



2017

# ANNUAL REPORT

January 1st - December 31st



FriendshipCircle

of Washington

Help  
Max V.



# MISSION

The Mission of the Friendship Circle is to bridge the gap between special needs and typical youth through shared experience, empower special needs youth with the skills they need to live a productive and independent adult life, give parents and families much-needed respite, and nurture a sense of awareness and communal responsibility in our teens.

# VISION

We envision a world in which people with special needs receive unconditional love and acceptance. We look to a future where they never experience unequal treatment or isolation.

Children with special needs face myriad struggles in their daily lives. While traditional therapeutic methods can be successful in improving their physical or cognitive development, they do nothing to alleviate the social isolation these children often feel. This loneliness is extremely detrimental to self-worth, self-confidence, and overall happiness. At The Friendship Circle, we provide the services that fill this therapeutic gap.

The Friendship Circle provides our teens with not only the chance to volunteer, but also the chance to grow into the best version of themselves. They learn to see the inherent value in individuals of all abilities, and develop the sensitivity and social skills necessary to become tomorrow's leaders.

# OUR STAFF

## **Executive Director**

Rabbi Elazar Bogomilsky

## **Program Director**

Esther Bogomilsky

## **Program Manager**

Sarah Larson

## **Volunteer Coordinators**

Rivky Blizinsky

Dassi Bogomilsky

## **Executive Assistant**

Rachael Sawyer

## **Music Therapist**

Wendy Zeive

## **Movement Specialist**

Leigh Martinez

## **Behavioral Specialist**

Claudia Moore

## **Kung-Fu Master**

Kimberly Bowen

## **Musician**

Erik Lawson

## **Executive Board**

Annia Mcleary - President

Michael Zhovtiz

Rick Israel

Elazar Bogomilsky

Alex Klein

## **Executive Advisory Board**

Dan Levitan

Ian Morris

Kirby Winfield

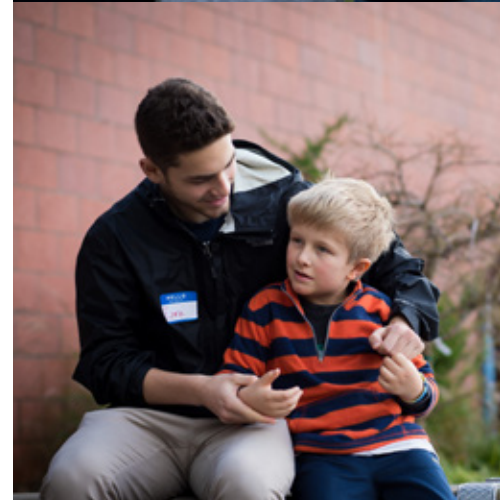
## **Advisory Committee**

Shelley Bensussen

Claudio Guincher

Neil Ross

Iantha Sidell



**OFFICE: 206.FRIENDS (374-3637)**

**INFO@FRIENDSHIPCIRCLEWA.ORG**

**WWW.FRIENDSHIPCIRCLEWA.ORG**

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF WASHINGTON**

2737 77TH AVE. SE - SUITE 101

MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040



# EXECUTIVE LETTER

It has been a year of tremendous success for the Friendship Circle of Washington. Our current programs have experienced unprecedented growth across the board. Sunday Circle, Birthday Club, and Teen Scene have all grown and we are now serving more than 592 children and families and over 180 teen volunteers across the greater Seattle area.

Our success would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our more than 180 Teen Heroes who show up regularly to create lasting memories and friendship for our children. These amazing teens are changing the world through their compassion, kindness and willingness to make a difference.

Finally, we would like to offer a special thanks to you--our donors, partners, sponsors and friends who make this vital work possible. We are working hard to serve every child and family that needs are services. We cannot do it without your support. Thank you for being part of our family and for all that you do to make this a more caring and inclusive world.

Sincerely,



Elazar and Esther Bogomilsky  
Founders

LEADERSHIP. FRIENDSHIP. INCLUSION.

