

“ All of this support and programming, all of the fun, friendship and assistance we get from Philly Friendship Circle is free to us and the rest of the community. Given the additional costs of raising kids with special needs, this is so helpful to us. With your help, Philly Friendship Circle will continue to offer and expand their programs, and we will continue to feel blessed beyond measure to be a part of this amazing community. ”

—FC MOM



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Friendship Effect is almost indescribable, but everyone who has been to a Philly Friendship Circle event knows the feeling. It is the feeling of being genuinely accepted, supported, and included. The feeling of a place where all abilities are celebrated and the only rules are “be yourself and have fun.”

This year, hundreds of youth, teens, parents, and community members benefited from this feeling, thanks to your generosity. Your act of tzedukah is revolutionary to families in our community, giving their children meaningful opportunities for genuine connection with other youth, a place to celebrate their Jewish heritage, and a model for what it means to be a good friend.

Thank you for helping spread friendship and inclusion to all members of our community.

Jaime Gordon, *President*



**year
in
review**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019**

CREATING INCLUSIVE FRIENDSHIPS: ALLY & SOPHIE

ALLY AND SOPHIE have been dedicated members of FC and friends for many years. While their communication styles differ, they share a genuine understanding of one another.

"FC continues to teach me that communication comes in a variety of forms, and talking is just one of the many. Despite our differences, Ally and I have been able to establish a valuable connection, and that opens my eyes to the possibilities of other friendships."

—SOPHIE



"I learned that I have a lot to teach people about different ways of communicating. I like being able to play with Sophie because she is trying to understand me and that is what friendship is all about."

—ALLY

FOR THE PAST

11
YEARS



FC has been organizing an accessible **BIRTHRIGHT TRIP** with a focus on inclusion for youth with special needs



TO DATE

274

youth have traveled to **ISRAEL** through this program

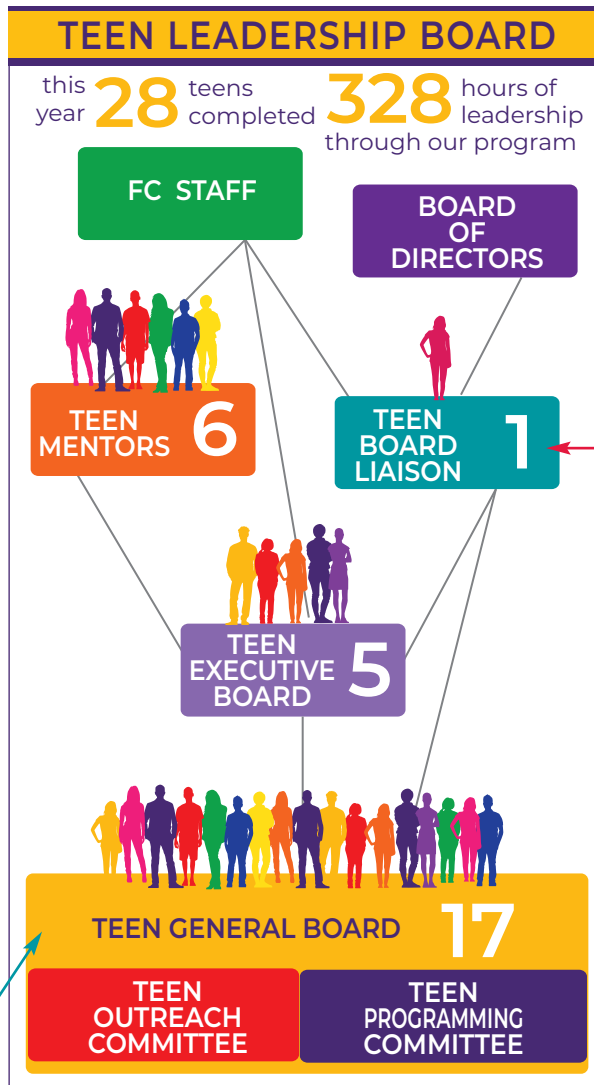
CREATING AN INCLUSIVE WORLD: SHARING THE MAGIC

Did you know there are over 80 Friendship Circles around the globe? Although each are independent from one another, we share the same vision of a more inclusive community and world.

Philly Friendship Circle is one of the older FC's and is proud to serve as a resource to help others create more genuine, inclusive friendships. This year, our Co-Founder Chani Baram traveled nationally to FC Bergen County and FC Central Jersey and internationally to FC Jerusalem to share best practices, ideas, and help problem-solve. Even when she is busy in Philly, Chani serves as co-chair of FC International and regularly mentors Friendship Circles around the globe!

CREATING INCLUSIVE LEADERS: THE FUTURE IS FRIENDLY

Building a more compassionate, inclusive world starts in our community. That's why our leadership program offers our teens and young adults an opportunity to see 'behind the scenes' of FC to understand what makes a program and organization successful. Through meaningful experiences such as chairing events and running meetings, our youth learn valuable leadership skills of delegation, communication, and teamwork with a focus on inclusion for all. By empowering our youth to live their values, FC is ensuring that the next generation of Jewish leadership is caring, compassionate, and inclusive.



“ I have been impressed with what my daughter has learned from her involvement in the leadership program. She saw how an organization has to work within its community to accomplish its mission. I suspect she has learned more in her role as Teen Board Liaison, than many might in a college summer internship program.”

