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Benihana Rounds Up Loose Change To Support Best Buddies

*Famed Teppanyaki Chain Launches Program to
Help People with Intellectual Disabilities*

MIAMI, Fla. (October 14, 2008) – Benihana and Best Buddies International are making it easy for people to make a difference by launching a “Round Up” program starting October 20 through November 20 at participating Benihana restaurants nationwide.

After enjoying a delicious meal at Benihana, the American leader in Japanese dining, guests can simply round up their check to the amount they’d like to give. Benihana will match guests’ contributions up to \$50,000.

“Our Best Buddies ‘Round Up’ program gives Benihana and our guests the opportunity to help raise funds for a wonderful cause,” said Joel Schwartz, Chairman and CEO of Miami-based Benihana. “Our guests’ small change will help make a big change in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.”

Best Buddies International is the world’s largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing opportunities for friendships and jobs to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Best Buddies envisions a world where people with intellectual disabilities are recognized for their abilities, embraced by society and valued in the workplace.

“Through this wonderful program with Benihana, people can support friendship and assist Best Buddies in motivating young people to volunteer service,” said Anthony Kennedy Shriver, founder and chairman of Best Buddies.

Benihana is famous for bringing Japanese cuisine to mainstream America, with its theatrical performing chefs preparing and serving meals before guests at teppanyaki tables. Benihana also is often credited with popularizing sushi, one of the fastest-growing food trends in America.

For more information about Benihana, please visit www.benihana.com.

About Benihana

Benihana Inc. (NASDAQ GS: BNHN and BNHNA) operates 60 Benihana teppanyaki restaurants, nine Haru restaurants, and twenty-one RA Sushi restaurants. Under development at present are fourteen restaurants: eight Benihana teppanyaki restaurants and six RA Sushi restaurants. In addition, nineteen franchised Benihana teppanyaki restaurants are operating in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.

About Best Buddies International

Founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies is the world's largest nonprofit devoted solely to providing opportunities for one-to-one friendship and integrated employment to people with intellectual disabilities. Our six formal programs – Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies and Jobs – positively impact more than 350,000 individuals annually. Learn more at www.bestbuddies.org.

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