

F R I E N D S H I P C I R C L E

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
**IMPACT
REPORT
2025**





THIS IS YOUR IMPACT.

What you're looking at is a peek into the incredible impact you've had on the lives of thousands of individuals with special needs, individuals experiencing isolation, and their families in 2025.



Whether it's a piece of artwork sold, a volunteer finding purpose, an adult receiving their first paycheck, a child feeling true belonging, a teen or adult gaining strength in mental health support, or a participant's first experience at overnight camp, these moments and so many others are made possible because of you.



Our mission to see every single person for their infinite value is rooted in the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory, and we are blessed that you share this vision.

As you read the significant achievements of our programs and participants, I hope you see yourself in these pages and are reminded of what you've made possible.

Thank you for bringing friendship and community to those who need it most. It's an honor to partner with you.

Please contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss this report further!

With appreciation,

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“I watched children with all different abilities celebrated together in a space that accommodates everyone’s needs. A space where no child felt out of place and where every child belonged. For the first time, I could see our daughter’s future. Meaning, purpose, and relationships will be essential to her happiness, and I know she’ll find these things at Friendship Circle.”

“For the first time, I could see our daughter’s future.”





FETTER CHILDREN AND TEEN DIVISION

Every child and teen with special needs deserves the opportunity for friendship, fun, exploration, joy, and connection. This year, we dedicated the **Fetter Children and Teen Division** in honor of the Fetter Family, which offers engaging experiences that blend play, sports, movement, art, and creative exploration.

From dynamic Sunday and after-school programs held in our **Ferber Kaufman LifeTown, Bauer Activity Wing, Elkus Village, and Elkus Gym** at our **Meer Center** to exciting teen field trips, every activity is designed to foster friendship, confidence, and joy. Our goal through every interaction between teen volunteers and participants during our programs is to create an environment where every child feels valued, celebrated, and inspired to be themselves.



PROGRAMS

- **Efshar Circle**
- **Sunday Circle**
- **Sports & Rec**
- **Teen Trips**
- **Seasonal Camps**
- **Transitions Together**
- **Friendship Free Play**
- **Stay & Play Days**
- **Life & Social Skills**
- **Teens Together**
- **Movement & Arts**



DAYS OF PROGRAMMING

New Programs



Movement & Arts

The Movement & Arts program offers an opportunity for expression through painting, dancing, storytelling, and improv.



Stay & Play Days

Stay & Play Days invites our families to connect and unwind together during school breaks with access to our sensory rooms, crafts, and indoor park at the **Elkus Village**.

“ We put her in soccer, but the other kids couldn’t understand why she was slower and couldn’t follow their conversations. We searched everywhere for programs that could give her friendship, physical activity, belonging, and a connection to her Jewish identity. That’s when we found Friendship Circle. ”

- Nathan, Parent of Participant

I DREAMED ABOUT MY SON HAVING A FRIEND

Before Friendship Circle, I used to dream of things most parents take for granted.

I dreamed of my son Jacob having meaningful friendships with other children. I dreamed of him experiencing the simple childhood joys most families take for granted. I dreamed of the day he might feel like he belonged somewhere.

When you're the parent of a child with special needs, your world feels so small. So limited. We were drowning in therapy sessions and IEP meetings. Jacob was always doing things alone because he couldn't handle being with peers.

Then we found Friendship Circle.

I'll never forget the first day we walked in. The hallways were filled with laughter and the happy chaos of kids everywhere with their buddies. Then, we went downstairs to the Elkus Village, a magical miniature world with its own bank, pet shop, and movie theater. Jacob looked up at me with wide eyes and whispered:

"I never want to leave." I whispered back, "Me too, buddy, me too."

Five years later, that little boy who couldn't be around other children, who struggled with the simplest social interactions, who lived in his own isolated world?

He comes home from Sunday Circle bubbling with excitement about K-pop songs I've never heard of, music his teen buddies introduced him to. Music that connects him to a world of typical twelve-year-olds that once seemed impossibly out of reach.

He sits in the backseat of our car, and as we approach home, I watch in the rear view mirror as he carefully zips up his backpack, gathering his things without being asked. This small gesture of independence brings tears to my eyes. At Friendship Circle, he's learning everyday tasks that once seemed impossible.

Now, my son, who once couldn't bear to be separated from us, looks me in the eye and says, "Mom, I want to go to overnight camp." He's ready to be a part of the world around him.

Because of you and your generosity, this extraordinary organization exists.

A place where our children practice being in the world while surrounded by people who truly see them. A place where teen volunteers learn compassion that will shape their futures. A place where parents like me can finally exhale and think: "It's going to be okay."

