



October 14, 2021

Franklin Tomorrow
Attn: Emily Grayson
198 E Main St #205, Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Emily and Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of JohnThomas Atema.

JohnThomas has been an active volunteer with Best Buddies since 2011, when his sister Lily was born. Lily was born with Downs Syndrome and inspired JohnThomas to get involved. In his current role, JohnThomas serves on the Chapter Leadership Team for his high school Best Buddies Chapter. In addition to his involvement in the Franklin, TN community, he also serves as a volunteer on the state and national levels. As a Global Ambassador JohnThomas speaks and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I have observed JohnThomas' commitment to volunteerism firsthand and his commitment to our greater Nashville community. JohnThomas has served an integral role with the Best Buddies over the last ten years. He has worked to identify and manage student peers and volunteers to build our Friendship Program in Franklin, TN. In 2021, he has volunteered more than 100 hours to Best Buddies.

JohnThomas has made an incredible impact during his time with Best Buddies. Generous, determined, compassionate – these are just a few adjectives that describe JohnThomas. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with him, and to have him represent Best Buddies in our community.

In Friendship,

Jessica Wylie
Senior Director, State Operations,
Best Buddies
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