



BESTBUDDIES®

WORLD REPORT

Our Mission

Our mission is to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

FEATURE STORY

Issue 14, Q2 & 3 2015

BB Philippines De La Salle Santiago Zobel For The Win!



Pictured above: (Left to Right) David Quilleon, Alejandra Kamiya de Guzman from DLSZ, Daniel Noltemeyer and Anthony Kennedy Shriver.

Nearly 2,100 students, leaders, volunteers and staff members, representing Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, Macau, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Spain, and the United Kingdom, traveled to Indiana University in Bloomington to participate in Best Buddies International's 26th Annual Leadership Conference. The three-day conference, from July 17-20, included over 2,000 American delegates, plus a two-day pre-conference focused on global issues from July 14-16. Working under the theme, "I'M IN," these students were selected for their active leadership roles within Best Buddies. These students attended a series of interactive workshops focusing on leadership development, community service, civic responsibility, IDD, and volunteerism. Major components of the Leadership Conference were live streamed online, showcasing the amazing performances, speakers, and education sessions that took place this year.

A favorite element of Leadership Conference is the annual awards ceremony, where the most outstanding chapters are recognized for

their achievements. The Best Buddies Promoters at De La Salle Santiago Zobel School ("DLSZ") in Manila, Philippines were presented with the **2014-2015 Overall Outstanding Promoters Award**. De La Salle Zobel was selected from more than 100 Best Buddies Promoters programs throughout the world as the Overall Most Outstanding Promoters program for its dedication to the Best Buddies mission. This is the first time that an international chapter has received an Overall Outstanding Award and everyone is ecstatic about the win!

"We are so proud of what DLSZ has accomplished in such a short time. With the full support of their school principal and their faculty advisors' guidance, the students were successful in spreading Best Buddies' mission of friendship and acceptance. They are truly making a difference in their community," said Country Director, Anj Onrubia, MD.

"The students of DLSZ really surprised me, not just with their innovativeness and excitement in creating fun activities that were inclusive, but also with their tenderness and compassion in making new friends. I enjoyed seeing each of the students grow as they explored the beginnings of new friendships," added Program Manager Michelle Aventajado.

Congratulations to the Promoters at DLSZ and to Best Buddies Philippines!

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Best Buddies Peru Friendship Walk

Best Buddies Peru held their second annual Friendship Walk on May 24th, 2015 bringing together over 3000 people in the city of Lima, and surpassing the number of participants from last year by more than 1500 people.

The Best Buddies Peru Friendship Walk 2015, was organized by our local partner, Asociacion Proyecto Inclusion Peru, which adopted our programs in 2010. The event was held in the district of San Borja, a city very committed to including people with all types of disabilities. During the walk we had the presence of the city major Marcos Alvarez, who not only provided support for our event, but also acted as the grand marshal walking alongside various municipal authorities.

The walk had the participation and collaboration of Movistar Peru, which donated all the t-shirts for the event. Likewise, the event attracted other sponsors who participated and contributed to our fundraising goal such as Mass Media, the Lindley Corporation, with its brand Powerade, Ferreyros Group and educational institutions such as Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola which supported the event with more than 30 volunteers.



Pictured Above : Participants en route during the 2015 Best Buddies Peru Friendship Walk.

Best Buddies Peru seeks to raise public awareness through sports and the presence of several public figures to promote our programs in the country, and to be able to provide more people with the different benefits we offer through friendship and labor inclusion. Best Buddies Peru looks forward with great expectation to increase the number of participants next year, reaching more hearts and opening doors to more companies who can join the big family of Best Buddies International.



Pictured Above : Walkers smile for the camera after an enjoyable race to support inclusion!

To see more photos of the event, please like the [Best Buddies Peru Facebook page](#).

Congratulations Best Buddies Peru on a wonderful Friendship Walk!

Best Buddies Hong Kong Launches Ambassa-



Hong Kong is the latest country to launch Best Buddies Ambassadors! Ambassadors educate and empower people with IDD through group trainings and workshops to be leaders and public speakers in their schools, communities, and work places. Best Buddies Ambassadors is the next step for the disability rights movement—teaching people with IDD the skills they need to successfully self-advocate.

Last Spring, six buddies and their speech coaches were selected to join Diana Rihl, Deputy Director of Programs, for Hong Kong's Inaugural Ambassador Training. The group spent a full day together learning about advocacy and public speaking. Highlights from the training included group ice breakers, interactive public speaking sessions, and the opportunity for each

Ambassador to present their speech at the end of the day. The group also spent social time together and bonded over a traditional dim sum lunch. This hardworking group of Ambassadors engaged in every minute of the training and the outcome was impressive! Each Ambassador delivered a moving speech during the closing of the workshop.

