



WE ARE **BEST BUDDIES**[™] NEWS

For Immediate Release

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY HONORED AS OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AT BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL'S 21ST ANNUAL *BEST BUDDIES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE*

Bloomington, IN – July 26, 2010 – The Best Buddies chapter at Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland was presented with the 2009-2010 *Outstanding Chapter Award* at Best Buddies International's *21st Annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference*, July 23-26, 2010. Chosen from more than 400 Best Buddies college programs throughout the world and 62 Outstanding Chapter applicants, Loyola University was selected as 2009-2010 Outstanding College Chapter for its dedication to the Best Buddies mission.

Best Buddies is a nonprofit 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. *Leadership Conference* prepares student leaders to operate the Best Buddies chapters at their schools, which involves recruitment of new members, planning group activities for their chapters and promoting of the social integration of people with intellectual disabilities in their communities.

More than 900 students, representing Australia, Canada, Colombia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Spain, Vietnam and the United States, traveled to Indiana University to participate in the four-day conference. Working under the theme of "Building Our Future," these students, selected for their active leadership roles within Best Buddies, attended a series of interactive workshops focusing on leadership development, community service, civic responsibility, intellectual disabilities and volunteerism. For the first time in Best Buddies history, portions of this year's *Leadership Conference* were streamed live online.

"Best Buddies is extraordinarily proud of our exceptional high school and college chapters, which have developed outstanding one-to-one friendships and lead the Best Buddies global movement," said Mia Mulholland, Director of Programs for Best Buddies. "Each chapter's creativity, commitment and hard work play a crucial role in furthering the social inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities within their communities and are building a stronger future for Best Buddies around the world."

About Best Buddies International:

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. Founded in 1989 by Anthony K. Shriver, Best Buddies is a vibrant organization that has grown from one original chapter to more than 1,500 middle school, high school, and college chapters worldwide. Today, Best Buddies seven formal programs – Colleges, High Schools, Middle Schools, Citizens, e-Buddies®, Jobs and BUILD - engage participants in 46 countries, positively impacting the lives of 700,000 people with and without disabilities, as well as their respective network of family, friends, and employers. As a result of their involvement with Best Buddies, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities secure rewarding jobs, live on their own, become inspirational leaders, and make lifelong friendships. For more information, please visit www.bestbuddies.org.

Media Inquiries:

Heather Schatz
305-374-2233, ext. 207
HeatherSchatz@bestbuddies.org

Or

Jennifer Grau
305-374-2233, ext .245
JenniferGrau@bestbuddies.org

###