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FriendshipCircle
of Bergen County

Program Guide

5787 • 2026-2027







The Friendship Circle is a welcoming community for children and young adults of all abilities and their families. We provide social, recreational, educational, and Jewish experiences that build friendships, create lasting memories, and foster inclusion.

Our mission is to support children and families while inspiring teen volunteers to become compassionate leaders through the power of friendship. Together, our participants, families, volunteers, staff, and supporters create a strong and caring Circle of Friendship.

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.

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

100 Friendship Points

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. If you do not see a date that can work for you, please reach out to the Friendship Circle office for accommodations.



DATES: Sundays

October 11
November 8
December 20
January 17
February 21
March 14
May 9

TIME: 10:30am

LOCATION: Yeshivat Heatid Cafeteria
1500 Queen Anne Rd.
Teaneck

M.V.P.

After receiving wonderful feedback from local schools, we are excited to continue bringing our Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP) to day schools and Hebrew schools, giving even more students the opportunity to participate.

Designed especially for 6th graders, this interactive workshop teaches special needs awareness, inclusion, kindness, and sensitivity through engaging activities and a hands-on chesed project. It also serves as a meaningful introduction for students who will become future Friendship Circle volunteers, preparing them for their important role in our programs.

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

→ For 6th graders

To arrange to bring this program to a school or for a private group (minimum 15 students), please email Zeesy@BCFriendship.com or call our office at 201-262-7172

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!

DATE: Tuesday, May 18

TIME: 6:30pm

LOCATION:
Young Israel of Teaneck
868 Perry Lane
Teaneck



Friends at Home

200 Friendship Points

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.

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

→ This program is for volunteers 7th grade and up.



Eleanor Greenwald Birthday Club

100 Friendship Points

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.

Reach out to Zeesy@bcfriendship.com to schedule a party!!

Pen Pal Program

100 Friendship Points

You've got mail!! What a thrill for a child to come home and find an envelope addressed especially to them in the pile of family mail! You can sign up to be a pen pal and we will assign you a child who will be thrilled to receive mail from you a couple times a month. This is a very manageable commitment and comes with the knowledge that you are brightening a child's day via the USPS!

PEN PALS
DELIVERING SMILES

For more info, reach out to Esther@bcfriendship.com

Camps

300 Friendship Points PER DAY

An experience that will last a lifetime...

Friendship Circle Camps give children with diverse abilities the opportunity to enjoy an exciting and memorable camp experience during school breaks. Each day is filled with fun activities, sports, games, arts and crafts, and special outings in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Our dedicated teen volunteers provide one-on-one friendship and support, helping every camper feel confident, included, and engaged. Camp is a great way for kids to use their school breaks in a constructive way in a safe environment.



WINTER CAMP

→ For ages 3-16

DATES: Monday-Thursday
December 28-31

TIME: 10:00am-2:00pm

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



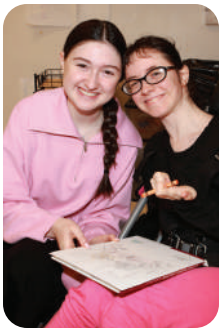
END OF SUMMER CAMP

→ For ages 3-12

DATES: Monday-Thursday
August 23-26

TIME: 10:00am-2:00pm

LOCATION: TBD



Hebrew School

200 Friendship Points PER HOUR

Friendship Circle Hebrew School provides a meaningful and engaging Jewish education for children and teens with diverse abilities. Through hands-on learning and individualized instruction, students build a strong connection to Jewish traditions, values, and holidays in a welcoming and supportive environment. Children and young adults, ages 3–21, develop a lasting sense of Jewish pride, identity, and belonging while discovering the richness of our heritage.

DATES: Sundays **TIME:** 9:30am-12:30pm

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

Volunteer opportunity from 11:15am-12:30pm.

