


<b>Name *</b>	Mitzi Miller
<b>Will this member also be presenting if beneficiary applicant is drawn? *</b>	Yes
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<b>Beneficiary Applicant Name *</b>	Best Buddies
<b>Website and/or Social Media Link(s) *</b>	<a href="http://www.bestbuddies.org/texas">www.bestbuddies.org/texas</a>
<b>Email for Beneficiary Applicant *</b>	<a href="mailto:lindakordekmilton@bestbuddies.org">lindakordekmilton@bestbuddies.org</a>
<b>Is Beneficiary Applicant a 501(c)(3) entity? *</b>	Yes
<b>Tax ID Number (if applicable)</b>	52-1614576
<b>Phone Number for Beneficiary Applicant *</b>	(818) 399-3276
<b>Beneficiary Applicant Address *</b>	 1341 W. Mockingbird Suite 241E Dallas, Texas 75247 United States

**General Information about Beneficiary Applicant (Mission Statement, populations served, longevity of non profit, notable events or programs, etc.) \***

**Mission Statement**

Best Buddies Texas is 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).

**Organization Description**

Established in 1994, Best Buddies Texas (BBTX) is a state affiliate of Best Buddies International which was founded in 1989 by Anthony K. Shriver. BBTX serves over 7,500 individuals through our Friendship program, Jobs program, and Ambassadors program. The Friendship program provides participants the unique opportunity to promote more inclusive school and community environments while establishing meaningful one-to-one friendships between those with and without IDD. Best Buddies Jobs provides supported employment to adults with IDD. Through the Jobs program, we assist individuals with IDD in locating and maintaining fully integrated employment in the field of their choosing. Best Buddies Ambassadors is a program that provides training for participants with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in areas of speech writing, public speaking, self-advocacy, and leadership. The Ambassadors program creates opportunities for participants of all ages, from elementary school through adulthood, to advocate for their passions and promote Best Buddies program. Another notable element of our program is that in addition to the participants WITH disabilities, the participants WITHOUT disabilities build critical

Social/Emotional Learning and Wellness skills – a key component of Sunnyvale ISD’s Strategic Plan’s six pillars. Social and emotional learning (SEL) enhances students’ capacity to integrate skills, attitudes, and behaviors to deal effectively and ethically with daily tasks and challenges.

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<b>Project Name / Specific Need *</b>	Best Buddies Friendship Chapters in Sunnyvale ISD
<b>Total Project Cost *</b>	\$32,254

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**Breakdown of Project Costs**

- The ask must be for a specific and immediate need or project that directly benefits the Sunnyvale community.
- Must provide detail on how the entire combined donation is to be spent and time frame.
- If the organization is a 501(c)3 funds requested must funnel through a 501(c)3 and the appropriate tax form must be provided by the Charity.
- 100% of the donation must go to the specific need requested in the application. \*

Best Buddies respectfully requests \$16,000 in funding to a) open three Best Buddies Chapters in Sunnyvale ISD over two years, b) lay the foundation for participants to complete Ambassador training thereby becoming Ambassadors in the Sunnyvale community, and c) to implement a jobs skills partnership with SISD’s Transition Program (Outbound.) Erica Lawless, the Director of Special Programs at SISD, has met with Best Buddies and is excited to start Friendship chapters as well as coordinate with the existing Transition/Outbound Program for recent graduates of SISD. Key student participation will begin with members of SISD’s PAL program (Peer Assistance and Leadership.) A detailed budget accompanies this application, but the high level overview is that it costs about \$5,000 to open a new chapter and \$5,000 annually to sustain each chapter. Over the next 18–24 months the \$16,000 invested by The 100 Women of Sunnyvale will support opening two new chapters in Sunnyvale Middle School and High School in year one and the third chapter in the Intermediate School in year two. All chapters will incorporate Ambassador training for students as well as awareness activities for students with IDD and their parents to begin thinking about career paths in the same manner that the rest of the student population does. Additionally, these funds can support the cost of travel and attendance for the Chapter President and Faculty Adviser or Staff Lead at the annual Leadership Conference held at Indiana University each July for 3,000 participants from all over the country and the world. Teachers may also earn Continuing Education credits by attending the Leadership Conference.

