

# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual dancing for BigBuddy Mentoring Baton Rouge

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

## *Sponsorship Packet*

Sponsorship Commitment for Full Benefits Due:  
February 2, 2026





## CASE STATEMENT

Big Buddy is a leading youth development organization in Baton Rouge, creating pathways for young people to connect, lead, and succeed, building the foundation for a stronger workforce and a more prosperous community. Since 1979, Big Buddy has equipped generations of young people with the skills, confidence, and support to lead productive lives and contribute meaningfully to the local economy.

Through asset-based programming for youth ages 5 to 18, Big Buddy strengthens resilience against poverty, crime, and academic failure, key barriers to economic growth and community stability. Each week, more than 500 youth participate in Big Buddy's mentoring relationships, extended learning programs, and workforce development initiatives, including internships, career mentorship, and essential employability training.

When you support Big Buddy, you're doing more than helping children, you're investing in Baton Rouge's future workforce, its neighborhoods, and its economic vitality. Every sponsorship helps transform potential into purpose, ensuring that the next generation of leaders not only dreams of success but have the tools and Mentors to achieve it.

Together, we can ensure that every young person in Baton Rouge has the opportunity to achieve, contribute, and thrive.

## VISION

Every child has a positive role model and village to make good choices, resulting in a healthy and rewarding life.

## MISSION

To build a community of mentoring relationships that advance and inspire youth to create meaningful change.

### ***One-on-One Mentoring Relationships***

Big Buddy is the only organization in Baton Rouge providing consistent, structured one-on-one mentoring relationships that connect caring adults with youth who need them most. Each match represents an investment of time, guidance, and opportunity, one adult bringing their experience and resources to open doors for one young person. These trusted relationships have been proven to increase graduation rates, reduce risky behaviors, and strengthen pathways to higher education and career success. Mentoring transforms lives and communities, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond the individual match. Mentoring relationships build safer neighborhoods, stronger families, and a more prepared workforce for Baton Rouge.

### ***Extended Learning***

Big Buddy's Academic and Enrichment Programs extend learning beyond the classroom with hands-on experiences that reinforce school-day lessons. In safe, structured, and caring environments, youth participate in leadership development, tutoring, and project-based learning through after-school programs, holiday camps, summer enrichment, and targeted support for students in underperforming schools. These programs do more than improve grades, they provide safe, productive spaces during critical out-of-school hours, support working families, and help youth build the skills and confidence needed for academic success and a stronger future workforce for Baton Rouge.

### ***Youth Workforce Development***

Big Buddy's Level-UP! program prepares middle and high school youth for career success through hands-on work experiences, mentoring, and skills training. Participants gain essential workplace skills, earn industry-recognized certifications, build career-focused relationships, and receive guidance to transition successfully from school to the workforce.

By connecting youth with employers and Mentors in their fields of interest, Level-UP! helps close the skills gap, increases on-time graduation, and strengthens Baton Rouge's future workforce, providing youth with the tools to thrive and the community with a pipeline of prepared, motivated young professionals.

# Sponsorship Levels

## Title Sponsor \$25,000

***Your sponsorship empowers Big Buddy to provide life-changing mentoring, educational, and workforce experiences to youth, creating opportunities that shape the future leaders of Baton Rouge.***

Young people growing up in poverty face a range of challenges as they develop into contributing members of the community. Big Buddy helps remove barriers to success by providing youth with positive role models, hands-on learning experiences, and pathways to workforce readiness. Key elements in linking your company to these valuable resources include mentoring, academic achievement, and career development opportunities.

As Title Sponsor, your organization will collaborate with Big Buddy to identify the initiatives that best align with your corporate social responsibility goals, ensuring that your generosity addresses the areas of greatest importance to your company. Your sponsorship will be recognized throughout the year across our programs, including opportunities to display your company logo and demonstrate your commitment to community impact. Additionally, Big Buddy will organize two employee engagement experiences during the calendar year, giving your team the chance to see the results of their support firsthand and connect directly with youth and program participants. This level of engagement provides employees with meaningful interactions that reinforce the social impact of your sponsorship while strengthening your company's community presence.

### Sponsor Benefits

#### YEAR-ROUND VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION

##### EVENT RECOGNITION

- Company representative to dance as a 2026 Star Dancer.
- Company representative will make a check presentation on stage during the event.
- Video of company involvement during event.
- Logo included on all event photos (step and repeat background)
- Table signature acknowledging sponsorship level and company name.

##### BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Logo on school year and summer activity shirt (1,400)
- Level-UP! Scholar named for company (Summer 2026) and receives year-round support and company receives updates on Scholar progress.
- Logo on Corporate Engagement Newsletter (quarterly) for 1 year 2026/2027.
- Logo on all event related invitations for principal participants.
- Optional: distribution of promotional item to event premier-seating attendees.

