

**“...If you want to avoid poverty...you need to complete high school, work full time and marry before you have children.”**

**We are thankful that you have helped our students avoid poverty.**

**Almost 30% of children live in single parent families.**

**Poverty rates in single parent families are five times higher than in two parent homes.**

Front cover quote and statistics above taken from...  
“Five Myths About Our Land of Opportunity,” Isabelle Sawhill and Ron Haskins, *Washington Post*, November 1, 2009

**In Washington, DC 32% of children live in poverty.**

National Center for Children in Poverty: *Low income Children in the United States: National and State Trend Data, 1995-2005*; U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey.

**Children living in poverty are more vulnerable to poor health, low school performance and teen parenthood.**

- **90% of Best Friends and Best Men students say they want to be married some day.**
- **91% of Best Friends and 89% of Best Men students believe it is best for children to be born into two parent families.**
- **87% of Best Friends and 81% of Best Men students did not skip any days of school.**
- **100% of Diamond Girl and Best Men Leadership students graduate from high school.**
- **95% of Best Friends and 82% of Best Men students are not members of a gang.**

*2008-2009 pre-survey and post-survey data from Washington, DC Best Friends and Best Men students.*



**BEST FRIENDS FOUNDATION**

*Featuring Best Friends, Best Men, Diamond Girl Leadership and Best Men Leadership Programs*

“The years that I have been in the program, I can say it’s been incredible. I am and always will be a Diamond Girl and I appreciate the opportunity that was given to me to participate in such a life-changing organization. Being a Diamond Girl is something to be proud of and cherish. As I go off to college, the lessons that I have learned in this organization will be used throughout my life.” – *Senior Diamond Girl Leadership student, McKinley Tech High School, Washington, DC. Now a freshman at Trinity Washington University*

“...My life began to go in a downward spiral. I really found no reason to live if it wasn’t for the Best Friends Foundation. It was my escape from the horrible life that I was living. Without them I would probably be living the life of drugs, alcohol and sex.”  
– *Best Men Leadership Senior, Woodrow Wilson High School, Washington, DC. Now a freshman at West Virginia State University*



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**Your contribution will provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills to make positive decisions and become good citizens.**

- \$5,000 Provides Best Friends and Best Men Programs in three middle schools serving over 200 students.
- \$2,000 Provides a Best Friends or a Best Men program for one student for 6 years (6th - 12th grade).
- \$ 500 Provides a school teacher as a Best Friends or Best Men Mentor for 3–5 students for the academic school year.
- \$ 100 Provides weekly fitness and nutrition classes for a student in middle school for the school year.
- \$ 25 Provides a student with a Best Friends or a Best Men Student Journal – which contains researched and developmentally sound risk prevention curriculum, hot line information and inspirational readings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

[www.bestfriendsfoundation.org](http://www.bestfriendsfoundation.org)

**Phone: Ann Goldsmith – (202) 478 - 9685**

**My/Our tax-deductible gift to the Best Friends Foundation is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Check enclosed – please make check payable to **Best Friends Foundation.**
- Please charge my credit card.       VISA     MasterCard     American Express

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- My employer will match my/our gift. Form:  enclosed     will follow
- I will donate through **United Way/CFC # 8267**

My gift is  in honor of  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mail to:**

Best Friends Foundation Appeal  
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440  
Washington, DC 20015

**Thank you,  
Best Friends Foundation**

Gifts may also be made through the Best Friends Foundation web site: [www.bestfriendsfoundation.org/FoundDonorInfo.html](http://www.bestfriendsfoundation.org/FoundDonorInfo.html)

**At this special time of year, please know how grateful we are for your gift.**

– Elayne Bennett, *President and Founder, Best Friends Foundation.*

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