

# FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE *of* FAIRFIELD COUNTY

[www.FriendshipCT.com](http://www.FriendshipCT.com)



*A Project of Chabad Lubavitch of Western and Southern New England*

## PROGRAM GUIDE

2012-2013  
5772-5773

# PROGRAMS



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## Need To Reach Us?

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# OUR VISION

Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Friendship Circle!

Whether you are one of the many special people already involved in The Friendship Circle or a newcomer, we invite you to take a look at the wonderful programs we have planned for this year.

At The Friendship Circle, we extend a loving hand of friendship to children with special needs and their families. We work to create a warm and accepting environment and form relationships that last a lifetime. Our network of more than 350 teen and adult volunteers helps us offer a full range of social and Judaic programs for children, teens, and adults.

If you or someone you know might benefit from our programs, please do not hesitate to call us.

Like a circle, with no beginning or end, at The Friendship Circle everyone benefits. Our teen volunteers, through active involvement with their special friends, become empowered, enriched, and profoundly transformed.

If you are a teen, we invite you to join our ever-growing group of volunteers. You will have a chance to make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

If you are a community member who would like to volunteer, or just want to learn more about what we do, we would love to hear from you, too.

Together we can make a world of difference.

We dedicate this publication to the one who is the inspiration behind everything we do, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory.

*Sincerely,*

The Friendship Circle Staff



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## The Friendship Walk 2012

[www.FriendshipWalkCT.com](http://www.FriendshipWalkCT.com)

**Sunday, September 23**

Westhill High School Track, 125 Roxbury Road, Stamford

### **WALK WITH YOUR FEET AND HELP WITH YOUR HEART!**

Register as a Walker, a Donor -or both.

This fall the Friendship Circle will be hosting an exciting day of events on the beautiful grounds of Westhill High School, Stamford. In addition to the 1 mile walk on the Westhill track, there will also be exciting entertainment, activities and delicious food.

Join us for a day of family fun and community solidarity as we walk hand in hand in support of children with special needs and their families.

**Registration - 10:00 AM**

**Walk begins - 11:00 AM**

**Festivities -12:00 PM**



## Community Awareness Event

**Thursday, October 18**

At Chabad of Westport Jspace, 79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport

**Sunday, November 4**

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

**This program is open to the community.**

Have you ever met someone with special needs and wonder how they feel? What is the right thing to say? Or do?

Our hope is that this evening will give people a better understanding of the challenges that so many among us face each and every day, in the hope of fostering a community that is even more sensitive and accepting.

Mr. Richard Bernstein is a trial attorney, practicing law in Michigan State and Federal courts, with The Sam Bernstein Law Firm in Michigan. He is a nationally recognized advocate for disabled rights, providing a voice to those who would otherwise be forced to be silent. He is blind from birth. In his spare time, Richard is an avid runner, completing 17 marathons – including seven New York City marathons – the Ironman triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 2008 and the Israman triathlon in Eilat, Israel in 2011.