Email Zeesy@bcfriendship.com for more info

Monthly Sunday Special

300 Friendship Points

Friendship Circle hosts monthly Sunday programs focused on FUN! Children enjoy interactive music classes, arts and crafts, creative projects, animal shows, and more—with something new each month. Volunteers are available to support each child's individual needs and help create a positive experience.

Pizza lunch is served.

→ For girls ages 3+ and boys ages 3-12

DATES: Sundays

November 15	February 7	May 9
December 20	March 14	
January 17	April 11 *(Pre Pesach Family Celebration)*	

TIME: 12:30-2:00pm

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

Father-Son Minyan



Our Father Son Minyan gives boys the opportunity to build the confidence and skills they need to feel successful in a shul setting. Throughout the year, they learn how to lead different parts of davening, receive guidance and encouragement, and enjoy special moments to shine as chazzanim, baalei tefillah, and leaders. Sharing these meaningful experiences alongside their fathers creates lasting memories while fostering a lifelong connection to Tefillah and synagogue life.

DATES: November 15, February 7, May 16

TIME: 9:30am

LOCATION: Yeshivat He'Atid, Middle School Beit Knesset



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!

→ For ages 3-12

DATE: Thursday, November 5

TIME: 9:30am-12:30pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat Noam
70 W. Century Rd., Paramus

DATE: Friday, November 6

TIME: 9:30am-12:30pm

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

DATE: Thursday, December 24

TIME: 10:00am-1:00pm

LOCATION: Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School 1650 Palisade Ave., Teaneck

DATE: Monday, January 18

TIME: TBD **LOCATION:** TBD

DATE: Monday, March 9

TIME: 9:30am-12:30pm

LOCATION: Tenafly Chabad Academy 11 Harold St., Tenafly



Skating Club

150 Friendship Points



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.

DATE: Sunday, November 15

TIME: 5:45pm

LOCATION: Mackay Skating Rink, Englewood



Bowling League

200 Friendship Points

Strike up a good time at the FC Bowling Event!

Children and teens are invited to join us for a morning of bowling, fun, and friendly competition as they aim for strikes and high scores. Whether you're a seasoned bowler or just coming for the fun, everyone is welcome! Parents and siblings are invited to bowl along, too!

→ For ages 5-21

DATE: Sunday, November 22

TIME: 10:00am-11:30am

LOCATION: Bowler City, 85 Midtown Bridge St., Hackensack

Holiday Programs

300 Friendship Points

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.

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

DATE: Monday, September 28

TIME: 4:30pm

LOCATION:
Congregation Beth Tefillah
452 Forest Ave., Paramus

CHANUKAH EXTRAVAGANZA

DATE: Motzei Shabbat, December 5

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION:
Young Israel of Teaneck
868 Perry Lane, Teaneck

PURIM FAMILY PARTY

DATE: Tuesday, March 23

TIME: 4:30pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat He'Atid, 1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck

PRE-PESACH MODEL MATZAH BAKERY

DATE: Sunday, April 11

TIME: 12:30-2:00pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat He'Atid, 1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck



Side by Side - Girls

Side by Side is a group just for middle school girls who have a sibling with special needs. It's a fun and chill space to hang out, share stories, and meet others who really get what it's like. Come make friends, laugh, and learn ways to handle the tough stuff together!

➜ For girls in grades 6-9

DATES: Thursday, November 19 & Thursday, February 4

TIME: 6:30pm

Side by Side - Boys



Side by Side is a new group just for middle school boys who have a sibling with special needs. It's a fun, relaxed space to hang out, connect, and meet other boys who really get what it's like. Come make friends, have a good time, share experiences, and learn ways to handle the tough stuff together!

➜ For boys in grades 6-9

DATE: Wednesday, February 10

TIME: 6:30pm

Kids' Night Out, Parents' Night Out

Motzei Shabbos Together



Saturday nights are for everyone! While your child enjoys an evening packed with games, activities, friends, and the caring volunteers of Friendship Circle, you can enjoy a few well-deserved hours to yourself. Whether it's dinner out, running errands or simply relaxing, this program offers parents a chance to recharge while their children have an unforgettable Motzei Shabbos filled with fun, friendship, and smiles.