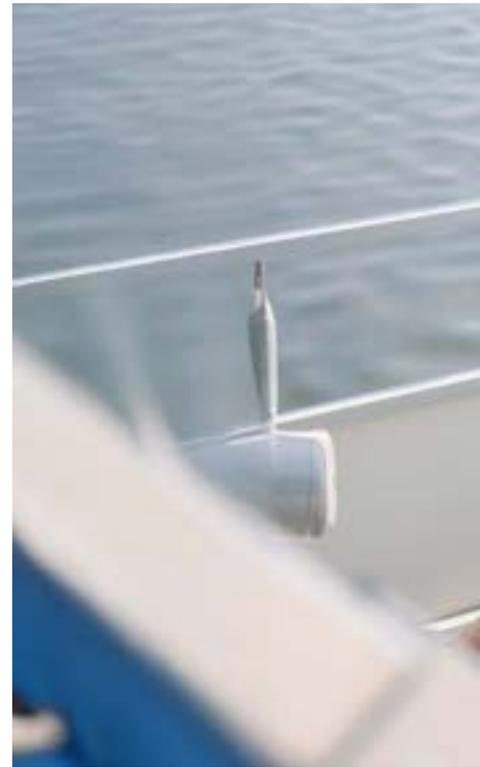
"I never want to leave." I whispered back, "Me too, buddy, me too."

FETTER CHILDREN AND TEEN DIVISION CONTINUED

RUBIN FAMILY SUMMER CAMP

Our Summer Day Camp was a magical space for friendship, exploration, and unconditional acceptance. From science experiments to dance parties, laser tag to circus arts, pickleball to cookie decorating, every activity was tailored for every ability level, and our fully accessible splash pad provided the perfect way to cool off with friends.

Our Summer Overnight Camp returned to the barrier-free North Star Reach facility for two sold-out week-long sessions. Campers built confidence and independence through swimming, canoeing, kayaking, arts & crafts, and outdoor play. Special highlights included a visit from the Putnam County Fire Department, magic shows, musical performances, campfires, and the beloved end-of-camp talent show, where every camper performed.



141  **42 ADULTS**
99 CHILDREN
PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Because of your generosity and ongoing support, we can keep program tuition affordable. To ensure every child can participate in the magic of summer camp, we never turn families away because of financial constraints. One of the ways this is possible is through the Shay Ziff Sends a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in memory of Shay Ziff, whose joy for Friendship Circle Summer Camp continues to inspire us.



WE'RE GROWING! 10 ADDITIONAL CAMPER JOINED EACH WEEK!



Catalina and Claudia are eight-year-old identical twins. They're nonverbal and have Angelman syndrome. If you read the medical notes, it sounds terrible. But when you look at them, you see the happiest little girls.

The twins refuse to wear anything besides Friendship Circle shirts. When we turn left at the traffic light, they point to turn right because they know that's where Friendship Circle is.

These girls are nonverbal, but they can communicate so well that this is their happiest place.

They love the Sunday Circle, social skills, and music therapy, but Summer Camp, that's their Super Bowl! And this organization is our world.



- Crystal Attisha, Catalina and Claudia's Mom

LESSONS FOR LIFE

Lessons for Life is held in the 10,000-square-foot, true-to-life and newly dedicated **Elkus Village**, where thousands of children and adults with special needs from across Southeast Michigan develop life skills that empower them to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. The curriculum includes lessons like making smart choices, asking questions, calmly solving problems, keeping track of your money, and exploring job opportunities.

For many students, Lessons for Life is their first experience independently navigating social and practical situations, such as shopping, visiting a doctor, or applying for a job.



New in 2025

Park Expansion

We doubled the size of the Elkus Village with the addition of an indoor park.

Hands-on Learning

We've incorporated new hands-on learning, including a salon sensory experience and an animal science station at the pet shop.

2,876
STUDENTS VISITED THE VILLAGE IN 2025



“Where do I even begin? I don't think I can put into words how much Lessons for Life has impacted the students in our elementary school. They have grown leaps and bounds in life skills.



I witnessed our students navigate challenging situations through the calmly solving problems lesson. They navigated the bank being closed, being given an incorrect amount of money, or being given less than their 10 minutes on the bike rental, and they stayed calm, figured out a plan B, and advocated for themselves. These invaluable skills acquired from the village were put to the test when we took a field trip to a real-life store in the community, and each of them was able to generalize those skills and thrive!



- Nicola McDonald, Special Education Teacher

THANKS

We thank the Fannie Kraft Foundation for their very generous support of our programs.

