



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **Good Friend DVD Highlights Social Interaction with Children with Autism**

**WAUKESHA, WI** — If Good Friend, Inc., co-founders Chelsea Budde (Waukesha) and Denise Schamens (Brookfield) have their way, the term “disability harassment” will have no place in the educational setting. Their non-profit organization is dedicated to creating autism awareness, teaching acceptance, and fostering empathy among typically-developing students for their peers with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Their passion coupled with the professional skills of Dan Kallenberger (Milwaukee) has yielded Good Friend’s cornerstone: a 17-minute DVD production entitled “How Can I Be a Good Friend to Someone with Autism?” The story is one of great compassion and curiosity. A fifth grade student wants to know more about four children at his school with ASDs. Since he has a younger cousin with an ASD, he engages in an instant message dialog with his aunt. She in turn gives him reasons for the behaviors he’s seeing associated with these children and suggestions about how to be a good friend to the students.

“Adults and children alike can watch this video and gain a basic understanding about autism,” Schamens, who plays the aunt in the production, explains. “We’re teaching people to think positively about differences and accept one another in them.”

Schamens reports that the cast hails largely from the founders’ children’s elementary schools, Banting and Heyer in Waukesha. In fact, much of the videography took place in those settings. “This is truly a home-grown project,” she insists. “Chelsea and I are thrilled to represent our local community to the nationwide community affected by autism.”

According to Budde, nearly 150 copies of the innovative DVD have been sold in 14 states across the U.S., expanding the reach of Good Friend’s awareness-acceptance-empathy model. Sales have come from California, New Jersey, and Hawaii, to name some of the more far-ranging states.

Good Friend highly recommends that the video be shown as part of a peer sensitivity workshop. However, for those outside of the Good Friend service range (more than 75 miles from Waukesha) or for non-student groups, the DVD is available for \$52. Members of the organization save 25% off that price. For more information, contact Budde by phone at 414-510-0385, or email [chelsea@goodfriendinc.com](mailto:chelsea@goodfriendinc.com). More information about the organization can be found at [www.goodfriendinc.com](http://www.goodfriendinc.com).

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