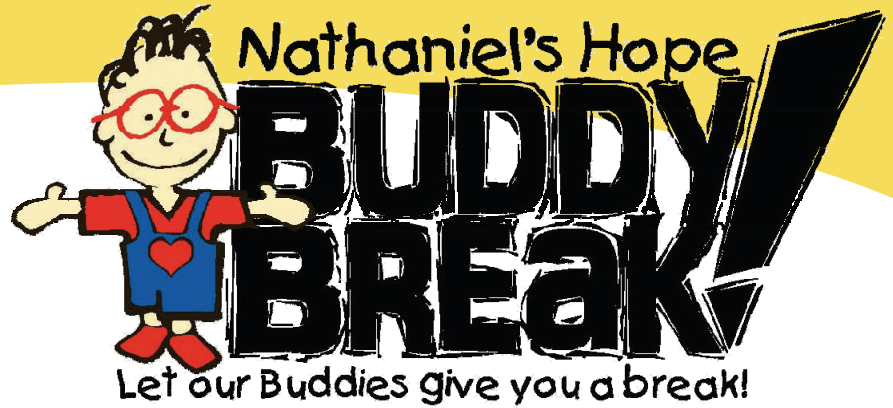


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Join the National Buddy Break Network



Buddy Break is a **FREE** respite/kids program designed to give caregivers of kids with special needs (VIP kids) a break from the ongoing overwhelming demands and responsibilities of caring for their loved ones.

Buddy Break is hosted in partnership with local congregations once a month for three hours, during which **VIP kids**, age 2-16 regardless of disability, have a great time making new buddies, playing games, singing songs, doing crafts, etc. while the caregiver gets a break! Siblings are also welcome to attend. This outreach of love to kids and their families should not have a price tag; therefore the services provided are a gift.

All **VIP** families are required to attend an orientation where they will provide information about their child. This allows our **Buddy** volunteers to meet the **VIP kids** and their families before they become eligible to participate.

Once a family is orientated and accepted into the network, they are eligible to make a reservation and attend any **Buddy Break** anywhere! **Nathaniel's Hope** will provide secured access of **VIP** files to locations through an online database system.

Each **Buddy** must be 14 or older and is required to complete a two hour **Buddy Training 101** and have passed a National Background check before being paired one-on-one with a **VIP**.



VIPs are kids with special needs, which include any physical, cognitive, medical or hidden disability, chronic or life-threatening illness, or those who are medically fragile.

Buddies are friends of **VIPs**.

www.NathanielsHope.org

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU!

As we begin our partnership together, our goal is to make it easy for you to begin and sustain this much needed ministry.

Nathaniel's Hope will provide:

- Leadership to help your church effectively reach out and minister to VIPs and their families
- Support and resources, including an online database, for your **Buddy Break** Coordinator & Team
- Program, structure, promotional tools, forms, processes, and volunteer training
- Assistance in volunteer recruitment
- Help to identify medical/nurse/other professional volunteers to be present at your **Buddy Break**
- Education to your entire congregation to bring understanding and inspire them to open their arms to the VIP community
- Newsletters, ongoing training, and forums to keep your volunteers energized and committed
- Establishment in the **Buddy Break** network, which will put you on the front lines of ministry to those with disabilities
- Program promotion to the families in the community to bring new people to your church
- Policies and procedures to help ensure safe and fun **Buddy Breaks**



You already have what it takes to get started—a few committed people who have the heart and vision to reach the VIP community.

To make **Buddy Break** a powerful success at your church, we ask you to:

- Commit to educate and provide opportunities for your congregation to reach out to the VIP families in your church and community
- Identify a **Buddy Break** Coordinator and Leadership Team to facilitate the **Buddy Break** program
- Open up your church facility on specific days—preferably with a large meeting room & nearby classrooms
- Require ALL your volunteers to attend a mandatory **Buddy Training 101** prior to serving at **Buddy Break**
- Conduct mandatory National background checks on ALL **Buddy Break** volunteers ages 18 and up, and check references on those under 18
- Provide supplies needed for crafts, activities, and games
- Recruit **Buddies** to serve
- Inform your insurance company about **Buddy Break**
- Gather signed and notarized release forms from all VIP families and **Buddies**
- Follow established safety policies and procedures
- Budget to financially support the ministry of **Nathaniel's Hope** as a missions outreach to the disability community



GETTING STARTED!

