

# Best Buddies Illinois

THIS SPACE PROVIDED BY  
**Advanced Medical Transport**  
 of Central Illinois  
*Save Lives. It's what we do.*



## Best Buddies Illinois

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## Social Media

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/BestBuddiesIL](https://www.facebook.com/BestBuddiesIL)  
**Twitter:** @BestBuddiesIL  
**Instagram:** @BestBuddiesIL

Jamie Davis, Executive Director  
 Taylor Lodewegen, Development Coordinator  
 Michelle Dempster, Program Manager

## Mission

Best Buddies 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).

## Vision

*To put Best Buddies 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, the organization 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.



What started as a volunteer program on the campus of Georgetown University in 1989 has grown into the largest global nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for one-to-one friendship, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Best Buddies impacts nearly one million individuals in all 50 states and in more than 54 countries worldwide through eight official programs:

- **Friendship Programs:** Best Buddies Middle Schools, Best Buddies High Schools, Best Buddies Colleges, Best Buddies Citizens, e-Buddies
- **Employment Programs:** Best Buddies Jobs
- **Leadership Development Programs:** Best Buddies Ambassadors and Best Buddies Promoters.

Locally, Best Buddies works in partnership with 17 middle schools, high schools, colleges and community organizations to create peer-to-peer friendships for more than 1,500 participants through the Best Buddies Middle Schools, Best Buddies High Schools and Best Buddies Colleges programs. The focus of our school-based programming is to create more inclusive schools and communities through the gift of friendship by breaking down the barriers that naturally exist between individuals with and without disabilities.

## Upcoming Events

**Champion of the Year Gala**  
 October 14, 2017  
 Holiday Inn & Suites at Grand Prairie  
 Peoria, IL

## How to Help

*Calling all Best Buddies alumni!* There are more than 370,000 Best Buddies alumni around the globe, and we want your help as we spread our mission of friendship and inclusion throughout central Illinois. To learn how you can help, contact [jamedavis@bestbuddies.org](mailto:jamedavis@bestbuddies.org) today!

## BEST BUDDIES CHAPTERS

Augustana College	Illinois State University	Pekin High School
Bloomington High School	Illinois Wesleyan University	Richwoods High School
Bradley University	Knox College	Rolling Acres Middle School
Centennial High School	Normal Community High School	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Dunlap High School	Normal Community West High School	Western Illinois University
East Peoria High School		
Eastern Illinois University		