**Plans For Sustaining**

Program sustainability is built primarily through program structure and training as implemented by the BBTX Program Managers in conjunction with faculty advisors and student leaders at the school level. The history of Best Buddies International has resulted in time-tested best practices for chapter success, including required leadership trainings and reporting expectations which allow for close accountability and support throughout the year. Training for student leaders, advisors and members with and without IDD develops critical leadership skills, and emphasizes the importance of friendship in combating social isolation for those with IDD.

As with all non-profit organizations, funds to operate Best Buddies are contingent on the philanthropic attitudes of community, individuals, and corporations, as well as the efforts of staff in developing effective fundraising events. We will continue to secure funding sources, build a donor base, and educate about social inclusion. To support and sustain chapters throughout the state, BBTX hosts several events during the year such as our Best Buddies Friendship Walk, annual gala, corporate and foundation giving, and Rosemary’s Team – a giving circle for leadership gifts from individuals.

No other funds have been raised specifically to open chapters in Sunnyvale. The conversation to open these

chapters began in the fall, but due to some transition with faculty advisors, Spring semester is the better time to launch the program. Investing the funds over two years, maximizes the use of funds and also allows for responsible growth.

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### **Project Outcome**

- How many people will directly benefit from these funds?**
- Who will benefit from these funds?**
- How will they benefit from these funds? \***

There are currently about 10 SISD students in the Life Skills program in Middle School and High School, with another 10 rising from the Intermediate School. These are students with severely low functionality and cognitive delays. There are an additional 7-10 that are mainstreamed with such diagnoses as Autism Spectrum, Dyslexia, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, and Down Syndrome among others.

The number of students that will participate is anticipated to start with about 40. However, because the students of Sunnyvale are so supportive and choose to make a difference, that number will grow. As an example, Bishop Lynch High School - which does not even have a Special Education Department - currently has 284 of their 1100 students participating in Best Buddies!! The average Texas School Friendship chapter has 71 members. Best Buddies has data that shows that for every participant, another 10 people are impacted by the results of our program....parents, siblings, relatives and friends, bringing the impact of this program to more than 400.

### **Goals / Methods For Evaluating Success**

BBTX motivates students to positively impact their communities through leadership and volunteerism. Our programs create a ripple effect of change by training non-disabled students in socially-responsible leadership, and by giving them an opportunity to learn about the struggles faced by, and advocate for, a segment of society that is largely ignored. There are leadership trainings held in Dallas twice a year, and all Chapter Presidents are required to attend the annual Leadership Conference held in July at Indiana State University, attended by nearly 3,000 student leaders from across the country and the world.

Goals for this project include:

- 1) Increase opportunities for socialization and inclusion of people with IDD by opening 3 new School Friendship chapters over two school years.
- 2) Recruit and train 10-15 new student leaders who are dedicated to improving their communities throughout their lives, including at least 2-3 who have IDD.
- 3) Execute group activities (4 per chapter) that will engage students in cultural activities, sports, community service, etc.
- 4) Provide training for Ambassador candidates - i.e., Speech training, Introduction to Self-Advocacy; Job Skills Training, etc.

To determine the friendship program's effectiveness, Best Buddies utilizes three evaluation tools:

- 1) Monthly friendship updates: Completed by each buddy pair and collected by the program manager each to determine and document participant satisfaction with their buddy pair, and make adjustments if necessary.
- 2) Student and staff mid and end year reports: Student leaders submit reports twice a year detailing the successes and failures of their chapter. The information compiled in the reports provides qualitative and quantitative information regarding successful and unsuccessful buddy pairs. Staff uses the information from the student reports, along with detailed information gathered throughout the semester from communication, observation, and chapter visits to complete their own comprehensive mid and end year reports for each chapter. The reports include goals that the program manager has developed with the chapter leadership for the following year.
- 3) Best Buddies Annual Survey: At the end of the year, the Best Buddies Annual Survey is administered to all

participants to provide feedback on their involvement in the chapter.