FROM 72 ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE, & HIGH SCHOOLS



THE MASK CAME OFF

“One of our new participants is a 15-year-old boy with autism. He was struggling socially and was self-conscious to the point of hiding his face with a hood and wearing a mask. His mom was hopeful that our Lessons for Life program could help.

He was very slow to warm up at first and was reluctant to interact.

Unlike some of the other participants in the program, he knew how to handle money, follow traffic lights, and perform essential life skills.

We discovered he really loved the café and learning how to make drinks, smoothies, and snacks, so we moved him up to the job curriculum portion of the Lessons for Life program. We did a practice interview, and he was “hired” as the café barista for the rest of the social skills program.

He was so reliable and consistent that, at some point in the season, we didn’t need a volunteer with him!

You’d see him making smoothies, bagels, and taking orders from his peers. He was there, wearing an apron behind the counter, fully engaged as a café worker.

The café shifts really got him out of his shell for the first time in his life. The hood started coming off, and so did the mask. He became more social and confident, even beginning to play with the other teenagers.

He finally understood that he deserved to be seen. And that if he showed us who he was, we would celebrate and appreciate him exactly as he was.”

“The café shifts really got him out of his shell for the first time in his life. The hood started coming off, and so did the mask. He became more social and confident, even beginning to play with the other teenagers.”

SOUL STUDIO

The Soul Studio Art Program, held in the **Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation Soul Studio** in our **Farber Center**, gives adults with special needs the opportunity to unleash their talents, creativity, and unique perspectives in works of art that are displayed and sold in exhibitions both within and outside our **Soul Gallery**, which is dedicated in **Memory of Burton and Gerry Rissman**.

Our assisted studio means each artist learns from professional art instructors and volunteers to explore and master dozens of artistic mediums. We nurture the creative spirit and unique strengths and capabilities within each individual.

This treasured haven is where over a hundred adults with special needs become working artists and where they find meaning, community, and a chance to contribute their G-d-given talents to the world. Every sale tells our artists: you matter, what you create matters, and others value and celebrate your unique voice.



SOUL STUDIO SNAPSHOT

50 UNIQUE WORKSHOPS

105 UNIQUE ARTISTS

274 ART WORKSHOP SESSIONS

1,938-

2025 ART EXHIBITIONS:

Internal Exhibitions:

- Animals, Animals, Animals

- The Michigan Show

- Worlds Beyond

- The Holiday Market

External Exhibitions:

- Our Town Art Show & Sale
Birmingham, Michigan

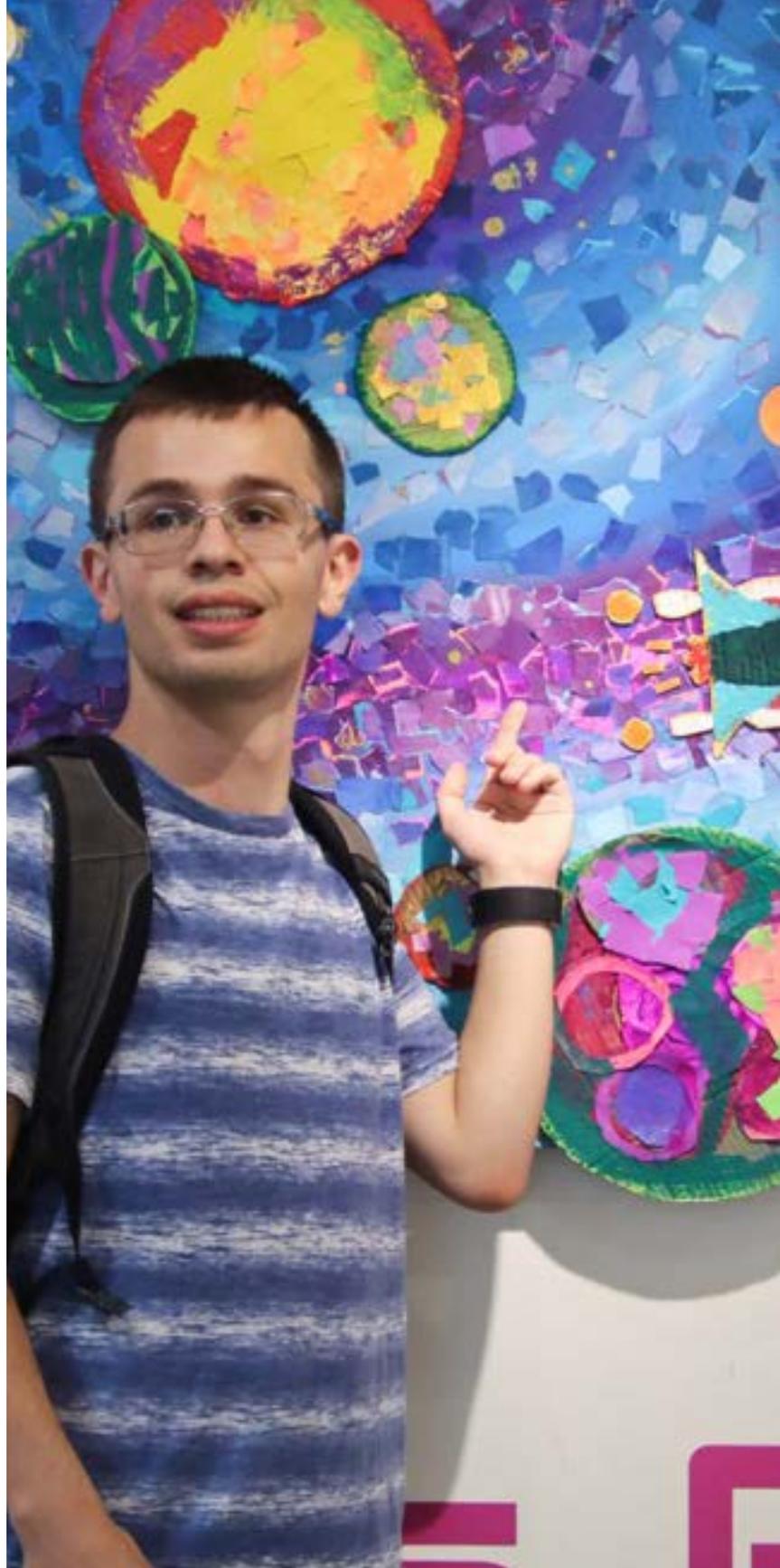
- "LOOK EVERYWHERE" Exhibition
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Mod Market's Autism Acceptance
Art Show
Novi, Michigan

