
- Youth with IDD that participate in Best Buddies have the chance to build positive peer relationships, leading to improved school attendance, fewer disciplinary incidents, and improved academic performance. (Florida Legislature OPPAGA Report on Mentoring, 2011)



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Best Buddies enables Arkansas youth with IDD to participate in social activities with their typical peers. This is achieved through the creation and management of school-based, volunteer-led chapters which facilitate and support one-to-one mentoring friendships between participants with IDD and their typical peers. A study conducted by Yale University concluded, "Best Buddy relationships appear to offer unique benefits to the psychological adjustment of adolescents with IDD. The frequency of contact that young people with IDD had with their peers without disabilities was concurrently associated with lower frequencies of peer victimization, better adaptive behavior, higher levels of self-esteem, and fewer psychological symptoms." (Prinstein, 2005)

PROGRAMS

Best Buddies Middle Schools matches students with IDD with other middle school students to create one-to-one friendships between them. In today's middle schools, students with IDD often enter the same building and walk the same hallways as their peers, but are frequently left out of social activities. Best Buddies Middle Schools brings young adolescents into the inclusion movement early to help develop young leaders.

Best Buddies High Schools matches students with IDD with other high school students to create one-to-one friendships between them. By introducing Best Buddies to public and private high schools, we are crossing the invisible line that too often separates those with IDD from those without.

Best Buddies Colleges matches adults with IDD age 18 and up with college students. Best Buddies helps combat the isolation experienced by adults with IDD who have not had the opportunity to have friends outside of their own, often lonely, environment.

Best Buddies Ambassadors educates and empowers people with IDD to be leaders and public speakers in their schools, communities, and workplaces.

2015-16 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

HIGH SCHOOLS

Bryant High School - Bryant
Conway High School - Conway
Beebe High School - Beebe
Valley View High School - Jonesboro

COLLEGES

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro
Arkansas Tech University - Russellville
Hendrix College - Conway
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
University of Central Arkansas - Conway



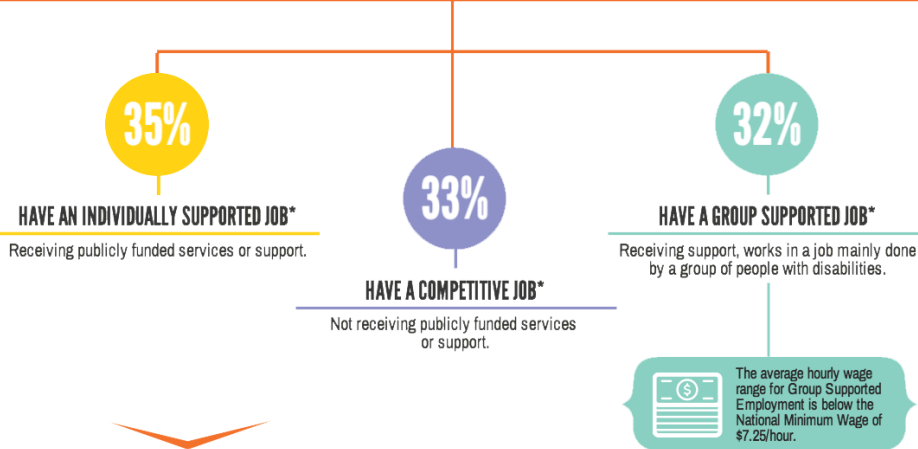
BESTBUDDIES® JOBS

Statistics

NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS states that:

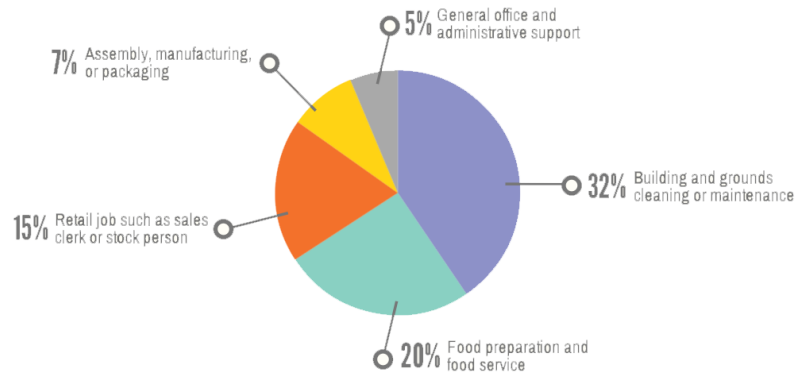
85%* OF ADULTS (18+) WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) DO NOT HAVE A PAID JOB IN THE COMMUNITY. WE MUST WORK TO ENGAGE THIS GROUP.

OF THE **15%** OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD) WHO HAVE A PAID JOB IN THE COMMUNITY:



Average length of time in current job for all three groups of paid community employment is 66 months.

5 MOST COMMON JOBS HELD



*Source: National Core Indicators, 2012 - 2013

MARKETPLACE EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON

	PERSON WITH NO DISABILITY: Age 16-64	PERSON WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY: Age 18+	PERSON WITH IDD IN THE BEST BUDDIES JOBS PROGRAM: Age 19-65
Percentage of people who have a paid job in the community	71.4%	15%*	--
Average number of hours worked per week	39	12.7 - 13.5	20.6
Average weekly wage	\$798.08	\$74.18 - \$103.81	\$243.70
Average hourly wage	\$20.46	\$6.44 - \$8.48	\$11.83
Source	American Community Survey (2012)	National Core Indicators (2012 - 2013)	Best Buddies reporting system (as of 4/24/15)

*NCI defines paid community employment as anyone who has individually supported, competitive or group supported employment. Only 10% of people 18+ with a developmental disability have a paid individually supported or competitive job in the community.

GET THE FACTS

Top benefits realized for businesses that **HIRE**  people with IDD*




73% Reported a positive experience employing individuals with IDD

- 70% Reported it supports their organization's culture
- 57% Reported they have found good talent matches for open positions**
- 43% Reported inclusion produced measurable or observable business benefits

*Intellectual and developmental disabilities



89% Dependability
 87% Integration with co-workers
 86% Motivation
84% Attendance
 79% Work quality
 74% Productivity

-  **DEPENDABLE**
-  **MOTIVATED**
-  **PRODUCTIVE**

Among employers, **more than 3/4** rated employees with IDD **good or very good** on performance factors



Top 10
 employment categories among workers with IDD

- 64% Office work (clerical, data entry, etc.)**
- 58% Facility maintenance (general maintenance)
- 40% Facility maintenance (groundskeeping or landscaping)
- 33% Food preparation, bussing tables or service**
- 27% Materials management
- 19% Customer-facing (retail)**
- 18% Patient care (healthcare)
- 17% Piece work (line or manufacturing)
- 11% Transportation
- 11% Other



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