# Impact

Programs

**16**

Growth this Year

**29%**

Public and Private Schools

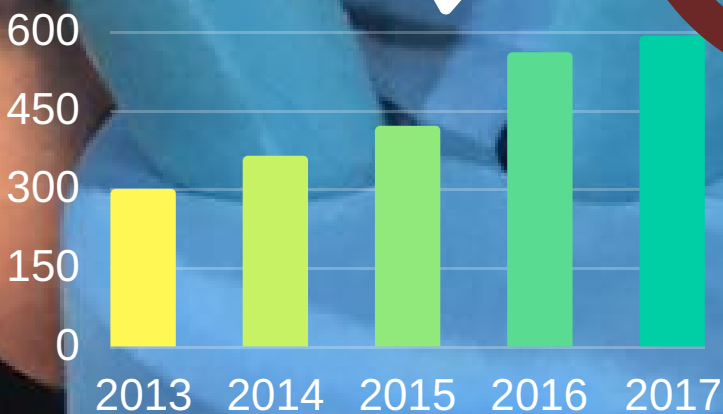
**43**

Children and Families

**592**

Community Volunteer Hours

**8,697**





**“Volunteering with the Friendship Circle can turn a day from a 1 star to a 5 star.”**

*- David Wolf  
FC Volunteer*

**“Friendship Circle signifies a wonderful community; it is a organization that means so much to our family.”**

*- Rachel Margalit  
Parent of Child with Special Needs*

**“Being at Friendship Circle has made me more thoughtful and accepting of others”**

*- Gabby Kleiman  
FC Volunteer*

# EVALUATION & RESULTS

The Friendship Circle continually reviews constituent feedback and adjusts our programming accordingly to ensure we are meeting the needs of the population we serve. The success of our objectives is measured by program attendance, therapist evaluations, parent and volunteer surveys and assessments.

In 2017, the Friendship Circle received countless feedback regarding programs and other community events which inspired friendship, inclusion and leadership.



# IMPACT VOLUNTEERING REPORT

**86%** of parents said their child gained valuable interpersonal skills from FC program participation.

**100%** of parents said their child finds FC programming enriching and enjoyable.

**96%** of parents said FC provides a supportive environment for their family.

**100%** of parents said they would recommend FC to their friends and family.

**84%** of volunteers said FC has taught them the importance of giving back to the community.

Therapists saw **97%** of program participants exhibit positive changes in mental health.

**95%** of volunteers said they have gained relevant special needs knowledge and exposure as a result of volunteering.

**100%** of volunteers said FC has taught them to see the value in individuals of all abilities.

**100%** of volunteers said they would recommend volunteering with FC to their friends.

**100%** of volunteers said they are more likely to volunteer in the future as a result of volunteering.

**96%** of volunteers said they gained awareness and sensitivity towards the special needs community.

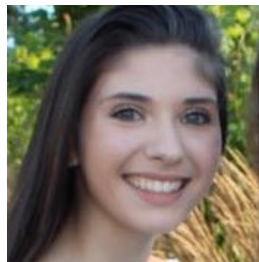
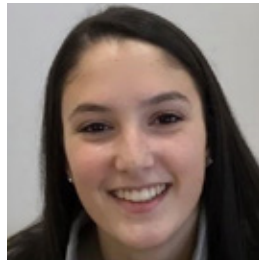
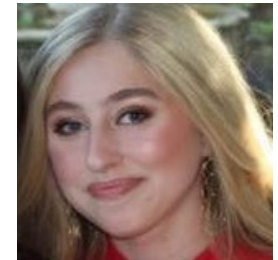
**100%** of volunteers said a program like this is vital to teens in their growth and development.



