

“...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*



Best Friends Foundation
P.O. Box 42135
Washington, DC 20015
phone: (202) - 394 - 4501
fax: (301) - 907 - 8894
www.bestfriendsfoundation.org



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

Phone: Jossy Heltzer — (202)- 394-4501

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
P.O. Box 42135
Washington, DC 20015

**Thank you,
Best Friends Foundation**

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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