

PROGRAM GUIDE

5784 | 2023-2024



A community for families of children with special needs providing social, educational, recreational & Judaic opportunities.

A place where teen volunteers are enriched and empowered to become tomorrow's leaders and advocates.



The Friendship Circle's unique approach brings together teenage volunteers and children with special needs for hours of fun and friendship. These shared experiences empower the children, our special friends, while enriching the lives of everyone involved. Our special friends blossom and gain the confidence they need to make the most of their abilities and talents. Their parents and siblings receive much-needed respite and support from the Friendship Circle community. Their teen volunteers learn the priceless value of giving, the curative power of friendship, and the vital importance of integrating children with special needs into our communities.

The Friendship Circle links volunteers, children, parents, staff and supporters in a seamless circle of friendship that makes miracles happen every day. Friendship Circle of Bergen County is a place where everyone can truly be themselves.



**WHERE I
CAN BE ME!**

FC CONNECT

As a volunteer you are the core of the Friendship Circle. To keep everybody connected and in touch, we need you to log your volunteering hours. The FCconnect website and app makes it easy for you to communicate with us. For each activity recorded in FCconnect, you will accumulate “Friendship Points” that you can redeem for a variety of awesome gifts. If you earn 2500 Friendship Points or more, you will receive the Friendship Circle Special Needs Fellowship Award.

www.BCFriendship.com/connect

Points you earn for volunteering can be used to purchase cool prizes on our website and will be used at an auction at our Volunteer Celebration at the end of the year!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS



New volunteers are required to attend an orientation seminar with a parent before beginning to volunteer. This will help acquaint them with the responsibilities and privileges of volunteering. It will also help the volunteer choose the program that is the best fit for them. These orientations are held approximately once a month.

DATES: Sundays

TIME: 10:30am

October 22

LOCATION: Yeshivat Heatid

November 26

1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck

December 24

February 11

March 17

M.V.P.

After terrific feedback from the schools, we will continue to bring the Mitzvah Volunteer Program to local day schools and Hebrew schools to give even more students the chance to participate. Geared especially for 6th graders, the MVP is an interactive workshop that focuses on special needs awareness, inclusion, sensitivity and kindness. It will also include a hands-on chessed project. This highly educational and engaging program is a great way to prepare our incoming volunteers for their valuable role at FC programs.

*Students can begin to volunteer at select FC programs after completing the MVP.

*To arrange to bring this program to a school, please email Zeesy@BCFriendship.com or call our office at **201-262-7172***

One general session for students who cannot take the course with their schools:

DATE: Sunday, November 19

TIME: 7:00-8:30pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat Heatid
1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION - FCVC

Join us for an evening celebrating YOU, our dedicated teenage volunteer. Enjoy a wonderful buffet, glean some inspiration, and receive your well-deserved end of year gift!

Volunteer parents and grandparents, as well as Friendship Circle moms and dads, are invited to join us for FCVC.

DATE: Monday, May 20

TIME: 6:00pm

LOCATION: Lubavitch on the Palisades 11 Harold St., Tenafly



HEBREW SCHOOL



The mission of the Friendship Circle Hebrew School is to provide a Hebrew and Judaic education for children with special needs. Teachers focus on engaging the child's sense of Jewish identity through exciting, hands-on learning.

Children with special needs, ages three through twenty-one will develop a sense of Jewish pride and identity as they learn the value of our priceless heritage.

DATES: Sundays

TIME: 9:30am – 12:30pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat Heatid, 1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck

SUNDAY CIRCLE

Friendship Circle offers monthly Sunday programs with a focus on FUN!

Children enjoy interactive music class, crafts, art, animal shows and much more! Every month is something new and exciting! Volunteers are on hand to help cater the experience to each child's individual needs. Pizza lunch is served.



DATES: Sundays

October 29

November 26

December 17

January 14

March 17

May 19

TIME:

12:30 – 2:00pm

LOCATION:

Yeshivat Heatid

1500 Queen Anne Rd.

Teaneck



Girls ages 3+
Boys ages 3-12

CHALLAH BAKING CLUB

In honor of her Bat Mitzvah, join Moussia Szokovski for a full Challah Baking experience while bonding with other Jewish girls and doing this special mitzvah. The program will include Challah baking step by step from scratch! Challahs will then be sold and the proceeds will benefit the Friendship Circle.

DATES:

October 17
November 28
January 2
February 13
April 4
May 7

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION: TBD

FOR Girls ages 8+

FRIENDS AT HOME

Every week, pairs of teenage volunteers visit participating children in their homes, offering friendship and sharing activities. While the child is happily being entertained, the families enjoy a regular respite.

200
Friendship
Points

*Friends at Home visits can be arranged to accommodate a wide variety of schedules. Please call our office to make arrangements at **201-262-7172***



FOR

Volunteers
7th grade
and up

CAMPS

An experience that will last a lifetime...

At the Friendship Circle camp, children who have special needs can have their school breaks transformed into an exciting camp experience. The fun-filled camps feature a variety of activities, games and sports, and field trips. Of course, our dedicated volunteers will be there to assist the children one-on-one, giving them an incredible experience. It's a time where children and volunteers build great friendships that they cherish and remember for a lifetime.

300

Friendship
Points
per day

WINTER CAMP

FOR Ages 3-16

DATES: Tuesday, December 26 – Friday, December 29

TIME: 10:00am – 2:00pm
(Friday dismissal at 12:30pm)

LOCATION: The Frisch School, 120 W. Century Rd., Paramus

END OF SUMMER CAMP

FOR Ages 3-12

DATES: Monday, August 19 – Friday, August 23

TIME: 10:00am – 2:00pm

LOCATION: TBD



ELEANOR GREENWALD BIRTHDAY CLUB

Enjoy a visit from Friendship Circle volunteers equipped with complete party supplies for a celebration in your home! Our volunteers and staff will make it a birthday that your child will always remember.