- In This Together: Joy & Interdepen-
dence in Disability Culture Exhibition
Ann Arbor, Michigan

- The Michigan Developmental
Disabilities Council's Breaking Barriers
Art Show
Lansing, Michigan

- Community Group Art Exhibition
Detroit, Michigan



ART PIECES SOLD

THANKS

We are grateful to the Marvin and Betty Danto Foundation for their generous support of the Soul Studio Art Program.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Friendship Circle's Vocational Programs empower adults with special needs to succeed and thrive in the workforce. Through hands-on training at Soul Café and Dakota Bakery, participants build workplace and social skills, confidence, and independence in a supportive environment.

While centered on the food industry, the programs teach universal skills, including communication, professionalism, hygiene, time management, and more, to prepare participants for meaningful employment and community involvement.



DAKOTA BAKERY SNAPSHOT

2,500 CHALLAHS
SOLD EVERY
WEEK

22,930 CUSTOMERS
SERVED

31 LOCATIONS OUR
PRODUCTS ARE SOLD



SOUL CAFÉ SNAPSHOT

143 EVENTS
CATERED

46,649 CUSTOMERS
SERVED

32 EVENTS HELD IN THE
JOSEPH AND FRANCES
FETTER BANQUET HALL



**35 TRAINEES
10 NEW TRAINEES
IN 2025!**

**29%
GROWTH**



New in 2025

Visual Cards

We've created new visual support cards to help trainees navigate kitchen tasks helping participants achieve greater independence.

Dakota Bakery

Partnered with Lipari to begin selling Dakota challah nationwide and developed a new line of pastries at Plum Market and Nino Salvaggio.

Soul Café

Became the University of Michigan's preferred Kosher Caterer.

Dakota Bakery
Voted Best
Challah by
Hour Detroit

Soul Café 2025
Top-Rated
Restaurant by
OpenTable

Thanks to the generous support of The Chandler Foundation, Steven and Katie Jacob, Joyce and Stuart Robbins, and the Robbins Family Fund, our vocational programs were enhanced this year and will continue to grow into the future.



ABIGAIL'S TIP JAR IS OVERFLOWING

“Although she’s nonverbal, Abigail’s a natural at interacting with customers! “I like working with my co-workers at Dakota Bakery and contact with customers,” Abigail says, using her text-to-speech app that helps bridge communication.

Abigail’s mom shares that one of the most meaningful developments has been Abigail’s growth in customer interaction. “Working with customers, she never did that before. So that’s a big plus. She has a tendency not to look straight ahead because of her autism, and now she’s learning how to have better eye contact.”

