



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 13, Q1 2015

Best Buddies Launches in Indonesia!



Pictured above: Lanny Darmawan, Executive Director, Best Buddies Indonesia, poses with Best Buddies newest Ambassadors and Promoters following the training in February.

Best Buddies Indonesia is preparing to spread the message of inclusion throughout Jakarta by opening new Best Buddies clubs and hosting events for people with and without disabilities.

In February, Best Buddies Indonesia launched with a variety of events for students, parents, and the community. One of the most notable activities was an introductory Ambassador training for students with and without disabilities who are interested in participating in Best Buddies. Throughout the day students learned about Best Buddies programs, advocacy, and public speaking. Student leaders acted as speech coaches for their peers who were training as Ambassadors. Everyone enjoyed getting to know one another and cheered on their new friends as they shared their speeches at the end of the training.

While the students were busy at the Ambassador training, Best Buddies Indonesia board members and volunteers were at Kokas Mall, one of the

most popular hangouts in Jakarta, spreading the word about Best Buddies. Kokas Mall generously donated a marketing booth to Best Buddies Indonesia, and throughout the weekend volunteers were busy handing out flyers and educating the public about Best Buddies. It was wonderful to see so many people interested in the programs.

Congratulations on a successful launch, Best Buddies Indonesia! We know you are working hard to for inclusion, friendship, and the acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in your community. We encourage all of you, our readers, to join us in giving Indonesia a big Best Buddies welcome! Stop by their new facebook page to say hello and see what exciting activities are coming up next!

[Click here for the Best Buddies Indonesia Facebook page.](#)

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Best Buddies Highlights

Netherlands

On Saturday, 14 March, a group of participants from Best Buddies Netherlands spent the day at Efteling, the country's largest amusement park. Buddy Pairs shared many laughs while enjoying the rides and attractions together. It was a wonderful day filled with friendship and fun! [Click here](#) to check out a video of Best Buddies Netherlands' day at Efteling!

Panama

Best Buddies Panama participated in The Walk for Inclusion on Sunday, 29 March. The annual walk, which benefits Best Buddies Panama's programs, included a kid's fun run, a 5k race, free yoga classes, refreshments, and much more! The event was a huge success and buddy pairs had a blast participating in the race together. There's nothing like crossing the finish line with your Best Buddy by your side!



Pictured Above : A Buddy Pair from Best Buddies Panama cross the finish line together during the Walk for Inclusion.

Pictured Right: A Buddy Pair from the National University of Singapore (NUS) Best Buddies chapter poses together outside of the Mint Museum of Toys.

Venezuela

To celebrate Best Buddies Month, participants from Best Buddies Venezuela participated in their First Annual Best Buddies Bowling tournament, organized by Professor Lorena Pérez and members the Best Buddies Club at Universidad Monteávila. The event was magical! In true Best Buddies style, the day was filled with warmth, understanding, fun, and friendship. We invite you to share in this fantastic day by checking out a video put together by chapter member, Maria Gabriela Alfonzo. [Click here](#) and enjoy!

Belgium

Buddy Pairs from the Brussels International School are thriving! BIS, one of our newest school programs, launched in December and the students have enjoyed getting to know one another and participating in chapter activities. In March, some of Buddy Pairs got together to go bowling and out to dinner. For many of the buddies it was their first time going out on the town with friends. A great time was had by all! Congratulations on a great start, BIS! We look forward to hearing more stories of friendship and inclusion from your chapter.

Singapore

The National University of Singapore Best Buddies chapter spent Valentine's Day together at the Mint Museum of Toys. Close to 50 participants came out to reminisce together at the museum, which features collectable toys and childhood favorites. Participants also exchanged cards, treats and roses with their Best Buddies. What a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day!



Best Buddies Highlights



Argentina

On Sunday, December 14th, Best Buddies Argentina held their first "Seven de Rugby" event ("Rugby Seven"). Crossfit Troupa gave a master class to more than 60 participants and supporters who joined at Club CUBA. Best Buddies Argentina would like to thank the teachers who taught the class in the bright hot sunshine, with two pupils, Delfina Chaves and Teto Medina. They also had the support and tasty donations from Fargo and Bimbo Argentina who helped provide all of the families, Buddies, and players with delicious hamburgers.

Pictured Left: Best Buddies Argentina holds their first "Seven de Rugby" event.

Pictured Below: Angel de la Rica, featured with his athlete bio on the BB Spain website.

