Cross Point Church is a place where Everyone's Welcome, because one of the things we have learned is that Nobody's Perfect and with God we believe that Anything's Possible.

To be a community of believers that is radically devoted to Christ, irrevocably committed to one another, and relentlessly dedicated to reaching those outside God's family with the Gospel of Christ.

The Buddy Program is individualized one-on-one support with a trained buddy volunteer to provide optimal assistance and support for their needs while learning about God's love for them with peers in a safe, inclusive, and age-appropriate environment.

The Buddy Program currently includes 12 trained volunteers and 7 families across 3 service times. Children participate in classroom programming in an inclusive setting with peers. A sensory room is available for buddies to take children to take a break.

"Our 2-year-old son had been recently diagnosed with severe Autism when we first attempted to attend church again. It became nearly impossible when a round of medication caused him to start harming himself over 100 times a day. We felt isolated and hopeless and couldn't go anywhere without extreme anxiety and he needed constant, qualified supervision.

We were not able to attend church and it all took a huge toll on our marriage. I reached out to Crosspoint and asked if there was a special needs ministry. We were greeted with a Parent's Night Out and communication cards added to programming.

100% of caregiver respondents indicated that they would like to see a Parent's Night Out and communication cards added to programming.

100% of Buddy Volunteer respondents indicated that additional resources would be Extremely or Very Valuable.

100% of Buddy Volunteer respondents indicated they would be Extremely or Very interested in buddy specific trainings sessions.

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**MISSION**

Cross Point Church Children’s Ministry Development of a Special Needs Buddy Program

Alyssa Harding, OTD/S

**CURRENT PROGRAMMING**

**PROGRAM NEEDS & GOALS**

- **Create** “Buddy Daily Notes” to facilitate communication and collaboration between volunteers, staff, and families.
- **Establish** improved methods of communication to improve family experience.
- **Design and implement** “Buddy Quick Reference Book” to provide pertinent information to new volunteers.
- **Lead** Buddy volunteer training sessions to improve preparedness of volunteers.
- **Advocate** for Sensory room improvements and designated “Cross Point Buddy Families” parking spots.
- **Promote** formation of “Parent’s Night Out” event and parent community group.
- **Form** opportunities for volunteer recruitment.
- **Craft** promotional flyers for family and volunteer recruitment, parent's night out, and parent community group.

**FAMILY TESTIMONIALS**

- 60% of caregiver respondents rated the benefit of a Buddy Communication card as Extremely or Very Valuable.
- 80% of caregiver respondents indicated that they would be Extremely or Very interested in the development of a community group.

**OUTCOMES**

**PROGRAM DELIVERABLES**

- Implement procedures and programming across all campuses
- Lead general volunteer and buddy specific training sessions
- Advocate for continued development and sustainability
- Develop methods for program marketing and volunteer recruitment
- Continue development of events and small groups for families of children in the program.

**FUTURE STEPS**

- Create Buddy Daily Notes
- Establish improved methods of communication
- Design Buddy Quick Reference Book
- Lead Buddy volunteer training sessions
- Advocate for Sensory room improvements
- Promote “Parent’s Night Out” event
- Form volunteer and community group opportunities
- Craft promotional materials

**DELIVERABLES**

- First Board Instructions
- Sensory Room Before & After
- Buddy Communication Card
- Buddy Volunteer Minutes
- Buddy Daily Notes
- Buddy Quick Reference Book
- Buddy Reference Book
- Buddy Family Experience Card
- Buddy Day Notes

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Faculty Mentor: Sue Iliff, PhD, OTR/L
Expert Mentors: Chris Swann, Volunteer Coordinator & Leslie Hanson, Program Director

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- Crystal Hoyt Bray, Mother of child in buddy program

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