100
Friendship
Points

SKATING CLUB

The Friendship Circle is once again teaming up with the Frisch Ice Hockey Team to provide a fabulous skating program for kids and teens with special needs. Everyone enjoys time together on the rink, practicing and polishing their skills with the assistance of their very capable volunteers.

150
Friendship
Points

DATE: Sunday, November 12 **TIME:** 4:45pm

LOCATION: Mackay Skating Rink, Englewood

YEDIDAINU

On days when the children have vacation, Friendship Circle will be coordinating programs in various local schools. This great mini-camp experience will keep your child happily entertained!

300
Friendship
Points

FOR Ages 3-12

DATE: Thursday, November 8

TIME: 10:00am – 1:00pm

LOCATION: Lubavitch on the Palisades, 11 Harold St., Tenafly

DATE: Friday, November 9

TIME: 9:30am – 12:30pm

LOCATION: Yavneh Academy
155 N. Farview Ave., Paramus

TEEN SCENE

The Teen Scene meets EVERY week, giving teens ages 13-21 the chance to get together for innovative social programming. Teens look forward to these great opportunities to hang out with other teens and have FUN. All programs are attended by high school volunteers who also serve as mentors to model appropriate social behavior.

200
Friendship
Points



FOR Ages 13-21

TIME: 5:30 – 7:00pm

LOCATION: The Frisch School 120 W. Century Rd., Paramus

FC ADULT

In conjunction with J-ADD, the non-profit agency that provides residential care for Jewish adults with special needs, the Friendship Circle offers monthly Jewish-themed social experiences for adults. These much-loved programs offer dinner, creative activities and much camaraderie.



For more info, please reach out to
zeesy@bcfriendship.com

FAMILY PHOTO DAY

Sign up to take family photos outdoors in the park with a professional photographer. The beautiful fall foliage will surely enhance your gorgeous pictures! Each family receives several digital images to use as they wish.

DATE: Sunday, November 19

TIME: 11:00am – 2:00pm

LOCATION: Crestwood Park, 33 W. Crescent Ave., Allendale

To reserve a slot or for more info, email Zeesy@BCFriendship.com

GRANDPARENT GROUP

Grandparenting a child with special needs is a challenge without a script. It can be filled with moments of pride along with sadness, anxiety, and loneliness. This past year, Friendship Circle embarked on a new initiative by hosting a support group for “special grandparents.” Topics included the process of discovering your grandchild has a special need, navigating the many challenges that face you, and the importance of communication. The group also enjoyed a session with an estate-planning attorney, devoted to financial concerns. The FC will continue these sessions both in person and virtually to accommodate a wider audience around the country.

For more info, reach out to Zeesy@BCFriendship.com

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Experience the magic of the Jewish calendar with refreshments, crafts, games and unique entertainment. Jewish Holiday Programs at the Friendship Circle are full of excitement and hands-on fun. These are the times when the Friendship Circle families and volunteers get together to enjoy the holidays and celebrate our heritage.

300
Friendship
Points

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

DATE: Saturday Night, December 9

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: TBD



PURIM PARTY

DATE: Sunday, March 24

TIME: 10:00am

LOCATION: TBD

MODEL MATZAH BAKERY

DATE: Sunday, April 14

TIME: 11:30am

LOCATION: Yeshivat Heatid
1500 Queen Anne Rd.
Teaneck



(NJ) Friendship WALK

Going the extra mile for a special child!!

Join us for a morning of family fun and community solidarity as we walk hand in hand to benefit an organization that brings joy, cheer, and respite to children with special needs and their families. Whether you sign on as a walker, donor, or both, your participation will help bring laughter and hope to some truly special children.

www.NJFriendshipWalk.com

DATE: Sunday, September 10

TIME: 10:00am Registration, 10:30 WALK, 11:00 Celebration!!

LOCATION: Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School

1650 Palisade Ave. Teaneck

SAVE THE DATE:

NJFRIENDSHIP WALK 2024

Sunday, September 15





PARENT EVENTS

Join us for special events dedicated to the noble moms of the Friendship Circle, giving them an enjoyable and rejuvenating break. These well attended programs are thoroughly enjoyed by all! We have created an opportunity for Moms to unwind, relax, and pamper themselves.



MOMS' NIGHTS OUT

DATES:

Thursday, November 16

Sunday, February 11

Tuesday, May 14

Monday, July 15

COUPLES' NIGHT OUT

Join other parents and enjoy a night out with Friendship Circle. This will surely be a great way for parents to meet and network.

DATE: Saturday, January 13

TIME: 8:00pm

CHAI-A-THON

The Chai-a-Thon is an annual event that helps raise vital funds for the Friendship Circle summer programs! Make Calls, Reach Out, Have Fun!

DATES: Sunday March 31 — Sunday April 1

FRIENDSHIP DONATIONS

More and more individuals are taking advantage of donation opportunities that let others know they are being remembered. Donations small and large are made for all sorts of reasons – speedy recovery, in memory of a loved one, sorry to hear of your loss, congratulations, etc. Acknowledgment of your donation is always sent to the person or family for whom the donation was made. It's a nice way to connect with others and always warms the recipient. It's really quite simple!

Visit www.BCFriendship.com/donate and fill out the necessary information.

Easy as 1,2,3!





LEGACY SOCIETY

Legacy gifts build lasting, significant support and reinforce the Jewish community on a local level where it is needed most. This is your moment to make a difference. Join with us through the loving act of planned giving and ensure a strong and vibrant future for children with special needs and their families. This gift truly endures.

www.BCFriendship.com/legacy



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**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



FCBergenCounty

All dates and programs are subject to change