

BEST BUDDIES[®]



Annual Report
2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



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Dear Best Buddies family,

Amid the profound challenges of 2020 as the world battled a global pandemic, Best Buddies' fundamental purpose and vision never wavered.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health and economic crisis that has deeply affected the lives of many people around the world, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who know all too well the feelings of isolation and loneliness.

How we respond to times of crises is a defining moment. When the pandemic struck, Best Buddies quickly adapted to the challenges by pivoting our programs and events to the virtual space to deliver uninterrupted services and resources for Best Buddies participants when they needed us the most.

The obstacles of the past year also exposed stories of optimism, compassion, and resilience that helped inspire each of us to stay strong, and to come together virtually to achieve a shared goal of creating a more inclusive world for people with special abilities.

In the face of adversity, the resolution of our program participants and their families inspired our own fortitude at Best Buddies.

We ended the year more certain than ever of the essential and life-changing role that Best Buddies programs play in connecting people, improving lives and developing a more inclusive world for people with IDD.

I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the staff and leadership team at Best Buddies, as well as to my fellow board members and our dedicated partners in the public and private sectors, for showing incredible strength and compassion throughout the challenges of 2020.

With your support, Best Buddies reached thousands of participants with IDD and provided them with the resources needed to feel included, confident and optimistic about the road ahead.

While 2020 wasn't the year any of us had planned, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together over the past year. Our Best Buddies staff, volunteers and supporters quickly adapted to unprecedented change, while at the same time continuing to support and engage with Best Buddies participants here in the U.S. and internationally.

Looking ahead to 2021, we will need each of you to help lead our mission forward as we emerge from this crisis because there is still much more work to be done.

As we reflect on the global impact of Best Buddies' mission and the millions of lives touched, please know that I am eternally grateful to each of you who have supported this organization. Thank you for making this world a better place for individuals with special abilities.



In Friendship,
Anthony K. Shriver, Founder, Chairman & CEO,
Best Buddies International

OUR 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, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The IDD community that Best Buddies serves includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and other undiagnosed disabilities.

Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our programs empower the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.



Four Pillars



One-to one friendships

Builds friendships between people with and without IDD, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded.

Integrated employment

Secures jobs for people with IDD, allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes, and continuously and independently support themselves.



Leadership development

Educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and advocates.

Inclusive living

Provides an integrated experience in which people with and without IDD are active, contributing citizens – living independently in a dynamic environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.



Our Impact

Friendship



525 middle school chapters
with **12713** members



1356 high school chapters
with **63805** members



550 college chapters
with **29834** members

7554 citizens

2057 e buddies

33836 hours worked per week

Employment

1612 members employed

\$21636353 earned per year



1 development location in
Washington DC

1 open location in
Los Angeles



Living



352 elementary school chapters
with **5180** members

804 ambassadors



70 middle school chapters
with **790** members

10 college chapters
with **131** members



158 high school chapters
with **4623** members

Leadership



International



Europe

Bulgaria
Denmark
England
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Netherlands
Northern Ireland
Poland
Russia
Scotland
Serbia
Spain
Turkey
Ukraine

North America

Canada
USA

Asia

China
Hong Kong
Macao
Indonesia
South Korea
Malaysia
Mongolia
Philippines
Thailand
Vietnam



Middle East

Israel
Lebanon
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
UAE

Africa

Egypt
Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
Tanzania
Uganda

Latin America & The Caribbean

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru



THIS YEAR

Friendship Walks

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is the leading walk in the country supporting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Since 2009, more than 250,000 participants in 70 cities have walked to raise awareness for inclusion, friendship, leadership development, integrated employment, and inclusive living opportunities for people with IDD. In 2020, over 22,000 participants in 66 cities walked, drove, or virtually participated to move our mission forward. Collectively over \$3,300,000 was raised as participants, sponsors, volunteers, and public figures joined the movement that celebrates friendship, inclusion, and unity. Over the years, the Best Buddies Friendship Walks have made a profound impact in communities nationwide, providing a platform for participants to showcase the mission in action. Each Walk provides an atmosphere for new friendships, promising opportunities and most of all, inclusion for all.



As a result of the pandemic, Best Buddies pivots its Best Buddies Challenges, Best Buddies Friendship Walks, and the annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference into the virtual space, uniting thousands of participants, supporters, and volunteers to continue its mission of inclusion.