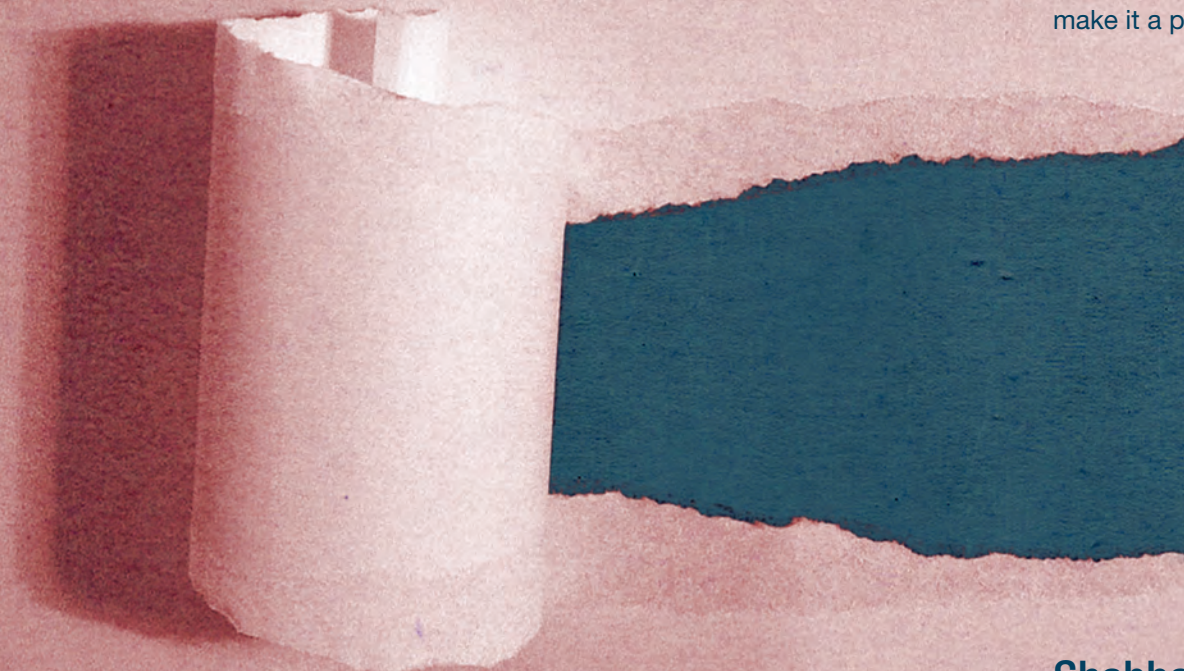
## Friends At Home

Bringing Friendship Where It's Needed Most...AT HOME

Friends At Home is the core of our program. Every week, pairs of teenage volunteers visit children in their homes, offering friendship and sharing activities. These teens are trained for their valuable role as a friend and mentor.

## Birthday Club

Celebrate your Jewish birthday with the Friendship Circle. Call us and we will arrange everything from the friends to the cake. We'll make it a party you will always remember.



## Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Everyone deserves to celebrate his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah surrounded by family and friends. Friendship Circle can help create an individualized program for your child.

## Shabbat Dinners

The magic of the Friendship Circle happens through wonderful relationships that are created between the families of the volunteers and their friends. You are invited to join us for a beautiful Shabbat dinner in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

Shabbat Dinners for Friendship Circle Parents:  
**November 16, December 7**





# CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Children's Circle takes place on 15 Sundays throughout the year. Parents leave their child in the hands of qualified professionals and loving volunteers. In addition to Jewish content, the children and their friends enjoy various activities including music, art, cooking, and sports.

For Children (Ages: 4 - 19): 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

For Volunteers: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center  
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

<b>Children's Circle Dates:</b>	<b>October 14, 28</b>	<b>March 3, 17</b>
	<b>November 11</b>	<b>April 14, 28</b>
	<b>December 2, 9</b>	<b>May 5, 19</b>
	<b>January 13, 27</b>	<b>June 2</b>
	<b>February 10</b>	

# WINTER CAMP

During winter break, The Friendship Circle conducts Winter Camp for four fun – filled days of trips and activities, including swimming and gym. Each child has a special friend to accompany him or her throughout the day's activities.

Ages 5 – 11

**December 24 - 27**

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center  
770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

# TEEN SCENE

Teen Scene gives teens with special needs the opportunity to participate in many social and educational programs together with teen volunteers.

## Teen Circle

Teen Circle takes place on Sundays at the same time and dates as Children's Circle. In addition to Jewish content, the teens and their Friendship Circle friends enjoy "Music IQ," cooking, and sports.

## Bowling League

Teens meet on Sunday mornings for an hour of socializing and great bowling.

