



# hope

*"I will never be able to put into words how I came to the church broken and feeling that no one would be able to understand what a single mom with a special needs child goes through or even needs. But, the Lord has totally worked and used you all to bring hope, encouragement, joy, love, and compassion, to someone that has been on this road for a long time and was getting weary and tired. I will never be able to thank you enough for being Jesus' hands and feet to us."*

~ Tammy, VIP Parent

## Other Programs offered by Nathaniel's Hope to support the Local Church



### 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 online.



### Bearing Hope

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



### Make 'm Smile

This annual community event is dedicated to celebrating VIP kids and their families.



### 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.



### Hall of Hope

We remember VIP kids who have 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.

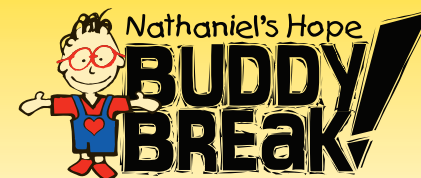


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# Is your church effectively reaching KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS and their families?



# reach out



# Why Your Church Needs a Buddy Break

- 1 out of 10 kids under the age of 14 has some type of special need. It is time we ask; where are they in our churches?
- God has a heart of compassion for the disability community. 70% of the miracles that Jesus performed were directed to the disabled community.
- Statistics show that the divorce rate is 80% for couples with a child with a disability. They need our support.
- Jesus clearly instructs us to reach out to the least of these (Matthew 25:40). Buddy Break helps the weaker part of the church body be built-up, encouraged, and receive the love of Christ in a practical way.
- The Christian community has a responsibility to respond, and this is a rewarding way to minister to families that are in a difficult life they didn't choose.
- Oftentimes people want to help VIP families, but they do not know how or what to do. Buddy Break provides that answer.
- It's a hands-on way for your volunteers to become comfortable with VIPs and in turn provide more ministry options in your church.
- VIP kids and families are often isolated. Buddy Break helps build meaningful friendships and connects the VIP family to your church community.

- It's a great missions outreach to the community.



As you have done unto  
the **least of these** you  
have done

# unto me

~ Matthew 25:40

## What is Buddy Break?

Buddy Break is a FREE kids program designed to give caregivers of kids with special needs (VIP kids) a break from their ongoing care-giving responsibilities for three hours one Friday night or one Saturday morning a month. VIP kids can make some new buddy friends, have fun playing games, hear and see great children's stories, videos, music and more while giving their caregivers a much needed break! Buddy Break is a tangible way to show VIPs that you care.



## Why is there a need for Buddy Break?

The weight and stress of finding proper doctors, teachers, financial resources, etc. for a VIP child's care can be overwhelming. Those responsibilities, as well as the never-ending demands for the daily care of their child, are squeezed into days already filled with the usual routine of caring for a household, siblings, and self. Opportunities to get a break are rare yet desperately needed to survive. Buddy Break provides a safe place for VIPs and their siblings to have fun while their care-givers get a break.

## Who are VIP kids?

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. This program is for VIP children birth ages: 2-16 years old, and their siblings: 4 years old-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Some Buddy Break locations expand their program based on their ability to serve a wider age range.

## Who are Buddies?

Buddies are friends to VIPs. No previous experience with VIP kids is necessary, just a loving heart and open arms. Each VIP kid is paired one-on-one with a screened volunteer "Buddy" who is at least 14 years of age and has completed a two-hour Buddy Training 101 program.

## Join our Buddy Break Network!

Buddy Break is a growing ministry to the VIP community done in partnership with churches across the nation. Nathaniel's Hope will assist you every step of the way as you minister to VIP kids and their families. We provide training for your Buddy Break Leadership Team and Buddies, plus the necessary tools to make Buddy Break an easy, safe, and successful outreach for your church.

We also promote your Buddy Break location in your area and connect you with the rest of our Buddy Break network. We look forward to partnering with you!