EXPLORE:

STEP 1

- Pray for God's wisdom and an opening of the hearts of the church leadership and congregation to the VIP community.
- Visit an area **Buddy Break** if possible.
- View the DVD, share the need with your church leadership, and determine their level of commitment.
- Provide a survey to the congregation to help identify VIPs in your congregation.



MEET:

STEP 2

Arrange for a meeting with church leadership (either in person or via conference call) with a **Nathaniel's Hope** representative to discuss aspects of the program. Key topics to be reviewed in this meeting are:

- **Buddy Break** Leadership Team requirements
- **Buddy Break** Partnership Agreement
- Risk Management
- Budget

COMMIT:

STEP 3

Sign and mail the following to **Nathaniel's Hope**:

- **Buddy Break** Partnership Agreement
- A check for \$300 for start-up kit and curriculum

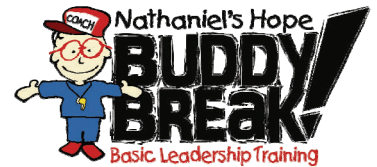
Review church calendar to determine a program start-up date.



PLAN:

STEP 4

- Establish **Buddy Break** Leadership Team.
- Schedule key **Buddy Break** leaders to attend our free **Basic Leadership Training (BLT)**.
- Review church calendar to determine a timeline for start-up.
- Contact insurance company to notify them of program.
- Determine an initial promotion strategy.



STEP 5

COORDINATE:

Scheduling:

- Leadership Team meeting
- Promotion
- Sunday morning education & promotion
- Training for Leadership Team in online database
- **Buddy Break** information meeting
- **Buddy Training 101** dates
- Launch date
- **Buddy Break** dates for the year

Communication:

- Email & Phone
- Background check procedure
- Fax/Copier access
- Secured filing system
- Understanding of the church process

Logistics:

- Facility set-up (walk-thru), including Orientation room with TV and DVD access
- Supply inventory
- Storage space and supplies
- Insurance needs of **Buddy Break**

STEP 6

EQUIP:

Educate Congregation using:

- **Nathaniel's Hope** representative to speak at main worship service
- Promotional items (video clips, bulletin blurbs, flyers, etc.)

STEP 7

PROMOTE:

Promote & Recruit to:

- **Buddies** and VIPs within the congregation
- VIPs in the community

Now it's time to have a
Launch Party!

www.NathanielsHope.org



OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED BY NATHANIEL'S HOPE TO SUPPORT THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY



Celebrating VIP Kids!

Make 'm Smile

This annual community event is dedicated to celebrating VIP kids and their families. It features a Buddy Stroll, free entertainment, food, family activities, and exhibitors that provide resources for the special needs community.



Caroling for Kids

We share hope and encouragement with patients, families, and caregivers at children's hospitals and with homebound VIP families on Christmas day through caroling, prayer, and bearing goodies and gifts.



Bearing Hope

A loveable, plush beanie bear is given to VIP kids to communicate the hope that we share through Nathaniel's Hope.



Hall of Hope

We are dedicated to remembering VIP kids who have left us and relocated to their heavenly home. Cards are sent to families on their child's birth date and homegoing date. Join us online in remembering the imprint they have made on our hearts and lives.



VIP Birthday Club

VIP kids become national club members and are celebrated with a card on their birthday, plus other special recognition throughout the year. Kids can also have their picture and a story posted online.

Contact us at:
Nathaniel's Hope
2300 Jetport Drive
Orlando, FL 32809
Office: 407-857-8224

Email: BuddyBreak@NathanielsHope.org

Website: www.NathanielsHope.org