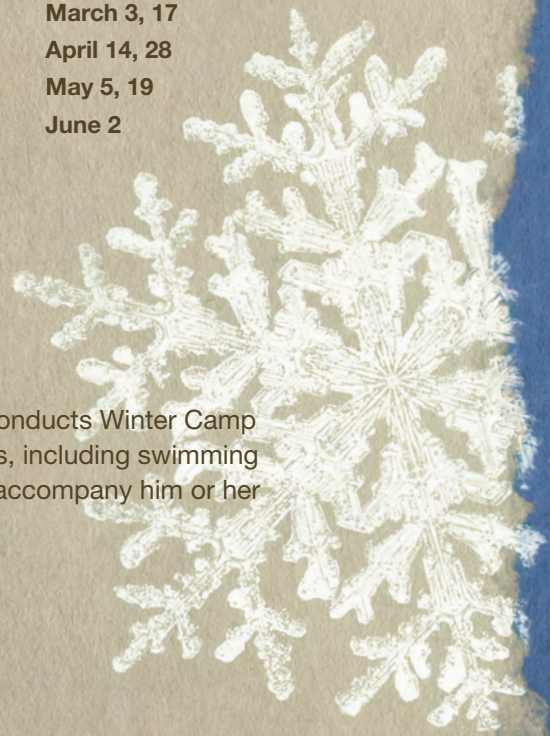
**April 7, 21**

**June 9, 16**

## Life Skills Trips

Exciting Life Skills Trips will provide practical hands – on learning for day – to – day living. Life skills trips will take place on the following dates as part of the Teen Circle program.

**November 11, January 13, March 3, May 19**





# THE VOLUNTEER CLUB

The Volunteer Club provides the Friendship Circle volunteers with a wide range of activities including outings, Friday night dinners, training sessions, and more. This is a great opportunity for our volunteers to get to know each other and share experiences.

## VOLUNTEER KICK OFF

**Sunday, September 9**

At Fun For Kids, 370 West Main Street, Stamford

Training led by: Alisa Rohdie, Behavior Analyst

7:00 – 9:00 PM

## VOLUNTEER DINNER IN THE SUKKAH

**Sunday, September 30**

At the Shmotkin's Home, 15 Francis, Stamford

Training led by: Mrs. Pegah Schiffman, FC Parent

6:15 PM

## PUMP IT UP FOR PURIM

**Saturday, February 9**

At Pump It Up, 145 Main Street, Norwalk

Training led by: Melissa Kahn, Occupational Therapist

7:45 – 9:45 PM

## LOAVES OF LOVE MARATHON

**Sunday, March 3**

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

9:30 – 11:30 AM

## END OF YEAR VOLUNTEER EVENT

**Sunday, May 5**

At Abby & Jillian Katz's home

35 Stone Fence Lane, Stamford

7:00 – 9:00 PM

## COFFEE BREAK

A casual get together for girls twice a month. We meet at a local coffee shop for an informal discussion with Mushky Lifshitz on a relevant Jewish topic.

Chairs: Amber Kitay & Lily Schacht

## VOLUNTEERS GO THE EXTRA MILE MILEAGE PROGRAM

The mileage program is a web – based tool where volunteers log their friendship visits, and communicate with staff.

Access the mileage program through our website:

[www.FriendshipCT.com](http://www.FriendshipCT.com)

# HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

The holiday programs unite the entire family in celebration with innovative activities in a comfortable setting bringing the warmth and joyous experiences of the holidays to the children and their families.

## CHANUKAH HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Tuesday, December 11**

5:00 - 7:00 PM

At Stepping Stones Museum, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk

## PRE-PURIM HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Tuesday, February 19**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

At Sportime USA, 380 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY

## PRE-PESACH HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Sunday, March 17**

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## PRE-SHAVUOT HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Sunday, May 12**

11:00 – 12:30 PM

At The Lob's Home, 250 Butternut Lane, Stamford

# MITZVAH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Mitzvah Volunteer Program gives Bnai Mitzvah age children the opportunity to take part in the friendship Circle activities as well as to get extensive training in how to work with children with special needs and best help them face their challenges. This program is designed to teach young teens the importance of giving to others as they enter adulthood.