Best Buddies month

March 2020

March is Best Buddies Month! What began as a one-day celebration of the Best Buddies mission evolved into a month-long festivity to reflect on the importance of inclusion and acceptance for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The month kicks off with the annual vSpread the Word: Inclusion campaign, which invites all members to showcase how they promote inclusion in their communities. In March 2020, participants hosted virtual chapter parties, awareness activities and engagement campaigns, to honor their unity in advancing opportunities for friendship, employment, leadership development, and inclusive living.

Best Buddies challenge at Hyannis Port

The Best Buddies Challenge: Hyannis Port, presented by Pepsi-Cola and Shaw's and Star Market Foundation found itself going virtual for the first time in its 20 year history. On Saturday, September 26, 2020, all riders, runners, and walkers were invited to participate in the DIY Best Buddies Challenge, and encouraged to share their efforts with friends, family, and the Best Buddies community on social media. It was a great day with a robust turnout, allowing participants to get outside and remain part of the Challenge community. We are excited to return to a hybrid in-person/virtual model in 2021 for what is sure to be our best Challenge yet!



Best Buddies challenge at Hearst Castle

Following safety guidelines, the Best Buddies Challenge: Hearst Castle, presented by Pepsi-Cola, transitioned to a virtual event this year. Much like our programs, the Challenge community quickly adapted and rode, ran, and walked hundreds of miles from the safety of their neighborhoods all in support of Best Buddies. The DIY Best Buddies Challenge was the perfect way for participants to strengthen their commitment to Best Buddies while still participating in the event. We are excited to return to a hybrid in-person/virtual model in 2021.

Best Buddies challenge at Miami

The Hublot Best Buddies Challenge: Miami, presented by Abaco Wines, Braman Miami, Mack Cycle & Fitness, Makarov Foundation, and Pepsi-Cola is a six-star 100K cycling event, limited to just 50 cyclists beginning and ending at The Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne. Cyclists were treated to an intimate, socially distanced kick-off dinner the night before the Challenge, as well as a celebratory luncheon following the ride.

Best Buddies EKS Day

July 20, 2020

Created in 2010, Eunice Kennedy Shriver (EKS) Day serves as a unique opportunity to celebrate her legacy, indomitable spirit and life-long commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Even during a time when society did not, Eunice Kennedy Shriver believed in the abilities of people with IDD and led the effort to end the physical and social isolation they endured. EKS Day promotes a global call for individuals to commit to actions of change, inclusion, and acceptance for people with IDD. Across the United States and in 100 countries, EKS Day is celebrated with love, justice, faith, hope and courage – her five key values. Activities included sports clinics, picnics, leadership trainings and disability rights awareness efforts.

“There is no purpose nobler than to build communities of acceptance for all.”
– Eunice Kennedy Shriver



Voices of Inclusion

July 16–17, 2020 virtual

More than 4,300 Best Buddies student leaders, 350 Best Buddies staff, and special celebrity guests including Voices of Inclusion from Hollywood, NFL superstar Tom Brady, NBA star Andre Drummond, Broadway sensation Lea Salonga, pop stars Rebecca Black and Quincy Brown, actor Jason Lewis, and Miss USA Cheslie Kryst, gathered virtually for the 2020 Best Buddies Leadership Conference: Voices of Inclusion. Best Buddies participants from 35 countries, including Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, England, Greece, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Uganda, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates all attended virtually. Using an interactive digital platform for instructional sessions and workshops, attendees had the opportunity to participate in interactive activities such as leadership development classes and roundtable sessions with global leaders. Educational panels allowed professionals who are engaged in the disability rights movement to connect with student leaders and share the tools and techniques for success and expansion of the Best Buddies mission in their communities.

Partners

Best Buddies launches **BESTBUDDIES® Ventures**, creating a new source of revenue independent of traditional methods of fundraising. The first-ever venture opens in Miami, FL; BESTBUDDIES® X Rosetta, The Italian Bakery --- an equal partnership that creates employment opportunities for individuals with IDD, and serves as a profit-center for Best Buddies through a store-front bakery and coffee shop.

Best Buddies teams up with Global Ambassador and Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady to launch the organization's first-ever specialty license plate in the state of Florida benefiting Best Buddies..