# LEADERSHIP TEAM

*"Friendship Circle has given me the opportunity to cultivate so many unique and rewarding relationships. I feel so lucky to be a part of an organization that feels more like a family than anything else."*

*-Hannah Morris  
Leadership President*



Names Read L-R

Hannah Morris  
Kaylee Morris  
Avidan Baral  
Elana Levitan  
Micah Gonchar  
Claire Spiegel  
Drew Cohen  
Ali Dickstein  
Gabi Kadish  
Sam Castellanos  
Hava Sprung



## 180 TEEN HEROES

## 43 SCHOOLS

BALLARD HIGH • BELLEVUE COLLEGE • BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL • BUSH SCHOOL  
CASCADE PARENT PARTNERSHIP • EASTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL • ECKSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
FRENCH AMERICAN SCHOOL • GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL • HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL • INGLEMOOR  
HIGH SCHOOL • INGRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL • INTERLAKE HIGH SCHOOL • ISLANDER MIDDLE  
SCHOOL • ISSAQUAH HIGH SCHOOL • ISSAQUAH MIDDLE SCHOOL • JEWISH DAY SCHOOL  
JUANITA HIGH SCHOOL • LAKE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL  
MERCER ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL • MMSC DAY SCHOOL • NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL  
NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL • NYHS • NORTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE • OPEN  
WINDOW SCHOOL • OVERLAKE SCHOOL • PINE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL • REDMOND HIGH  
SCHOOL • REDMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL • ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL • SEATTLE ACADEMY  
OF THE ARTS & SCIENCES • SEATTLE GIRLS' SCHOOL • SHA • SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL • THE CENTER SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY PREP • UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON • WOODINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



# OFFERING THE COMMUNITY



## FRIENDS@HOME

Friends @ Home gives children with special needs the chance to bond with teen volunteers in their own home. Volunteers and children get together regularly to play games, read, bake cookies or just have fun. Having a friend over to play—an activity taken for granted by most children—creates feelings of belonging and self-worth in a child with special needs.



## SUNDAY CIRCLE

Sunday Circle enables children with special needs to come together in a supportive environment for positive social interactions while receiving one on one attention from a teen volunteer. Participants are paired up with a buddy and enjoy activities such as art, music and Kung Fu. The children develop important life skills while moms and dads get a much needed respite. The experience also transforms our teen volunteers into advocates as they develop the values, sensitivity and skills to become tomorrow's leaders.



## BIRTHDAY CLUB

Children with special needs are often excluded from birthday parties and miss out on opportunities to socialize. The Friendship Circle brings kids together to eat cake, celebrate, and see their friends. The agency hosts bi-monthly birthday and holiday celebrations for children with special needs and their families.



## LEADERSHIP BOARD

Several outstanding Friendship Circle teen volunteers are chosen to be on the Leadership Board each year. As members, they commit to weekly volunteering and participate in special projects related to community organizing and fundraising. The teens help recruit new volunteers and gain valuable leadership, communication and job skills.



## SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp provides a chance for children to participate in fun and educational activities that build social, emotional and physical skills in a supportive environment. The sense of inclusion, importance, and participation in a loving community of peers is a unique opportunity for participants.



## SHMOOZE RADIO TUESDAYS 2-3 PM

Rabbi Bogomilsky offers weekly thought-provoking discussions on KKNW 2-3PM or online at <http://player.liquidcompassnet/KKNWAM>



## SIB CIRCLE

Sib Circle provides a safe space where siblings of children with special needs can discuss their feelings and receive support and attention. Each workshop is designed to encourage discussion and communication. Sib Circle also enables children with similar experiences to form friendships of their own.



## TEENS ON THE GO

Teens on the Go is where teens with special needs having great experiences and practice life skills from Bowling to grabbing pizza and more!



## TEEN SCENE

Teen Scene bridges the gap between typical teens and teens with special needs by enabling them to enjoy fun and meaningful experiences together. Teen Scene helps participants develop life skills such as banking, grocery shopping, or applying for jobs.



