



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 11, Q3 2014

Leadership Conference 2014 - Journey Into Innovation



Pictured Above: International Staff and participants gather with Best Buddies International Founder & Chairman, Anthony Kennedy Shriver for a photo! Countries in attendance at LC 2014 included Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, Philippines,

national LC Forum was a team building day at Bradford Woods where attendees enjoyed the outdoors and participated in a high ropes course and canoeing, among other activities. Following the forum, international attendees joined over 2,000 students from the United States for the 25th Annual Leadership Conference. The conference offered participants new ideas to share with their chapters' back home, networking opportunities, and most importantly, lasting friendships. Thank you to everyone who attended LC 2014! We look forward to seeing you next year!

The fourth annual International LC Forum and the 25th Annual Best Buddies International Leadership Conference prepared and inspired our international staff and students to embark on a "Journey to Innovation" to help spread our mission of inclusion around the world! A record breaking number of international participants from twenty countries arrived in Indiana, USA, ready to share their country experiences, grow as leaders, and soak in the LC experience. The week kicked off with the International LC Forum in the three days leading up to Leadership Conference. During this time participants enjoyed cultural exchange with one another and some Americana favorites like a BBQ dinner and shopping for stateside goods. A highlight of the Inter-

Pictured Below: Won Jae Choi and Jeong Ho Choi of Best Buddies Korea smile for the camera at LC 2014!



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Best Buddies Highlights: Friendship Walks Around the World



Malaysia

On 6 September 2014 Best Buddies Malaysia held their inaugural Friendship Walk in the scenic Taman Tasik Permaisuri Park in Kuala Lumpur. Chapter leaders from UCSI University and Best Buddies Malaysia staff welcomed over 300 walkers to the event. And quite the event it was! Participants enjoyed activities such as face painting and an aerobic warm-up prior to the walk. The entertainment didn't stop as walkers took to the course. Participants were cheered on along the way as they walked to raise awareness for inclusion and friendship for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. After crossing the finish line everyone gathered to enjoy refreshments and entertainment, including a performance from famed pianist Clarence Kang. The evening wrapped up with a closing ceremony and a big thank you to all participants who walked to raise awareness for Best Buddies Malaysia. Congratulations to UCSI University and Best Buddies Malaysia on an exceptional event!



Below: Andrew Chong, President of UCSI BB Chapter meets Clarence Kang. Please visit <http://www.clarencekang.webs.com/> to learn more about Clarence and his work.



Above: Participants smile for the camera after a successful Friendship Walk!

Above Right: Participants pose at an Instagram stop on the walk course!



Best Buddies Highlights

Russia

More than 200 Best Buddies' participants and supporters gathered at the residence of the Australian Ambassador to Russia Paul Myler to mark the close of the Best buddies 2013-14 season. The event was hosted by Ambassador Myler and his wife Angella in their beautiful residence of the artistic style Art Nouveau. The evening started with classical music and ended as usual with lots of dancing and nobody was in a hurry to leave.

To check out more great photos from this event, please visit: <http://www.bestbuddies.ru/news/vecher-luchshih-druzej-v-rezidencii-posla-avstralii>



Above: A Best Buddies Russia participant marvels at the delicious cake served during the spectacular event hosted by Ambassador Myler.

New Zealand

On the 10th of May 2014, the Best Buddies program of Melville High School engaged in a fun-filled day at the Hamilton Zoo. Starting our outing at 11am, participants explored the wide range of animals which Hamilton Zoo attends to. It was an opportunity which both Buddy and Peer Buddy were able to experience together. Under the supervision of our Best Buddies Program Manager, Barbara Harry, and leadership of our President Noelle Cookson, it was a day everyone enjoyed. Chapter members observed the large variety of animals, from the majestic and strong tigers, to the pudgy but friendly Kunekune pigs. Ending our day at 1.30pm, everyone enjoyed their first meal together for Term 2. All in all it was a great day with beautiful weather, good company and definitely an overall highlight to the Best Buddies of 2014!



Above: The Melville chapter in New Zealand shows their Best Buddies spirit during a trip to the zoo!