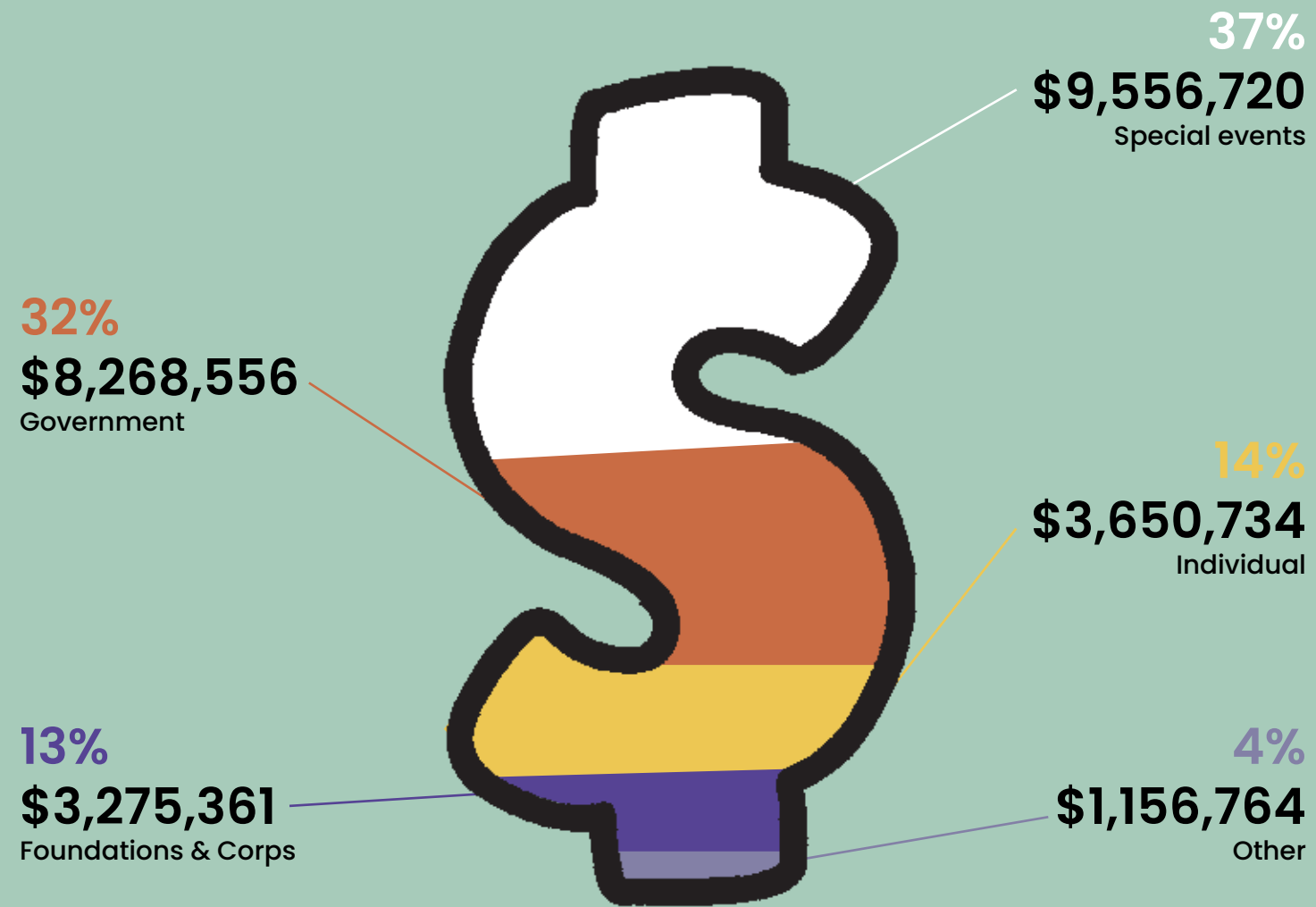
Launches

Best Buddies opens an office in **Serbia** in November 2020 to serve a new community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on a global scale.

The Best Buddies Jobs program begins operating in two new markets: **Des Moines, Iowa**; and **Phoenix, Arizona**.

