



Bill Walls, the inspiration for Billy's Buddies, with his wife Amy and their twins, Ben and Grace.

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### **Melanoma Foundation of New England**

The Melanoma Foundation of New England is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to provide support for melanoma patients, education for sun-safe behavior, and funds for research.

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National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention  
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Formerly the Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation

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# BILLY'S BUDDIES

SUPPORT FOR MELANOMA PATIENTS

One-on-one support . . .



a new direction for melanoma patients  
and their caregivers

## The Challenge of Billy's Buddies

Founded in 2006, Billy's Buddies exists to help melanoma patients and their caregivers who are faced with uphill challenges and unmarked paths. While much needs to be done to prevent this disease, there is clearly an immediate need for patient and caregiver support. Billy's Buddies focuses on providing a wide range of support services so that those struggling with this illness will have the energy, advice, and direction they need to fight this disease.



**Dealing with melanoma can be overwhelming. With the guidance and support of Billy's Buddies, there is no need to go it alone.**

### Our Inspiration

Throughout his short but vibrant life, Bill Walls was everybody's buddy — with a love for the outdoors, an infectious smile, and brilliant eyes, Bill's kindness was remarkable. Despite a fierce struggle with melanoma, Bill kept his spirits high, his faith deep, and his buddies close. His trust in and compassion for others created a network of buddies that was there for Bill in his darkest days. Bill's family, friends, co-workers, and the strangers he had touched, scheduled appointments, tracked down medical records, researched clinical trials, and provided care for his 18-month old twins.



Bill Walls

Such incredible support left Bill and his wife, Amy, feeling empowered to face each day with courage and confidence. This young and loving couple with so much support and so many resources often wondered how others, without buddies, would find the strength to fight. On a wintry night just weeks before he died, a normally passive Bill clearly and passionately expressed his wish for others affected by melanoma to always have a buddy.

### What Our Buddies Do

Through one-on-one connections with trained and compassionate volunteers, Billy's Buddies provides newly diagnosed melanoma patients, their families, and their caregivers a Buddy to help navigate the medical system, cope with diagnosis and treatment, carry on with daily life, and enjoy rest and renewal.

### Buddy Basics

With an individually assigned Buddy, the services provided reflect each melanoma patient's needs and circumstances including but not limited to:

- **Resource Management**  
Gather and interpret information on treatment options, educational services, clinical trials, and support groups
- **Patient Advocacy and Support**  
Provide treatment management including listening, note-taking, and questions during medical visits.
- **Daily Living Support**  
Assist with daily needs such as organizing meals, childcare, household chores, and paperwork
- **Respite and Renewal**  
Organizing social activities, including complimentary therapies, get-a-ways, and the like

### Getting a Buddy

Based on individual needs and circumstances, Billy's Buddies will identify and introduce you to your Buddy. Please call 800-557-6352 or visit our web site at [www.melanomafoundationne.org](http://www.melanomafoundationne.org) to begin the process.

### Be a Buddy or Back a Buddy

We can never have too many Buddies! If you are interested in becoming a Buddy or in making a donation to support the services provided by Billy's Buddies, please contact the Massachusetts Melanoma Foundation at 800-557-6352 or visit our web site at [www.melanomafoundationne.org](http://www.melanomafoundationne.org).

*Billy's Buddies — so everybody who needs a buddy gets a buddy.*