##### MEDIA AND PROMOTION

- Logo and listing as Title Sponsor in all TV, print and social media advertisement directed by Big Buddy.
- Full-page color ad, front of official program book.
- Media appearance with speaking part for CEO or company representative (TV and radio).
- Logo on sponsor recognition page in the official program book.
- Logo on Dancing for Big Buddy website with company link.

##### HOSPITALITY

- 200 votes for Star Dancer representative or favorite Star Dancer.
- 4 Line-Up Reception Invitations
- 2 VIP Tables at Event (prime location, 10 seats/table)
- Table signage for VIP Table.
- Option to purchase additional VIP table in close proximity to sponsored tables for \$3,000.
- 100 general admission balcony seating tickets.



# Signature Sponsor \$10,000

## BUILD A HEALTHY SUMMER OF LEARNING FOR MORE YOUTH

***Your support keeps 50 youth learning and thriving in safe, structured environments during critical out-of-school hours.***

Youth face a significant risk of academic regression during the summer months, losing roughly two and a half months of math skills and two months of reading skills. These losses are greatest among vulnerable youth, many of whom cannot afford high-quality summer programs. At Big Buddy, 89% of youth served live in households earning less than \$30,000 per year, underscoring the need for accessible academic and enrichment opportunities.

Signature Sponsors help provide afterschool programs, holiday camps, and summer enrichment programs that prevent learning loss, develop life skills, and promote academic achievement. These programs offer safe, structured environments where youth engage in hands-on learning that reinforces classroom concepts, strengthens character, and builds leadership skills.

These programs also support community-wide economic stability, as cumulative summer and afterschool learning loss accounts for nearly two-thirds of the income-based achievement gap by high school, which can affect graduation rates and workforce readiness. Signature Sponsors play a pivotal role in closing this gap and preparing the next generation of Baton Rouge leaders.

## Sponsor Benefits

### YEAR-ROUND VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION

#### EVENT RECOGNITION

- Company representative to dance as a 2026 Star Dancer.
- Company logo will be featured on event screens in the video presentation.
- Company recognized by on-stage personalities.
- Table signature acknowledging sponsorship level and company name.

#### BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Logo on school year and summer activity shirt (1,400)
- Company's promotional items distributed at Summer (2026) Parent Orientation Meeting.
- Feature story in Corporate Engagement Newsletter (distributed quarterly) during the year 2026/2027.
- Optional: distribution of promotional item to premier-seating attendees.

#### MEDIA AND PROMOTION

- Logo and listing as Signature Sponsor in print and social media advertisement directed by Big Buddy.
- Full-page color ad in the official program book.
- Logo on sponsor recognition page in the official program book.
- Logo on Dancing for Big Buddy website with company link.

#### HOSPITALITY

- 100 votes for Star Dancer representative or favorite Star Dancer.
- 2 Line-Up Reception Invitations
- 1 VIP Tables at Event (premier seating, 10 seats/table)
- Table signage for VIP Table.
- Option to purchase additional VIP table in close proximity to sponsored table for \$3,000.
- 50 general admission balcony seating tickets.



# Champion Sponsor \$5,000

## LEVEL-UP! PREPARE YOUTH FOR TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

***Each sponsored youth gains professional mentoring, industry exposure, and the essential skills employers need most.***

Every young person deserves a clear pathway from high school to a successful career. Yet in East Baton Rouge Parish, 31% of high school students do not graduate on time with their ninth-grade cohort, and many who do graduate lack a plan for life after high school. This reality has far-reaching consequences, low graduation rates reduce the available workforce and the community's overall economic output, while also increasing vulnerability to poverty and crime.

The *Level-UP! Mentoring and Workforce Development Program* provides middle and high school youth with the training, mentoring, and experience needed to overcome these barriers. Through an eight-week summer experience, participants receive on-the-job training, essential employability and life skills, career mentoring, and exposure to professional work environments. These opportunities prepare youth to meet the needs of Baton Rouge's evolving workforce and help them develop confidence, purpose, and direction for the future.

Champion Sponsors play a critical role in building a stronger talent pipeline and ensuring that young people graduate on time, career-ready, and equipped to contribute to the economic growth of Baton Rouge.

## Sponsor Benefits

### YEAR-ROUND VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION

#### EVENT RECOGNITION

- Company logo will be featured on event screens in the video presentation.
- Table signature acknowledging sponsorship level and company name.

#### BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Level-UP! Scholar named for company (Summer 2026) and receives year-round support and company receives updates on Scholar progress.
- Logo on Level-UP! summer internship program information for parents and Scholars (i.e. Program Guidelines, Agendas for Onboarding Events, etc.)
- Acknowledgement in Corporate Engagement Newsletter during the year 2026/2027.
- Optional: distribution of promotional item to premier-seating attendees.