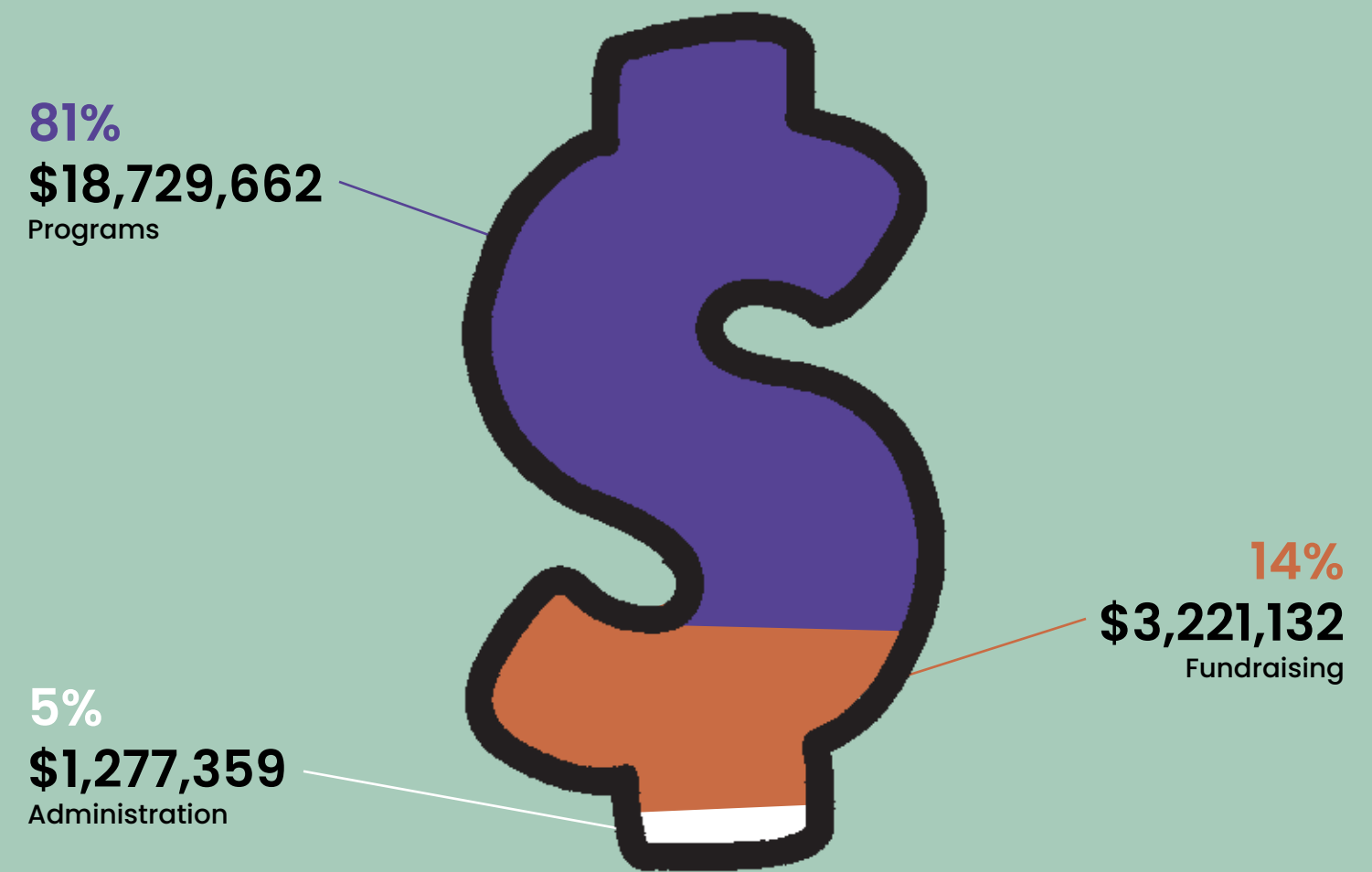
FINANCES

Revenue



Total
\$55,908,135

Expenses



Total
\$23,228,153

Balance sheet

Assets

Year to Date

Current Assets	
Cash in Bank	\$3,802,685
Marketable Securities	\$12,404,108
Pre Paid Expenses	\$422,196
Accounts Receivable	\$119,375
Contributions Receivable	\$1,810,436
Grant Receivable	\$3,626,561
Investments – BB x Rosetta Bakery LLC	\$43,505
Investments – Deferred Compensation Plan	\$95,221
Total Current Assets	\$22,324,087
Fixed Assets	
Computers	\$10,291
Total Assets \$22,334,378	

Liabilities & fund balance

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$540,820
Deferred Revenue	\$865,603
Deferred Compensation Plan Liability	\$95,222
PPP Payable	\$3,727,600
Refundable Security Deposit	\$6,400
Total Liabilities	\$5,235,645
Fund Balance	
Fund Balance	\$17,098,733
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance \$22,334,378	

Beginning balance with current year adjustments	\$14,549,315
Net surplus/deficit	\$2,549,418

Ending fund balance

\$17,098,733

THANKS!

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MAKE A FRIEND | DONATE | JOIN THE JOBS PROGRAM

BESTBUDDIES.ORG