At the counter, Abigail often uses a whiteboard to communicate with customers. “I like that they understand me,” Abigail says.

When Abigail is at the front counter, the tip jar starts overflowing. You can tell people are so happy to be served by her!

”



WRITING, SIGNING, AND TEXTING ACROSS THE KITCHEN

Theodore Bednarc is deaf, and in a busy commercial kitchen like Soul Café, that creates a unique challenge. There's constant verbal communication in a kitchen. Instructions and warnings are called out across the room, like "Behind you!" or "Sharp!" when someone's moving with a hot pan or knife.

We knew it would be an interesting challenge, and we were excited to accommodate him. And something beautiful happened almost immediately.

The other trainees and café staff started learning how to communicate with him. There's some verbalization, but mostly it's writing, signing, gestures, texting across the kitchen when it's too loud or too fast for anything else. They take the time to slow down and connect.

Theodore is becoming more active and engaged, finding his own ways to ensure his coworkers know he's there and has their back.

It's been powerful to watch Theodore and his coworkers grow closer, not just despite the communication differences, but because they had to get creative, pay attention, and truly see each other.



THE DR. STANLEY AND LENORE DORFMAN
COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAM

LIFE SKILLS

Our adult program, Life Skills, launched this year as part of our **Dorfman Community Inclusion Program**. We thank **Dr. Stanley and Lenore Dorfman** for their vision and generosity, which made this program possible.

This program is reaching participants who may not be ready for employment but are eager to grow. They're preparing snacks, practicing social skills, learning to ride the bus, manage money, and communicate more confidently.

It also offers respite and peace of mind for families knowing their adult child is safe, growing, and surrounded by community.

For participants with lower support needs, Life Skills creates a space to explore real-life challenges in a supportive environment as they learn to self-advocate and step into the role of mentors, sharing strategies, encouraging peers, and helping others.

“It teaches about life in a fun way. As a person with autism, that's important to me. My favorite part was the love the instructors had for us.”

- Olivia, Participant



Skills our adults are learning and mastering:

- Goal Setting
- Communication Skills
- Personal Hygiene & Health
- Basic Cooking & Kitchen Safety
- Money Management
- Community Awareness & Safety
- Technology & Digital Safety
- Social Skills & Relationship Building
- Time Management & Organization



A BRIGHTER, MORE FULFILLING FUTURE

“The Life Skills Program had a profound impact on both George’s and my life. In a short time, the program provided George with confidence, joy, and a new sense of independence. The amazing staff recognize George’s capabilities and strive to help him reach his full potential. The hands-on instruction in daily living, communication, and social skills helped him develop new skills that improved his daily life in and out of the house. Because of Life Skills, George has a more purposeful day, and he continues to make progress in his independence and confidence. Thanks to LifeSkills, I can now see a brighter, more fulfilling future for George, one where he feels confident, independent, and valued in his community. Simply put, it has been life-changing for us.”

- Julie, George’s Mom

MORRIE AND SYBIL FENKELL VOLUNTEER CLUB

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Our adult volunteer community offers individuals nearing or in retirement opportunities to make a positive impact on the special needs community through the **Dr. Stanley and Lenore Dorfman Connect and Contribute Program**.

Weekly classes, monthly courses, holiday parties, and Shabbat dinners, give volunteers renewed purpose and fulfillment. Volunteers find new friends, gain a warm community, and the Jewish education offered greatly enhances their spiritual growth.

In addition to our adult volunteers who volunteer throughout the year, we also built special relationships with corporations that volunteered, including Meijer, Logicalis, Penske, Vibe Credit Union, and many more.

ADULT VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

250 ADULT VOLUNTEERS

30 NEW VOLUNTEERS

20,000+ HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING



“Volunteering at Friendship Circle has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Watching kids laugh, feel free to be themselves, and grow in confidence is so inspiring. Through fostering inclusion, we help them build bright futures filled with possibilities. Every child I’ve met has a hidden talent and something truly special about them, and seeing that shine is an incredible gift.”

- Roy Muldrow

MORRIE AND SYBIL FENKELL VOLUNTEER CLUB

TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Our teen volunteer program pairs teens one-on-one with peers with special needs during our Fetter Children and Teen Division programs, creating life-changing friendships for everyone involved. Teens discover that there's more to life than what somebody can accumulate or accomplish, and see firsthand the value in being who they are and finding their place in the world.

These one-on-one connections provide teens with valuable life skills and experiences they cannot find anywhere else, shaping how they view themselves, others, and their role in the community.