#### MEDIA AND PROMOTION

- Logo and listing as Champion Sponsor social media advertisement directed by Big Buddy.
- Half-page color ad in the official program book.
- Logo on sponsor recognition page in the official program book.
- Logo on Dancing for Big Buddy website with company link.

#### HOSPITALITY

- 50 votes for Star Dancer representative or favorite Star Dancer.
- 2 Line-Up Reception Invitations
- 1 VIP Tables at Event (premier seating, 10 seats/table)
- Table signage for VIP Table.
- 25 general admission balcony seating tickets.



# Mission Sponsor \$3,000

**SPONSOR ONE YOUTH. TRANSFORM ONE LIFE.**

***Your sponsorship provides one full year of one-on-one mentoring —  
changing one young life and strengthening the fabric of our community.***

The single most effective way to change the life of a child is through a relationship with a caring adult: mentoring. Research shows that when a young person has a Mentor, their behavior, attitudes, and relationships all improve. Mentoring closes social and economic opportunity gaps, helping youth build confidence, set goals, and make positive life choices that keep them on track for the future.

Through the Mentoring Model, each Mission Sponsor provides one full year of one-on-one mentoring for a middle school youth, pairing them with a trained police officer or college student who serves as a consistent role model and trusted guide. Big Buddy follows the nationally recognized Elements of Effective Mentoring Programs in every step of the process, from recruiting and screening to matching, training, and supporting each mentoring relationship, ensuring that every connection is meaningful and lasting.

Mission Sponsors underwrite Mentor stipends and monthly M&M activities that bring Mentors and Mentees together outside the classroom for community excursions, after-hours events, and holiday break sessions that strengthen the bond and expand each youth's world view. Mentoring remains the core strategy that Big Buddy uses to eliminate the community threats of poverty, crime, and academic failure, one relationship at a time.

## Sponsor Benefits

### YEAR-ROUND VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION

#### EVENT RECOGNITION

- Company logo will be featured on event screens in the video presentation.
- Table signature acknowledging sponsorship level and company name.

#### BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Acknowledgement in Corporate Engagement Newsletter during the year 2026/2027.
- Acknowledgement in Mentor/Mentee Newsletter.
- Optional: distribution of promotional item to premier-seating attendees.

#### MEDIA AND PROMOTION

- Logo and listing as Mission Sponsor social media advertisement directed by Big Buddy.
- Half-page black and white ad in the official program book.
- Logo on sponsor recognition page in the official program book.
- Logo on Dancing for Big Buddy website with company link.

#### HOSPITALITY

- 30 votes for Star Dancer representative or favorite Star Dancer.
- 2 Line-Up Reception Invitations
- 1 VIP Tables at Event (premier seating, 10 seats/table)
- Table signage for VIP Table.
- 10 general admission balcony seating tickets.

# Dancing for Big Buddy 2026 Sponsorship Confirmation

Business/Organization Name

Contact Name

Contact Email

Business/Organization Address

City, State, Zip

Business/Organization Phone Number

Contact Phone Number (direct line or cell)

☐ **YES**, my company/organization will commit to participating in the 2026 Dancing for Big Buddy event on April 25, 2026, at the following level:

☐ **TITLE SPONSOR - \$25,000**

☐ **CHECK BOX TO INDICATE ADDITIONAL TABLE - \$3,000**

☐ **SIGNATURE SPONSOR - \$10,000**

☐ **CHECK BOX TO INDICATE ADDITIONAL TABLE - \$3,000**

☐ **CHAMPION SPONSOR - \$5,000**

☐ **MISSION SPONSOR - \$3,000**

☐ **VIP SEATING - \$250/SEAT #SEATS: \_\_\_\_\_**

Please indicate the name of the Star Dancer that your contribution will support:

*Donation Receipt Instructions:*

☐ Our donation can be expected to be received by February 1, 2026.

☐ Our donation is enclosed.

☐ Indicate here if your company/organization requires an invoice sent to the Company Contact.

Sponsors must include an example of how the name and logo of the organization/business should appear in promotional material by February 1, 2025. Please send the completed forms and information to the Big Buddy at [bigbuddy@bigbuddyporom.org](mailto:bigbuddy@bigbuddyporom.org).

*The Big Buddy Program is a local non-profit youth services agency that provides positive role models and quality learning experiences to over 500 disadvantaged youth daily. For over 45 years, Big Buddy Program has provided children and youth with positive adult role models through the Big Buddy/Little Buddy mentoring programs; after school programs, holiday camps, and summer enrichment programs; and youth workforce development experiences. Big Buddy Program is a legitimate federally certified 501c3 organization. Any donations given are tax deductible to the fullest of the law. For more information, visit [www.bigbuddyprogram.org](http://www.bigbuddyprogram.org). Tax ID: 72-0904506*

Company/Organization Authorized Signature

Title

Date