Spain

On June 27th in Madrid, various buddy pairs from Best Buddies Spain will be participating in the Skoda Triathlon. This year, triathlete Teddy Shriver, son of Anthony Kennedy Shriver, will be partnering with BB Spain participant Angel de la Rica to complete the race as a buddy pair. This will be the first triathlon for Angel, who also has a brother participating in the event. Teddy and Angel plan to start training in the month of May and will send each other virtual updates as they make progress towards their goals. Both are very excited for this upcoming challenge and are happy to be promoting social inclusion via sports. Good luck Teddy and Angel!

EQUIPO "TRIATLÓN BEST BUDDIES ESPAÑA 2015"

#BestBuddiesTnTeam



ÁNGEL DE LA RICA



Edad: 25 años

Aficiones: buen deportista aunque algo perezoso. Le encanta el rock y entre sus grupos favoritos se encuentran AC DC y Metálica. Además disfruta bailando con las charangas... a ritmo de "paquito chocolatero"....

Trabaja en el centro de Apadefin 2000, junto con su hermano Patricio.



Canada

Best Buddies Canada celebrated their 2nd Annual Night Out with the Ryerson Rams on February 5th, 2015. Participants got the opportunity to cheer on the Rams as they played their last home game of the season. They snapped a photo with Ryerson Rams own Eggy the Mascot and were lucky enough to get to meet the players after the game! Be sure to check out the [Best Buddies Canada website](#) to learn about their upcoming "Hooping It Up" fundraiser, another great sports event by Best Buddies Canada!

Pictured Left: Best Buddies Canada celebrates their 2nd Annual Night Out with Eggy of the Ryerson Rams.

Friendship Feature

Dasha and Natasha - Best Buddies Russia

Dasha and Natasha, a Buddy Pair from Moscow, Russia, enjoy taking walks together, talking on the phone, and spending time at one another's houses. The pair agrees that they have many common interests and could talk for hours! They also love playing board games and doing something extra special to celebrate their birthdays. Their friendship started when Dasha was invited by one of her university professors to attend a Best Buddies event. It was there that she first met Natasha, and as they say, the rest is history. For both girls, one of the highlights of their friendship was getting to perform at a Best Buddies concert. Natasha is a great singer," Dasha said. "...We were able to perform together and now we love to sing together sometimes." When asked what they admire about one another as friends, Natasha says that she is attracted to Dasha's kindness and friendly nature. Dasha loves Natasha's sense of purpose, smile, and sense of humor. What a wonderful match! Being involved in the Best Buddies friendship program has positively impacted both girls. For Natasha, she feels more self-confident and open since joining the program. For Dasha, Best Buddies has positively changed her outlook and attitude towards people with disabilities. We wish Dasha and Natasha many more happy memories as a Buddy Pair.



Pictured: Dasha, left, and Natasha dance the night away at Best Buddies Russia's annual dance marathon.

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 Alejandra Escobar, Executive Director, Best Buddies Chile, for her unwavering commitment to the organization. Alejandra launched Best Buddies Chile in 2014, and in a very short time she has put together an amazing team and volunteer base sharing our mission of friendship, leadership, and supported employment with her community. Since beginning programs Alejandra has worked tirelessly to ensure a quality experience for all participants. Alejandra has a great relationship with her colleagues in the Latin America Region and is always working on ways to collaborate. Thank you, Alejandra, for being a champion for Best Buddies! We appreciate all you do!



Pictured: above: Alejandra Escobar with Best Buddies Chile participant, Santiago

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, Home-center, 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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Welcome Roberto Beltran, Regional Advisor, Latin America

The International Programs Department is pleased to welcome Roberto Beltran as our new Regional Advisor, Latin America. He was selected from a great group of Best Buddies leaders in the region. Roberto was key in achieving the success of our organization in Peru and served as a point of reference for other staff members in the region. Roberto will significantly supplement Best Buddies' quality of support to our Latin American and Caribbean programs, and constructively enhance our expansion efforts given the added benefit of his local knowledge and experience. Please join us in welcoming Roberto Beltran in his new role with Best Buddies International.

International Programs Resource Site

We're happy to announce that the new International Programs Resource Site is open for registration. Please visit www.wearebestbuddies.org to create a username and password for your country office. It may take up to 48 hours for your account to be approved. You will be able to access all programmatic and operational resources via this site. During this six month launch period we will continue to enhance and improve the site. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

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.