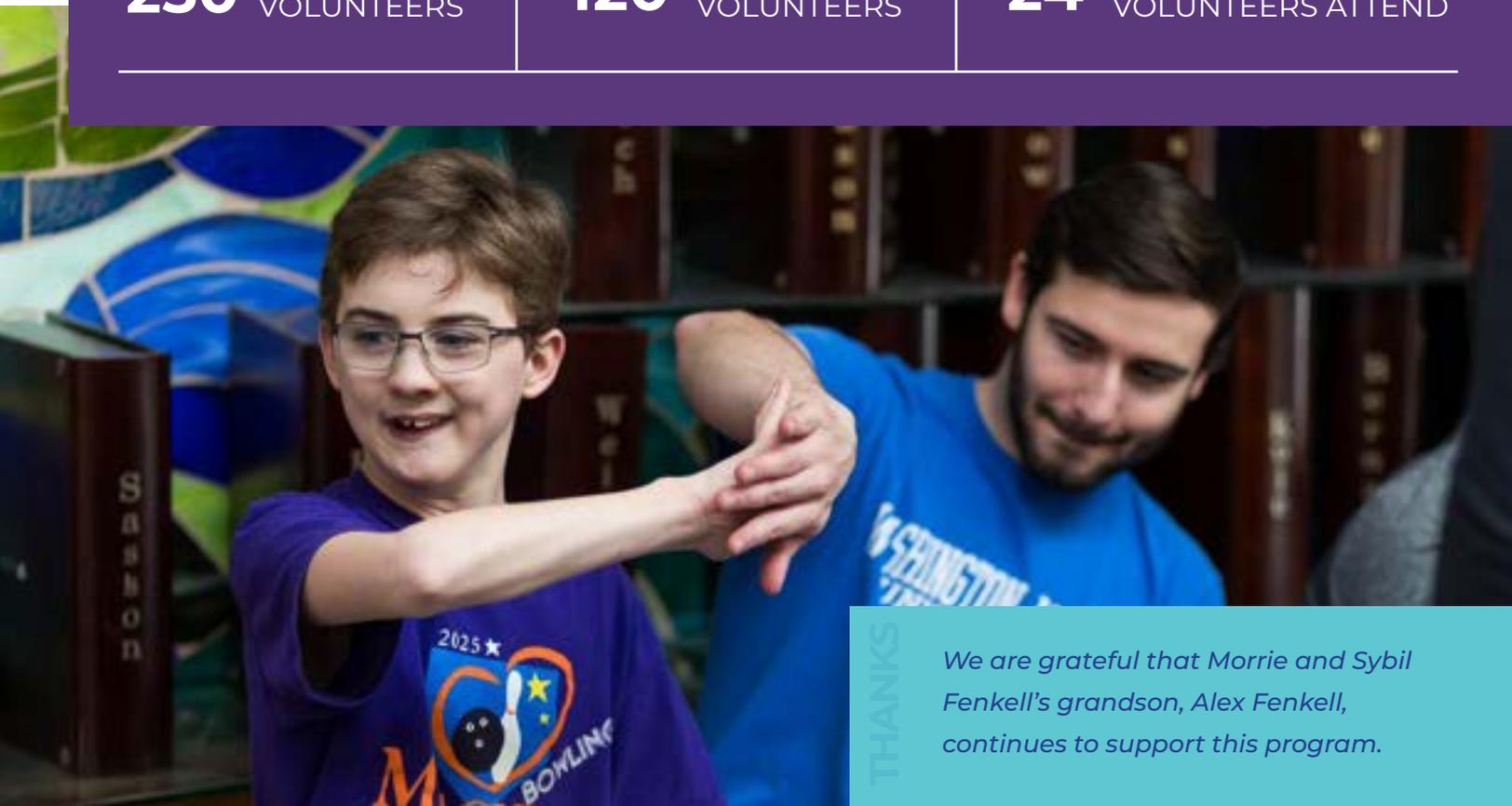
Teens volunteer at Sunday Circle, Teen Trips, Sports & Rec, Friendship Free Play, Life & Social Skills, Movement & Arts, Stay & Play Days, Thanksgiving Camp, Winter Camp, and the Rubin Family Summer Camp.

TEEN VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

250 TEEN VOLUNTEERS

120 NEW VOLUNTEERS

24 SCHOOLS TEEN VOLUNTEERS ATTEND



THANKS

We are grateful that Morrie and Sybil Fenkell's grandson, Alex Fenkell, continues to support this program.