## MVP - MITZVAH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Friendship Circle Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP) engages 12 and 13 year olds in volunteerism and community involvement in a hands-on way. Volunteering with the Friendship Circle is a serious, year-long commitment, one that younger teens are often not ready to make. The MVP program enables these youth to be positively involved in their community, but requires less of a commitment. MVP youth receive sensitivity and general volunteer training, preparing them to become active community members & FC volunteers.



## MOM'S NIGHT OUT

Mom's Night Out gives mothers an opportunity to support each other while enjoying an activity such as yoga, painting or spa night. This support group of women is a much needed moment of respite and is imperative to maintaining positive mental health while raising a child with special needs.



## TEEN JAM

We are launching a new VOLUNTEER ONLY program called JAM - Jewish Action in Motion, in partnership with a grant from the Samis Foundation. Typically, an hour and a half long, each class provides a fun, educational and interactive learning experience. It creates a positive and exciting atmosphere for teens, while inspiring and engaging them to gain a deeper understanding of their heritage.



## JLI-ADULT EDUCATION

The Friendship Circle offers a variety of courses for adults that reflect our organization's core values. These classes are an excellent way for any individual to remain engaged with the Friendship Circle and Seattle's special needs community. Topics range from Torah studies to sensitivity training.



## TEEN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

General hands-on sensitivity training for teens on a range of topics.



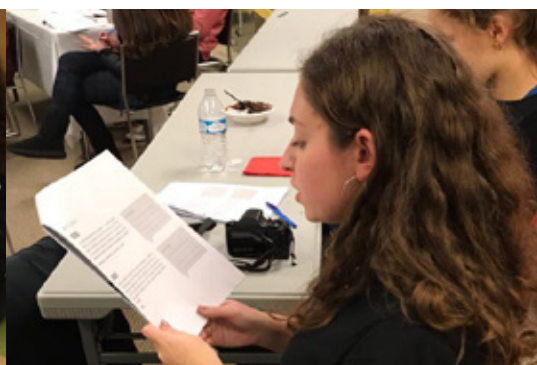
## LUNCH N LEARN 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch N Learn is our weekly Torah studies class. Every Wednesday, community members gather to learn about and discuss a particular issue. Topics include Holiness vs. Spirituality, Jewish observance in the home or Jewish ethics.



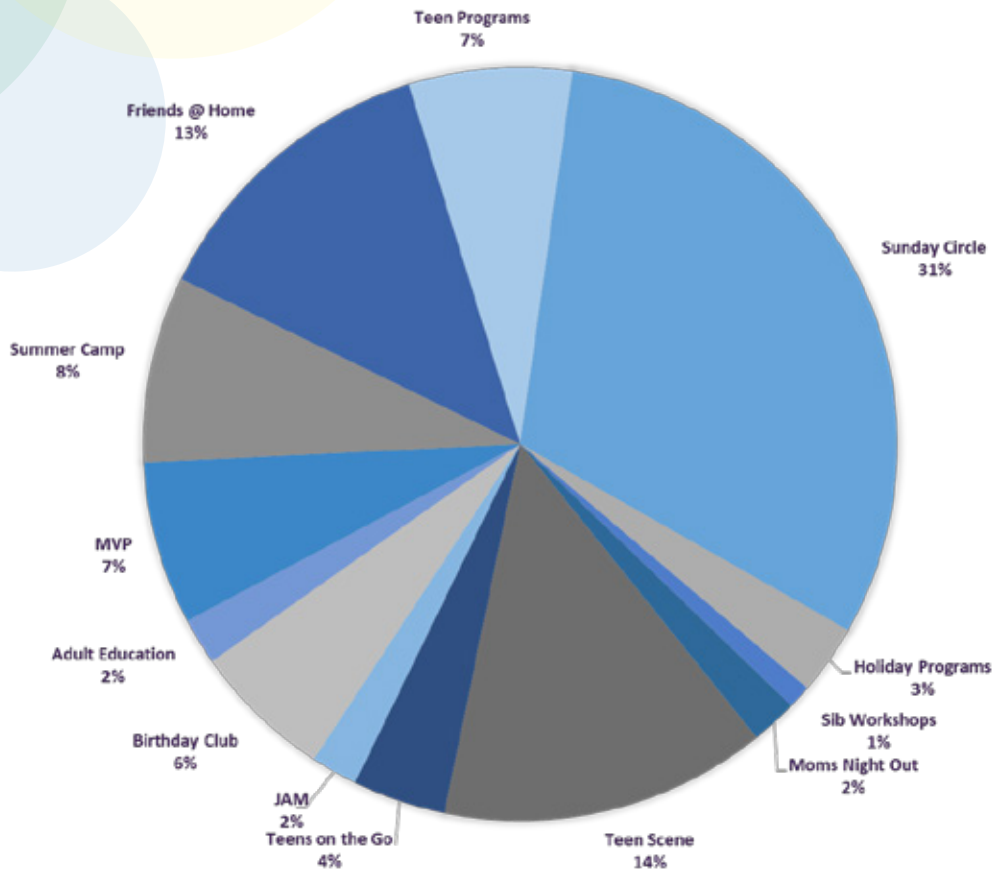
## HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Our interactive Holiday Programs enable children with special needs, their families, and their volunteer friends to experience Jewish holidays and customs in a festive, welcoming environment.



