Objective: Students will be able to think about programs that help people with disabilities and their role in such programs.

Materials: Best Buddies Website
Best Buddies Worksheet
Website pages

Vocabulary: international organization

New York State Learning Standards:
- SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York
- ELA Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding
- ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction
- Math, Science and Technology: Standard 2: Information Systems

Procedure:
1. The teacher should view the Kennedy section of the Advocacy wing of the website for background information.
2. Selections from the website can be viewed by the students online or copies of those pages can be printed for student use.
3. Discuss the Best Buddy Program. (Note: Background information can be found at www.bestbuddies.org.)
4. Have students work in pairs to discuss the mission statement of the Best Buddies Program. Then, allow each pair to think about how to implement the mission and record their ideas on the student handout.

Closure/Ticket out the door: Why do you think some people become a part of the Best Buddy program?
In 1989, Anthony Kennedy Shriver founded Best Buddies. It is now an international organization. The mission of the program is “to enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendship and integrated employment.” Talk about the meaning of this statement with your partner. Write some ways you or your school can implement this.

We think the mission statement means:

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We can implement this mission by:

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