Best Buddies Hong Kong honored their Ambassadors during a graduation ceremony on 4 July, 2015. These outstanding Ambassadors are committed to leadership and advocacy in their community! Chi Ho Fok, one of the graduates, was chosen to attend Best Buddies International's 26th Annual Leadership Conference. He is the first person with IDD from Best Buddies Hong Kong to attend the conference.

Best Buddies International is extremely proud of this dedicated group of Ambassadors. We know that you will do big things in your communities! Keep up the great work and congratulations on a job well done!



Pictured Above: Ambassadors and Speech Coaches participating in a game during the training.



Pictured Left: Chi Ho Fok, the first Ambassador from Hong Kong to attend Leadership Conference, poses with delegates from Hong Kong and Anthony Kennedy Shriver.

BBI and MasterCard Launch Regional Initiative in Latin America!

MasterCard, official sponsor of the Copa América Chile 2015, launched a regional initiative benefitting Best Buddies in Latin America. All transactions done with MasterCard credit or debit cards in the main mall of every city hosting the tournament in Chile, contributed a small percentage to Best Buddies International. During the Copa América Chile MasterCard also supported an event to help raise awareness for Best Buddies in the community.

This campaign was held at a partner store in Bogota, Colombia and in a popular mall in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Also, in an effort to promote our organization and its mission, MasterCard and Best Buddies held different activities during the “Priceless Surprises” campaign held during the trophy tour in Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Santiago and Bogota.

“We believe that promoting inclusion in every sense is a core value we have always leveraged in MasterCard from different fronts. Values demanded in sports, and particularly in soccer, are closely related to those that set the stage for a healthy financial environment”, explains Andrea Denadai, Communications Director for MasterCard Cono Sur.



Pictured Above: Best Buddies Chile participants with the trophy during Copa América

Caterina Moretti: Fulfilling a dream



Pictured Above: Caterina Moretti of Best Buddies Chile prepares to become a journalist during Copa América 2015.

For young 19 year old Caterina Moretti -participant of Best Buddies Chile- having Down syndrome has not interfered in achieving her dreams. She graduated middle school with great dedication and became the first Chilean with Down syndrome to travel to the US as an exchange student. She is currently enrolled at Universidad Andrés Bello in the “Work Skills Academic Diploma”.

With Best Buddies and MasterCard, Caterina was able to fulfill an even bigger dream: to become a journalist during Copa América. She has always been attracted to communications and wants to drive the subject of inclusion during the tournament, so that more people like her can feel included in society.

Alejandra Escobar, Executive Director of Best Buddies Chile, said: “we want to demonstrate during this massive, popular and important event for Chileans, that people with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities hold an important place in society and can be included just like any other citizen.”

[Click here](#) to see Caterina’s interview during Copa América Chile 2015!

Best Buddies Highlights

Turkey

In early September Best Buddies Turkey celebrated their 5th academic year with Best Buddies programs. The ceremony was held at the Dreams Academy Atasehir office in Istanbul. The event included 8 schools with a total of 80 volunteers. The Dreams Kitchen, a kitchen run by chefs with IDD, provided the breakfast service. Best Buddies honored guests included US Consulate General Charles Hunter, Cultural Affairs Officer Adrienne Bory, Best Buddies International Manager Jennifer Allen & Best Buddies Turkey Friendship Ambassador and CNN Turkey Correspondent Gözde Atasoy. The Best Buddies Turkey Team also attended the Best Buddies Turkey Trace Area Opening Ceremony in Edirne and the Dreams Academy Kas-Antalya as a promoted chapter.



Pictured Above: (from left) Selim Eraydin, Best Buddies Turkey Program Manager, Adrienne Bory, Cultural Affairs Office, US Consulate, Eran Tatal, Founder of Dreams Academy, Charles Hunter, US Consulate General, Gözde Atasoy, CNN Turkey Correspondent, Jennifer Allen, Best Buddies International Manager, and Sercan Dygan, Best Buddies Turkey Coordinator.

Mexico

Congratulations to our friend Andrea Lopez, the newest employee at Holland & Knight! Andrea is a participant in Best Buddies Mexico's Jobs program. We wish you success in your new position, Andrea!

Pictured Right: Andrea Lopez at her new place of employment, Holland & Knight!

Northern Ireland



Pictured Above: A group of Best Buddies Northern Ireland Citizens participants during their annual weekend getaway!

Each year Citizens participants from Northern Ireland enjoy a weekend getaway. Last year they headed north to visit a beautiful seaside town in Northern Ireland. This year they ventured across the sea to Scotland. The group boarded the ferry and headed into an action packed weekend of sightseeing, enjoying the nightlife, and shopping.