—FC MOM

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

are presented to teens and young adults who demonstrate outstanding commitment

55 THIS YEAR

31 last year



received the Platinum Fellowship Award for completing 120+ hours of friendship!

“ My involvement with FC has taught me what it means to be a friend and a community member. As part of leadership, I find myself more engaged in the community and aware of the workings behind it. Being on the Teen Board has shown me that my voice matters and that I can make an impact. It has inspired me to take on more challenges and try to improve other areas of my community.”

— FC TEEN



this year we offered:

22
Sunday Circle
Programs
On average,
73
youth
attended
each Sunday

568
hours of
Friends@Home

5
courses
of our
Mitzvah
Volunteer
Program, with
26
middle school
graduates

14 which engaged **1,312**
community events community members

“FC was the first place that demonstrated to me that everyone’s special qualities can be brought out and celebrated when they feel accepted and included. In an inclusive environment where the pressure of outside expectations fades away, you have the freedom to explore your strengths.”

—FC TEEN



“My boys faces light up when they talk about their friends. They want to go to teach session because otherwise they will miss hanging out with them. These friendships are deep and real and special.”

—FC MOM



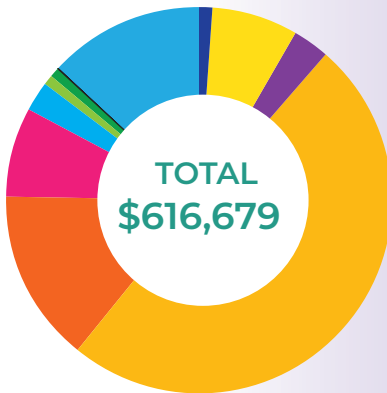
CREATING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: YOUR IMPACT

167
DONORS
increased their gift

85
adult volunteers
donated
their time

YOUR SUPPORT
HELPED CREATE
4,832
hours of
friendship

REVENUE

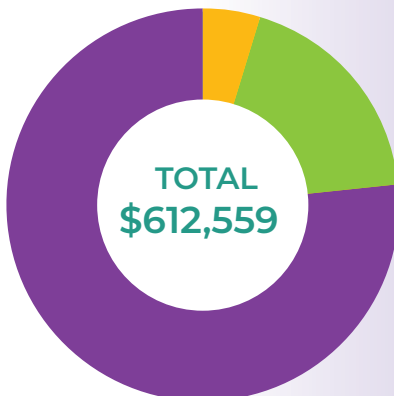


- 1.3% Chai \$8,178
- 7.1% End of Year \$43,637
- 3% Endurance Events (marathon, etc.) \$18,600
- 49.6% Gala \$305,580
- 14.4% General \$88,514
- 7.6% Grants \$47,000
- 2.4% Legacy Gifts \$15,000
- .8% Matching Gifts \$4,800
- .8% Other income (sales, etc.) \$4,895
- .1% United Way \$875
- 12.9% Walk \$79,600



“Being involved has been a wonderful way for us to feel a part of something much larger than us, and unquestionably supportive... I don't know how we would have made it through the past 15+ years without FC!”
—FC DAD

EXPENSES



- 4.9% Development & Fundraising \$30,090
- 18.5% Administration \$113,729
- 76.6% Programming \$468,740



“I feel that FC's message and mission is really bringing the community together when we are so divided in so many ways. I think it's really, really important for our children to understand to be accepting, patient, and respectful of others and FC teaches this. At a time when we are so divided and people are so judgemental and hostile, FC is a model for our greater community.”

—FC DONOR



“At a time when our daughter is struggling with friendships at school, FC provides her a place where she feels confident and happy. I know you appreciate the time and effort she puts forth at FC but we appreciate what FC gives back to her even more so.” —FC MOM


SUPPORT US...

- Join our Chai Club and donate monthly
- Donate for a loved one:
 - In honor of
 - In memory of
- Support FC when you shop online:
 - AmazonSmile – Choose Friendship Circle Philadelphia Region, Inc
 - Goodshop – Choose Philly Friendship Circle.
- Consider establishing a legacy gift
- Inquire about:
 - Endowment and naming opportunities
 - Corporate matches
 - Stock donations
 - United Way Donations (44542)
 - Sponsorship of an event

STAFF:

-  **Chani Baram**
Co-Founder
-  **Zev Baram**
Executive Director and Co-Founder
-  **Cait Gilmartin**
Lead Behavioral Consultant
-  **Alexa Hinds**
Development and Executive Coordinator
-  **Jess Shapiro**
Program and Curriculum Coordinator
-  **Shachar Watemberg**
Director of Operations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Rebecca Cohen
 - Jaime Gordon
 - Tracy Gordon
 - Howard Levin
 - Jonathan Seltzer
 - Lena Armstrong (*Teen Board Liaison*)
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MISSION & VISION:


Based on the bedrock foundation of "love your fellow as yourself."

The Friendship Circle provides organized physical and social structures to support inclusive friendships, connections, respite, and fulfillment for youth with special needs, young adult volunteers, their respective families and the Jewish community at large.

Through fun and interactive experiences, these relationships bring a sense of joy and meaning to the Friendship Circle community and beyond.

PO Box 25067, Philadelphia, PA 19147 • phillyfriendship.com • (215) 574-1765

Founded by Lubavitch House. Friendship Circle Philadelphia Region is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Serving Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware Counties.

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