DANIEL B. SOBEL FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

The Daniel B. Sobel Friendship House is the flagship program on which Friendship Circle was founded in 1994. It was established through a generous gift from **Sam and Carole Sobel** in loving memory of their son, Danny, of blessed memory. This year, the program assisted over 200 individuals experiencing isolation, and we strengthened our existing programs while expanding our reach. We had the beautiful opportunity to take a group to the Jewish Recovery Retreat in Boca Raton, Florida, where members experienced deep camaraderie, healthy recovery, and warmth.



Throughout the year, we also hosted enriching Shabbat dinners, delivered food packages to those who are isolated, provided intervention support and guidance, and offered one-on-one support and friendship. Our own 12-step meetings flourished, with some doubling in size.

THANKS

We thank Todd and Jacqueline Rones and the International Therapist Fund for their generous support of the Friendship House programs.



Newest Programs

"It's Not a Glum Lot" series offered a fun and supportive environment for individuals in recovery to enjoy sports games in a sober setting, including a memorable Super Bowl party.

We started a Wednesday night Mental Health Support Group for individuals with general mental health challenges. Led by two members of Friendship House, the group provided a safe and supportive space for connection and sharing.

Our U Matter Program, grounded in Friendship Circle’s mission of seeing others for the G-d-given soul inside and not for external societal labels and challenges, delivers a powerful message: that each individual matters unconditionally, not only to their family and friends, but also to G-d and, therefore, the entire world.

In partnership with the **Andrew Kukes Foundation for Social Anxiety**, U Matter tackles the pressing issue of youth mental health by empowering teens to support peers experiencing isolation and mental health challenges. Friendship Circle also partnered with Defeat the Label to bring U Matter Weeks to schools nationwide, and 12 middle schools and high schools actively participated in U Matter Week programming.

THANKS

We thank The Jewish Fund for their generous support of our U Matter Program.

New in 2025

We are now partnering with Rabbi Shais Taub, a well-known speaker, author, and educator, to develop a new, comprehensive Teen Talks curriculum. It will revitalize the program and include interactive ideas that will be presented, discussed, internalized, and continually reinforced to deepen understanding and application. We plan to scale this program and share the curriculum to support teens nationwide.



“UMatter tackles the crisis of teen suicide through a uniquely spiritual approach that speaks to every teen, regardless of background. It doesn’t just prevent tragedy; it gives young people a lifelong foundation of meaning, strength, and purpose based on timeless values.”

- Rabbi Shais Taub

GREAT BIKE GIVEAWAY



For a child with special needs, riding a bike means freedom, independence, and the joy of keeping up with friends and siblings. But adaptive bikes cost an average of \$2,000 and are not covered by insurance, putting them out of reach for most families.

The Great Bike Giveaway changes that.

In 2025, we had our biggest year yet, with 1,472 children and families from all 50 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces participating and casting over 100,000 votes. Together, we provided 160 adaptive bikes, the most we have ever given.

THANKS

We proudly recognize Brian Hanechak for his long-term, invaluable support of the Great Bike Giveaway in memory of his father.

“With adaptations for her seat, controls, and breathing equipment, Aubrey can ride a bike on her own for the first time in years.”





MEET AUBREY

Six-year-old Aubrey O’Sullivan has reducing body myopathy, a rare genetic muscle disorder with fewer than 30 documented cases worldwide. As her muscles weakened, biking became impossible. She’d sit in her wheelchair watching her brothers ride, asking her mom: “Why can’t I?”

Her parents entered the Great Bike Giveaway, hoping to raise \$2,400 for a specialized bike.

Tim and Cathy Nesbit from Swansea, Illinois, heard Aubrey’s story. In 2018, they’d lost

their 32-year-old daughter Colleen after a six-year battle with epilepsy. When they learned about Aubrey’s fundraising efforts, they donated the remaining amount she needed.

“It was a perfect fit,” Cathy said. “I want to tell Aubrey you are so beautiful and you’re going to enjoy riding that bike with your family.”

With adaptations for her seat, controls, and breathing equipment, Aubrey can ride a bike on her own for the first time in years.

WALK4FRIENDSHIP

Walk4Friendship 2025 was an incredible success, bringing together over 2,000 individual walkers and 82 teams who collectively raised over \$1,050,000 to support Friendship Circle's programs! Driven by the powerful theme of "You Matter", this milestone marks the first time in our history, the Walk4Friendship surpassed the \$1 million mark and is a testament to the dedication and heart of our community.

The Walk4Friendship is a transformative experience that brings together individuals of all abilities in an atmosphere of inclusion, joy, and belonging. The funds raised enable us to offer vital programs that help individuals with special needs and their families thrive and bring friendship and connection to every soul.