A day was spent outdoors racing go carts and paddle boating. Participants enjoyed local fare, including haggis bonbons, before taking the ferry back home. A wonderful weekend was had by all during this great bonding experience for the Citizens participants. Here's to many more exciting trips in the future!



Friendship Feature

Mia and MacKenzie - Best Buddies Canada

Mia Belluz and Mackenzie Stewart of Dundas, Ontario have been Best Buddies for four years and have spent that time building a friendship that will last a lifetime. What started with lunches in the cafeteria together at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, quickly turned to school dances, sleepovers, sweet sixteen parties and a ONE DIRECTION concert. Both girls graduated high school this year, but have already talked about how they will remain true friends. Mia says she loves Mackenzie because she is always happy. Mackenzie says, "Mia will always be in my life and when I think about our future, I see Mia as my bridesmaid." Best Buddies International is proud to recognize Mia and MacKenzie for their outstanding friendship. We're thrilled to hear about the fun four years you've had together as a buddy pair and wish you a lifetime of friendship! Congratulations!

Pictured: Mia, left, and MacKenzie volunteering together at The Thrill of Ascot for Bet Buddies Canada.



Outstanding Staff — Going the Extra Distance

Every quarter we recognize outstanding staff in Best Buddies across the globe! We believe that the success of Best Buddies programs are dependent upon the passion and commitment of our international staff. We encourage each of the 54 countries to submit a nomination for outstanding staff, explaining why this staff member should be recognized.

Outstanding Staff

Best Buddies International would like to recognize Elza Yamaltdinova, Program Manager, Best Buddies Russia, for her unwavering commitment to the organization. Elza started with Best Buddies as a peer buddy and now manages the college program. Elza is very organized and has strong IT skills. She recently took the lead on managing the creation of Best Buddies Russia's new website, which is fantastic! Elza also lead a fundraising initiative for Best Buddies Russia's annual leadership camp. She is always willing to help out and is an asset to her team. Elza truly believes in the Best Buddies mission and leads by example through her friendship with Kristina. Thank you, Elza, for being a champion for Best Buddies! We appreciate all you do!

[Click here](#) to check out Best Buddies Russia's wonderful new website.



Pictured: Elza and her Best Buddy Kristina smile for the camera. The pair have been matched for years and their friendship continues to grow!

Our Global Partners

We want to thank our partners and sponsors around the world for committing to the mission of Best Buddies and spreading the word of social inclusion. The following organizations have made a very large impact on Best Buddies country programs globally.

Argentina

Grupo Grafico del norte, Comunicar Salud, Club Náutico Buchardo, Fundacion Discar, A.D.E.E.I, Che Sushi, Estudio PI, Global Logic, Arlina Solution

Bahamas

Bahamar

Bolivia

Aywíña
International Service Bolivia

Brazil

Instituto Alana
American Tower

Canada

Audi, Indigo, GMP, Schwartz Reisman Foundation, Fabricland, Bay Street HR, Daniel Greenglass & Joe Brennan, Joe Fresh Style, Jon & Nancy Love, Kim & Terrance Duffy, Larry & Judy Tanenbaum, Lee & Margaret Lau, Muzik, Lindt, CinePlex, David Kosoy Family, CTV Globe Media

Colombia

Alkosto, K-tronix, Aguas de Cartagena, Alpina, Amarilo, American Tower, Atento, Audi, Avena Cubana, Avianca, Baker & McKenzie, Brigard & Urrutia, Cadena, Cascabel, Castellanos y Co, Cellnet S.A., CESA, Cerrejón, Cinemark, Cine Colombia, Citibank, Colegio Anglo Colombiano, Colsubsidio, Corona, Corporativa Comunicaciones Estratégicas, Crepes & Waffles, Diageo, Donuys Factory, Etec S.A, Frito Lay, Fotomoriz, Fundación Bolívar Davivienda, Fundación Nutresa, FTI Consulting, G4S, Global Seguros, Granitos y Mármoles, Grupo Heroica S.A.S, Hamburguesas El Corral, HL Ingenieros, Homecenter, Hotel Capilla del Mar, Hotel Playa, Indexcol, Inducartón, Intel, Juan Valdez, JW Marriot Bogotá, La Campiña, Ladrillera Santa Fé, Lip, McCann Erickson, Manuelita, Mastercard, Microsoft, Ministerio del Trabajo, Myriam Camhi, Nexen Petroleum, Nogal Asesorias Financieras, Notaria 16, Oxy, Parque 93, Pastas Doria, Petrominerales, Plastilene, Porvenir, Posse Herrera y Ruiz, Prosegur, PROA Procesos de Aprendizaje, Restaurante Club Colombia, Restaurante Chicanos, Reval, Secretaria de Desarrollo Económico, Sena, Serdan, Sístole, Sua Galería, Surtigas, Syngenta, Tugo, Vetra, Visión Marketing, Windows Channel, Corporación Ceer, El Rosalito, Aconir, Proactiva, Fundación Fe, Fundación CeresTalleres Esperanza, Fundación Madre, Teresa de Calcuta, Fundación Cepylin, IED Juan Francisco Berbeo, IED Re-