Brazil

The *Jobs* Program at American Tower had a smooth and successful launch. Everyone involved, from the American Tower HR Department to Danilo's family, were very keen to make the program happen. Danilo, the new employee, is charismatic with an easy going personality. This made his first days of work quite a breeze! He quickly learned his tasks and made friends with coworkers even faster! Danilo's department is very involved in the program and excited to work with such a great guy. Danilo has achieved so much in such a short period of time, making everyone at Best Buddies Brazil and American Tower proud. It's a pleasure to have Danilo as our first *Jobs* participant in Brazil. He and his coworkers at American Tower really show the community what inclusion is all about!



Above: Jobs participant, Danilo from Best Buddies Brazil is beaming as he starts his new journey with American Tower

Friendship Feature: Elsworth and Jaren, Best Buddies St. Kitts

My name is Elsworth and my Buddy is Jaren. Jaren and I first met at the 2011 Special Olympics swim meet, from there we became friends. I joined Best Buddies in 2012 and that is when we were paired together. Jaren and I meet once a week at swimming and I help out at other Special Olympics events when I can.

It is great to have a friend like Jaren because he helps me appreciate what I have. It is interesting because although Jaren may not be able to do certain things and he attends a school with students that have IDD, he is skilled and can do a lot of things that I am unable to do, and this adds richness to our friendship.

Since joining Best Buddies my perspective has changed in the way that I see things and how I treat people, I don't judge others and I accept differences. My buddy and I have come a long way, we enjoy attending best buddies sessions in our country and LC, we have a great time and we are able to socialize with other students that are part of the best buddies family. Jaren looks out for me and I for him. He always wants to share things that he has with me. I know the friendship that Jaren and I have will last for a life time.



Pictured: Elsworth and Jaren, an outstanding Buddy Pair from BB St. Kitts.

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 53 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 Katerina Angelopoulou of Best Buddies Greece for her support, passion and dedication to our efforts to organize and promote the Best Buddies Volunteer Programs in Greece. For the last two years she has presented commitment towards our goals and encouraged the growth of our programs. She always enlightens and inspires other staff and volunteers to join our team.

Katerina was the main staff volunteer organizer throughout our first steps of starting off with Best Buddies Greece. She also very well helped our team to organize our first Best Buddies Friendship walk this past summer in the center of Athens. It was a great big success!!!

We would like to thank Katerina for her tremendous efforts and dedication to moving our mission forward in Greece. Congratulations!



Pictured: Katerina Angelopoulou, Program Manager, Best Buddies Greece

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.

Australia

Aquila IT, ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation, Bos Web Systems, Design Strategy, e.law, Euro RSCG Australia, Kell & Rigby, Full on Oz Adventures, RedBalloon, Snap Printing Castlereagh & Silverwater, Thomson Playford Cutlers

Bolivia

Aywiña
International Service Bolivia

Brazil

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Canada

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

Colombia

Alkosto Stores, Icontec, Lip, Fundacion Bolivar Davivienda, Homecenter Sodimac Corona, Coca Cola, Alpina, Frito Lay, Chaidneme, Restaurante Club Colombia, Global, Audi, Team, Fotomoriz, Cell Net, K-tronix, Reval, Porvenir, PetroMinerales, El Corral, El Corral Gourmet, Corona, Juan Valdez Café, Nexen, Avianca, Grasco, Intel, Servientrega, Satena, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, Parques Nacionales Naturales en Colombia

Denmark

LEV

Dominican Republic

Dominican Association of Down Syndrome (ADOSID)

Ecuador

Fundación General Ecuatoriana

Egypt

Friendly Family Association

Finland

Inclusion Finland KVTI

Greece

TACT HELLAS

Guatemala

Fundacion para Sindrome 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)

Philippines

University of San Carlos College of Education

Poland

Jim

Qatar

Shafallah Center

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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Global Staff Forum

In just a few short weeks, the International Programs Department will host our annual Europe/MENA Global Staff Forum in Brussels, Belgium. This is a wonderful opportunity for team members to network and share their experiences with fellow Best Buddies staff from the region. These highly anticipated trainings are sure to be a success and the International Programs team at Headquarters is looking forward to connecting with everyone at the forum! For more information, please contact Jennifer Allen, Coordinator, International Programs at JenniferAllen@bestbuddies.org.

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. Please email Diana Rihl at dianarihl@bestbuddies.org for further information.

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 JenniferAllen@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.