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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
FRIENDSHIPS AND JOBS

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Best Buddies Connecticut Friendship Walk 2009

'Walk for friendship... change a life, one step at a time'

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Registration: 9:00 am / Walk Time: 10:00 am

Route: 1 or 3 mile route

Location: North Haven Middle School
55 Bailey Road
North Haven, CT 06473

Registration: Online at www.bestbuddiestct.org/walk or Phone: 203.234.3996

(North Haven, August, 2009) On Saturday, October 17, 2009 hundreds of walkers from all over Connecticut will gather at North Haven Middle School for the 1st annual **Best Buddies Connecticut Friendship Walk** benefiting Best Buddies Connecticut. The Best Buddies Friendship Walk is a fun, community walk that raises money and awareness to support programs that promote friendship and inclusion in middle schools, high schools and colleges in Connecticut.

The Friendship Walk includes a 1- or 3-mile walk starting and finishing at North Haven Middle School. (NHMS). Registration will open at 9:00 am at NHMS, with both routes beginning at 10:00 am. The walk will conclude with a celebration including lunch, team and fundraising awards plus entertainment! Every dollar raised by walkers and sponsors will help sustain and grow our Connecticut programs.

Walk for Best Buddies Today! It's easy to become a Team Captain or an individual walker. Encourage family, friends and coworkers to be a part of a team. Businesses and organizations have an opportunity to sponsor as well as form their own teams! Register on line and receive your customizable fundraising webpage as well as donation request for e-mail. There is no registration fee, and you can register online or bring your donation and completed registration form with you to the walk. Raise \$50.00 and receive a t-shirt, keep going and receive other great prizes. Make a difference, register to 'walk for friendship' at www.bestbuddiestct.org/walk

The goal of the Friendship Walk is to increase awareness and raise funds in support of programs that promote friendship and inclusion in middle schools, high schools and colleges across the state. Best Buddies Connecticut serves more than 2,200 people with and without intellectual disabilities annually at 9 middle schools, 33 high schools, and 13 college chapters throughout the state. This year 11,000 Connecticut residents—including participants' families, friends and teachers—will be positively impacted by Best Buddies' programs. Best Buddies offers people with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to make a friend – many for the first time in their lives.

The Best Buddies CT Friendship Walk is sponsored in part by the Department of Children and Families, Hope for CT Kids, Partners United for Children, Foster Adoptive Mission, Meriden & Middletown's Foster Care Adoption and Community Education Services, The Hearts, Hands and Homes Community Collaborative, Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services and Café Romeo.

About Best Buddies International: Founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies is a vibrant, international organization that has grown from one original chapter to more than 1,400 middle school, high school, and college campuses across the country and internationally. *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.* Best Buddies operates programs in all 50 states and in 44 countries outside the United States.

About Best Buddies Connecticut: Best Buddies Connecticut serves more than 2,200 participants in Connecticut through five friendship programs: Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, and eBuddies®.

For additional information about local Best Buddies programs contact Best Buddies Connecticut at (203) 234-3996 or visit the web at www.bestbuddiesct.org.

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