IED Inem Santiago Perez, IED Carlos Arturo Torres, IED San José de Castilla, IED José Martí, IED San Agustín, IED Villemar El Carmen, IED Gustavo Restrepo, IED Las Americas IED Sierra Morena, IED República de Venezuela, Hogares Luz y Vida, Surgir - Funiesco, Asociación Avances Instituto, Tobias Emanuel, Fundación REI, Instituto La Esperanza, Centro de Capacitación Los Álamos, Fundación Integrar, Andecol, Aula Abierta, Luna Arte, Luna Create, Obra Social El Carmen, Cordinar, Fundane, Ludes, Cindes, Fundación Inpe, Centro de Educación para Niños Especiales – CEE.

Denmark

LEV

Dominican Republic

Dominican Association of Down Syndrome (ADOSID)

Egypt

Friendly Family Association

Finland

Inclusion Finland KVTL

Greece

TACT HELLAS

Guatemala

Fundacion para Síndrome de Down

Hong Kong

Fu Hong Society

India

Action for Autism

Ireland

KARE

Israel

Health Community Services Jerusalem
Bnai Akiva Israel

Italy

Associazione Scuola Viva onlus

Korea

AI COREA

Malaysia

UCSI University

Mexico

Fundacion Telmex

Netherlands

Business Linked, Oranje Fonds, VSB Fonds, Rabobank, ZonMW, Maatjes Gezocht, Skanfonds, NL Doet

New Zealand

Life Unlimited

Northern Ireland

Compass Advocacy Network

Panama

Fundación Caminemos Juntos

Paraguay

Saraki

Peru

Asociación Proyecto Inclusión Perú (APIP)

Qatar

Qatar Foundation for Social Work

Russia

PERSPEKTIVA

Scotland

ENABLE Scotland

Singapore

Association for Persons with Special Needs

South Africa

Down Syndrome South Africa (DSSA)

Spain

Natur House, Fundacion Jose Maria Olle Banus, Fundacion Inocente, Fundacion RafaNadal, Garrigues Fundacion, Fundacion La Caixa, Down España, Fundacion Projecte AURA, Prodis, Stage, Enforex

St. Kitts & Nevis

Ade's Place

Thailand

Rajanukul Institute

Turkey

AYDER

Venezuela

Paso a Paso

Vietnam

Action to the Community Development Center (ACDC)



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HEADQUARTERS NEWS

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Best Buddies Regional Forums

The International Programs Department is hosting two regional forums in the coming months. The Best Buddies Asia Pacific forum will be held in Bali, Indonesia from October 21-23, 2015. The Latin America Forum will be held in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala from November 16-19, 2015. Both forums will feature interactive sessions and peer to peer learning for staff. Be sure to check us out on social media for live updates on these valuable professional development events!

Jakarta Marathon

Sue Trone, Diana Rihl and Rudy Lopulisa are running in the Jakarta Marathon to raise funds for Best Buddies Asia! You probably know Diana and Sue from their work with the International Programs Department. Rudy is the friendship manager in Jakarta, and leading the efforts locally! Follow their training on the Best Buddies Asia Pac Facebook page and support them all at www.bestbuddies.org/jakartamarathon!

Webinars

Our Webinar series is a great way to connect with fellow staff from across the globe! Each month the Headquarters team presents a topic to help support your programs. The Webinars are now held on the 1st Tuesday of each month and include topics such as Best Buddies and Autism, Best Buddies Ambassadors, and Providing Successful Volunteer Trainings. Please reach out to Diana Rihl, Deputy Director of Programs, at DianaRihl@bestbuddies.org to offer ideas for webinar topics. Be sure to join us for an upcoming presentation!

We Are Best Buddies Community

Are you part of our social networking for Best Buddies International and specifically our International Programs Department? Join our International Programs Department Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/bestbuddiesglobal today! Also, don't forget to follow Best Buddies on Twitter, like us on Facebook, and read our Best Buddies blog. Connect with us to keep up to date with Best Buddies happenings around the world!

****For more information on any social media topics, please contact YelbaGutierrez@bestbuddies.org**



For more information on any of the stories/pictures included in this newsletter or to submit pictures, stories or other information to be highlighted in this newsletter, please contact YelbaGutierrez@bestbuddies.org.