DATE: TBD **TIME:** 7:00-9:00pm

LOCATION: Yeshivat He'Atid 1500 Queen Anne Rd., Teaneck

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. Friendship Circle hosts a peer group for “special grandparents.” Join us for some thought provoking discussion and delicious refreshments in a warm and supportive environment.

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

DATE: Sunday, November 22
TIME: 11:00am

DATE: Wednesday, June 16
TIME: 6:30pm

Family End-of-Year Celebration

300 Friendship Points

Get together with other FC families and celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. The kids will have a ball and parents get to relax and network in a fun and safe environment.

DATE: Sunday, June 6

TIME: 11:00am

LOCATION:
Bowler City,
Hackensack





Teen Scene

200 Friendship Points

The Teen Scene meets twice a month on Wednesday, giving teens ages 12-21 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.

→ For ages 12-21

TIME: 5:00-6:30pm

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

Girls' Night Out

NEW!

Saturday nights are better with friends! Join us for Girls Night Out, a fun and welcoming program for girls ages 16+ to relax, laugh, and make meaningful connections. From cozy hangouts and creative activities, each Motzei Shabbos is a chance to unwind, build friendships, and create lasting memories together. Come as you are—we can't wait to spend the evening with you! (In the spring, the get togethers will shift to Sunday evenings.)

→ For ages 16+

DATES:

Saturday Nights

November 14	December 26	February 13
November 28	January 9	February 27
December 19	January 16	March 13

Sunday Nights

April 4	May 16	June 13

TIME: 7:30pm

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 refreshments, creative activities and much camaraderie.

J-ADD
Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities

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

Moms' Nights Out



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 best of all, to meet each other and network.

DATES:
Tuesday, October 27
Wednesday, December 16
Tuesday, March 9
Monday, July 12

TIME: 7:30pm



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 16

TIME: 8:30pm

Dads' Night Out

A relaxed evening for fathers of kids with special needs to connect, share, and unwind. No pressure—just support, conversation, and community with those who get it.

DATE: Monday, May 10

TIME: 7:00pm

PARTNER

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 6

TIME: 10:00am Registration, 10:45 WALK, 11:00 Celebration!!

LOCATION: Votee Park, Teaneck

→ SAVE THE DATE:

NJ Friendship Walk 2027 • Sunday, September 19









Friendship Giving Challenge



Double the Impact. Change a Life.

For 36 hours only, your gift to Friendship Circle will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling your impact and helping create meaningful friendships for individuals with special needs.

Throughout the campaign, dedicated teen volunteers will be making phone calls to spread the word, raise awareness, and inspire support. Their passion and energy reflect the heart of Friendship Circle: connection, compassion, and community.

DATES: Sunday, December 13 – Monday, December 14

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 28 & Sunday, April 4

PARTNER

Friendship Donations

More and more people are choosing to make meaningful donations that let others know they are being thought of. Whether it's in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, wishing someone a speedy recovery, offering condolences, or celebrating a milestone, every gift makes an impact.

A personalized acknowledgment is sent to the individual or family you designate, letting them know a donation was made in their honor. It's a thoughtful way to connect with others while supporting Friendship Circle.

Making a tribute donation is simple.

Visit **www.BCFriendship.com/donate,** complete the donation form, and we'll take care of the rest.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!





Legacy Society

A legacy gift is a meaningful way to ensure that Friendship Circle will continue enriching the lives of children with special needs and their families for generations to come.

Through the thoughtful act of planned giving, you can create a lasting impact, strengthen our local Jewish community, and help build a future filled with friendship, inclusion, and support.

Your legacy is more than a gift. It is a commitment that will continue to make a difference for years to come.

www.BCFriendship.com/legacy


BROOKLYN



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Follow us on Social Media

FCBergenCounty

All dates and programs are subject to change