Long-Term Impact and Benefit:

Best Buddies envisions a diverse world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces and communities that its current efforts and services will be unnecessary. Best Buddies provides students with IDD the resources they need to support themselves and to realize inclusion as children and eventually as adults. Youth with IDD in Best Buddies learn valuable social skills giving them the confidence, aiding in their employability, self-advocacy, and self-sufficiency. They succeed in school, and begin to successfully explore adult roles such as employee, co-worker and community member.

Annemarie, a Best Buddies Texas Ambassador and star of the new film Normie, felt alone for much of her life. But when Annemarie helped start Best Buddies at Highland Park High School, she says Best Buddies brought her genuine companionship and taught her that she is not alone. Not only has Best Buddies at Highland Park impacted Annemarie, but it has come to impact hundreds of others after she graduated.

"Best Buddies has helped spread inclusion and kindness throughout Highland Park, and has helped unite the student body in ways other organizations have not. The joy it brings is contagious, and it has brought happiness to so many students, both with disabilities and without." – Margaret Chambless, Chapter President

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### **Why Your Charity?**

**– Explain why your charity is worthy of the funds provided...this is your opportunity to sell your project/need to the membership!**

"Do you know that I am fighting aloneness? I hate being alone. Why is that?"

When I first heard Annemarie utter these words in the trailer to the upcoming documentary, Normie, I cried. I have felt alone. I know you have felt alone. But for people with disabilities, it is a different kind of alone. Best Buddies exists to give people with IDD the opportunity to be paired with friends – in school and in the workplace. The results are exponential! Our Buddies make lifetime friends and feel included during their school years.

Best Buddies goes beyond only the students with disabilities. The impact of these pure and lasting friendships on students without disabilities is truly amazing.

Our children live in a very different time and world than the one in which many of us grew up. Social Media prompts great isolation, and shares images of exaggerated beauty and joy. There is a direct and proportional connection to the advent of the smart phone/social media and the terrifying rise in anxiety and depression.

One high school football captain said this:

"As the captain of the football team, everyone knows me. Everyone in school, in the community, in my family. They all expect me to act a certain way, to be a certain kind of person. I felt like I was always "on", that I had to maintain the daily appearance of the popular, successful, enviable image of the stereo-typical high school football captain. With my buddy, Jason, I can just relax and be myself, with all my shortcomings and fallibilities because Jason doesn't mind. Jason just loves me because I'm me. And I love him back."

There is no better example of Best Buddies in action than the very organic relationship between Sunnyvale's own Helayna Barber and her friend, Rebecca. Those who attended the grand opening of the Sunnyvale Auditorium were all moved to tears by their beautiful dance of friendship. Helayna is off at college now. And Rebecca is part of the Transition Program.

With the funds provided by you, The 100 Women of Sunnyvale, we can build on Helayna and Rebecca's legacy, creating multitudes of friendships in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Beneficiary Applicant understands that the projected combined donation amount is dependent on all 100 Women of Sunnyvale members making a \$100 donation and that the actual combined donation amount may vary. Beneficiary also understands that the funds awarded by 100 Women of Sunnyvale should be spent in Sunnyvale. If a portion of funds are to be used to benefit areas outside Sunnyvale, Beneficiary Applicant has explained this in the application. Please initial. \***

LKM

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**Beneficiary Applicant agrees to not use, give, or sell the contact information of our members for additional solicitation by Beneficiary Applicant or other organizations. Beneficiary Applicant agrees to accept individual checks made out to its organization and to provide tax documentation (as appropriate) to each individual who donates. Please sign. \***

Linda Kordek Milton

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**Date**

Friday, February 21, 2020

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