MORE THAN

\$1,050,000



0 → RAISED

2025 PATRON CIRCLE AND FOUNDING MEMBER GALA

Friendship Circle's Patron Circle and Founding Member Gala was a celebration of 30 years of Friendship Circle and was hosted by the Detroit Institute of Arts and Dr. Salvador Salort-Pons. Held on June 16, 2025, the event brought together our Patron Circle donors who generously contribute \$1,800 or more annually, demonstrating their commitment to our mission.

The event honored our community's extraordinary support, featured heartfelt stories from parents, volunteers, and supporters, and a surprise performance by America's Got Talent winner, Kodi Lee. A special highlight of the evening was sharing details of our Forever Friendship Endowment Fund, which provides a lasting investment in our organization's future. We are deeply grateful to our Endowment Fund donors listed below. Their vision and generosity ensure Friendship Circle remains a place of belonging, joy, and growth for future generations.

FOREVER FRIENDSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

The following list of donors is presented in alphabetical order by last name.

| | |
|--|--|
| Gail and Joel Alpert Work Skills Development Fund | Myndi and Alan Gallatin |
| Robert Aronson | Larry and Kathy Goss |
| Susan and Gary August | Gumenick Family Scholarship Fund |
| Jim Barnett and Paula Milgrom | Ron and Sue Hodess |
| Guy and Nora Barron | Andy and Kristin Jacob |
| Craig and Lainie Bauer | Julee Landau |
| Elliott Baum | Norman and Susan Pappas |
| Stanley L. and Phyllis Berger Family Foundation | Craig and Randy Rubin Summer Camp Fund |
| The Honorable Avern and Lois Cohn | Eli and Michele Saulson in Memory of Laela Miller Saulson |
| Dr. Steven Cohn | Eli Scherr |
| Marvin and Betty Danto Family Foundation | Robin and Howard Schwartz |
| Dr. Stanley and Lenore Dorfman Community Inclusion Fund | Larry and Jane Sherman Fund |
| Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation | Gary and Francie Snyder |
| Richard and Shauna Elias | Sam and Carole Sobel Daniel B. Sobel Friendship House Fund |
| Philip and Estelle Elkus Fund | Steven Weisberg and Laura Clemens |
| Farber Family Fund | Larry and Andi Wolfe Retreat Fund |
| Neil Fetter and the Fetter Family Children and Teen Division Endowment | Shay Ziff Sends a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund |
| Francee Ford | |



ENDOWMENT FUND

FOREVER FRIENDSHIP

Friendship Circle is a vital organization for so many individuals and families in the Jewish and broader Southeast Michigan community. As we look to the future, it's essential that we continue to meet the needs of our community while preparing to respond to the needs of tomorrow. A successful endowment is crucial to sustaining our work in perpetuity. And, perhaps even more importantly, it sends a message to our participants and families that we are working to ensure these programs are here to stay.

We established our Forever Friendship Endowment Fund with the ambitious goal of raising \$25 million. Donors have many meaningful ways to invest in the future of Friendship Circle, including endowed scholarships for participants, program endowments, and opportunities for operational and expansion support. Contributions can be made individually or by families who wish to combine resources to support specific programs or areas.

We are proud to share that the Endowment Fund has grown to \$18.8 million in gifts and pledges. Because of our generous supporters, we are well on our way to achieving our goal.

THANKS

In 2025, Andi and Larry Wolfe made a generous gift to the Forever Friendship Endowment Fund to establish the Wolfe Retreat Programs. Thanks to their support, Friendship Circle can now provide meaningful retreats across all our divisions.



To invest in Friendship Circle's future or for more information, please contact Rabbi Levi Shemtov at 248-613-9217 or levi@friendshipcircle.org.

FINANCIALS

| 2025 Revenue Breakdown | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Amount | Percentage |
| Donations & Walk4Friendship | \$4,024,000 | 72% |
| Grants | \$595,000 | 11% |
| Endowment Income | \$282,000 | 5% |
| Program Fees | \$682,000 | 12% |
| Total | \$5,583,000 | 100% |

| 2025 Expense Breakdown | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Amount | Percentage |
| Programs | \$3,843,000 | 73% |
| Management & Office | \$766,000 | 15% |
| Mortgage Payment* | \$233,000 | 4% |
| Fundraising & Marketing | \$430,000 | 8% |
| Total | \$5,272,000 | 100% |

* Mortgage was paid off in 2025

The budget does not include Soul Café and Dakota Bakery. However, the marketing and management expense is included. In addition, the budget does not include spending for capital expenditures.





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VISIT US

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MEER CENTER

6892 West Maple Road
West Bloomfield

DAKOTA BAKERY

6879 Orchard Lake Road
West Bloomfield