



# The PLACE where EXCEPTIONAL ADULTS and CHILDREN are EMBRACED

## BUDDY APPLICATION

The goal of the GPC Special Needs Ministry Program is inclusion in the Body of Christ. In an inclusive environment, all children will learn that they are made in the image of God, that God loves them and wants a relationship with them, and that they are loved and supported by the GPC family.

An inclusive environment means providing optional settings and opportunities that help to meet the needs of the children in the PEACE Program. For some children, an inclusive setting may be a self-contained classroom designed specifically to meet their needs. For other children, inclusion may mean attending Sunday school in their regular classroom after being paired with a “buddy.” Inclusion may also include opportunities to join with all children in large group time and music time.

### The Buddy System

A “buddy” may be an adult or teenager who has been trained to assist children in the program who need extra support to be comfortable in their church environment. Buddies serve as “extra hands” in either the self-contained classroom or in the regular classrooms or during group times. The Special Needs Ministry Team (SNMT) will select, train, and assign buddies to assist in settings or to assist a specific child on an as need basis.

### Who can be a “buddy?”

Any adult or teenager (9<sup>th</sup> grade and up) may apply to be a buddy. (application attached) Teens who are not members of GPC will need a written reference from an adult GPC member or minister.

### What is required to serve as a “buddy?”

First, a loving and kind heart is required! Second, a short application and interview must be completed as well as agreeing to a background check. Third, all buddies are required to attend a training session prior to beginning service. Fourth, buddies will be asked to sign a commitment form agreeing that they are committed to serving as a buddy and all it entails.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of GPC?<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

If not, are you a member of a church, and where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of person providing reference (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to serve as a buddy?

What times are you able to serve? Circle all that apply.

8:30 Service    9:30 Sunday School Hour    11:00 Service    Wednesday Nights

Parents Night Out (1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month)

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who are not members of GPC are required to provide one written reference from an adult member of GPC.