**Sundays:** January 6, January 13, January 20, January 27

## Mitzvah Volunteer Award Ceremony

**Sunday, April 21**

7:30 – 8:30 PM



# SPECIAL EVENTS:

## KID'S NIGHT

Drop off your children for a special night of activities, food and fun! This unique program will give your children a chance to bond while enjoying great activities in a safe environment. It will also give you and your spouse a chance to enjoy a worry-free night out.

**Saturday, December 1**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## GRANDPARENT'S DAY

See what your grandchild experiences at The Friendship Circle and meet other Friendship Circle grandparents.

**Sunday, April 14**

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

## FRIENDSHIP ZONE

Friendship Zone is an after school program for children with special needs. Ailene Tisser, MA PT, will facilitate this program.

This program includes:

- Kosher Creative Cooking teaches basic kitchen skills while showing the fun in creating Jewish traditional foods
- Sports provides the opportunity to participate in athletic activities.

**Mondays:** March 4, 11, 18

4:30 – 6:00 PM

At The Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford

# TEENAGE VOLUNTEER BOARD

The Friendship Circle presidents – each a teen leader in his or her own Fairfield County high school – and board members hold planning and assessment meetings once a month at 7:30 PM.

## BOARD FOR 2012/2013

**Sam Baden**, President of Solomon Schechter

**Leora Bell**, Board Member

**Emma Caplan**, President of Weston & Westport

**Tamar Cohen**, President of SAR

**Stephanie Felder**, President of Ramaz

**Simon Handler**, Board Member

**Ross Lang**, President of Westhill

**Julie Piskin**, Board Member

**Veronica Shclover**, President of Stamford High

**Adam Tisser**, President of AITE



# ALUMNI EVENTS

A cherished part of The Friendship Circle is our volunteers. Their dedication and love is what creates the “magic” and brings countless smiles to the faces of our children. In turn, the experience of volunteering is a transformative one for them as well. These various events during their college break offer past volunteers the opportunity to take part in the Friendship Circle’s programs and reconnect with their friends.

# RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

Each year the Friendship Circle serves over 100 children and families with special needs. While many of Friendship Circle programs are volunteer driven, it takes extensive management time and supervision to deliver high quality programs and activities for children ages 1 – 18.

If you would like to make a contribution or sponsor a program, please call Rabbi Chezy Deren at (203) 329 – 0015 or email [RabbiChezy@FriendshipCT.com](mailto:RabbiChezy@FriendshipCT.com)

# TEENAGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A newly designed program for teens wanting to learn about the administrative and financial aspects of an organization, and most importantly an opportunity to get involved in philanthropy. This committee will develop and execute strategies to raise funds for the Friendship Circle’s work.

**Even Berkovitz**

**Ali Brickman**

**Joan Fanwick**

**Nicole Frederick**

**Hannah Freund**

**Adam Genn**

**Yoni Israel**

**Sally Klapper**

**Adam Lee**

**Karen Lob**

**Eli Schildkraut**

**Amanda Weisel**

**Adam Welkovich**





**Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch**  
**The Friendship Circle**  
770 High Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06905

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Stamford, CT

The Friendship Circle is affiliated with:

**Chabad of Fairfield**  
36 Wynn Wood Drive  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
(203) 373 – 1118

**Chabad of New Canaan**  
69 Forest Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 972-7708

**Chabad of Stamford**  
770 High Ridge Road  
Stamford, CT 06905  
(203) 329 – 0015

**Chabad of Greenwich**  
75 Mason Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
(203) 661 – 2200

**Chabad of Ridgefield**  
18 Lilac Lane  
Danbury, CT 06810  
(203) 748 – 4421

**Chabad of Westport**  
**JSpaceChabad**  
**Community Center**  
20 Ketchum Street  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 226 – 8584

