

# Be a peer buddy

## PEER BUDDIES

Do you remember what it was like before you went off to school? Exciting? Scary? Didn't know what to expect? You probably worried about leaving old friends behind, traveling alone, and living in a new country. Now just imagine how much scarier it would be if you had never traveled anywhere outside The Bahamas before then, or if you weren't hooked up to friends through Facebook, My Space, or MSN. Pretty lonely. Now that you've been through all that you're in a perfect position to help someone who hasn't, someone who is going abroad to study for the first time and who doesn't know who or what they will meet on the other side.



## WHAT IS A PEER BUDDY?

A Peer Buddy is a Buddy

student or recent student who would be a good role model for a Chance student. A Peer Buddy would typically be doing well in his/her studies and be well-adjusted socially. A Peer Buddy would typically be less than 25 years old and would be paired with one Chance Student of the same sex and similar age and grade level.



## WHAT DOES A PEER BUDDY DO?

A Peer Buddy does what it says: is a buddy or friend of their matched student. A Peer Buddy would take the initiative to check on their Chance Buddy by email, through Facebook, MSN, by telephone, or they may choose to hang out together when possible. The two most important functions of a Peer Buddy are:

1. to keep communications open; and
2. to be there for your friend.

This means checking on your friend from time to time, and trying to help with any problems they may have, or encouraging them to get help or advice. It is important to share similar experiences which could help a Buddy.

time

## DO I HAVE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes, a Peer Buddy is expected to keep a Buddy's business confidential except in two cases:

- 1) if a Buddy gives permission for the information to be repeated; or
- 2) if the Buddy is in trouble and withholding the information could result in causing more harm than good to the Buddy or to someone else. For example, if a Buddy indicates that they intend to use violence, get drunk, do drugs, drop out of school, etc., then a Peer Buddy should do 2 things:
  - a) try to discourage such behaviour
  - b) report this information immediately by email marked "URGENT" to [realchance@mail.com](mailto:realchance@mail.com) or by telephone to 327 7771/2 or 1 716 404 2834 or 1 561 282 6281.

## HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE A PEER BUDDY?



For as long as you want but for at least a year. Just as you would not want to change friends all the time, a Chance Buddy would not want to lose you as a friend too quickly, and hopefully you would feel the same way. Peer Buddies could end up being Buddies for life if you become good friends.

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## HOW COOL IS ALL THIS?

Very cool. By being a friend to someone you could change their life for the better. Instead of having only friends who act out negative behaviour, you could show, by your behaviour, that it is not cool to be drunk or high, or in a gang, or to drop out of school. Just as your options are better than this, your Chance Buddy would understand that by having the same opportunity to go to university, and having positive friendships, their options are the same as yours so they do not have to act out. By being a good Buddy, you could actually save a life!

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- **Making a friend**
- **Being a part of a very cool Buddy Club and networking with tomorrow's leaders**
- **Doing something really good to help someone else**