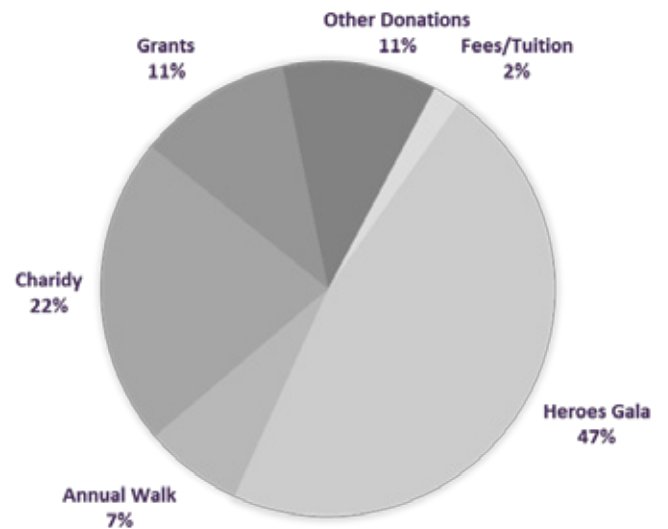
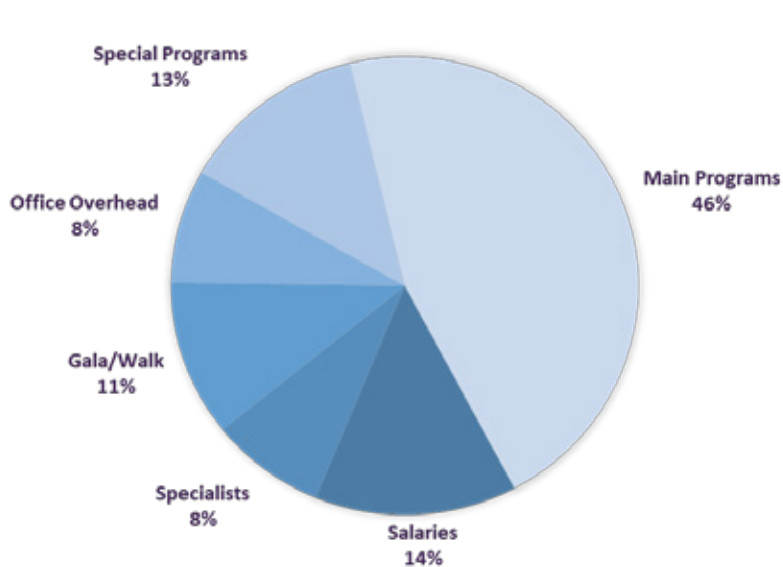
# 2017 PROGRAMS CHART

## BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE % PROGRAMS



## BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE % EXPENSES

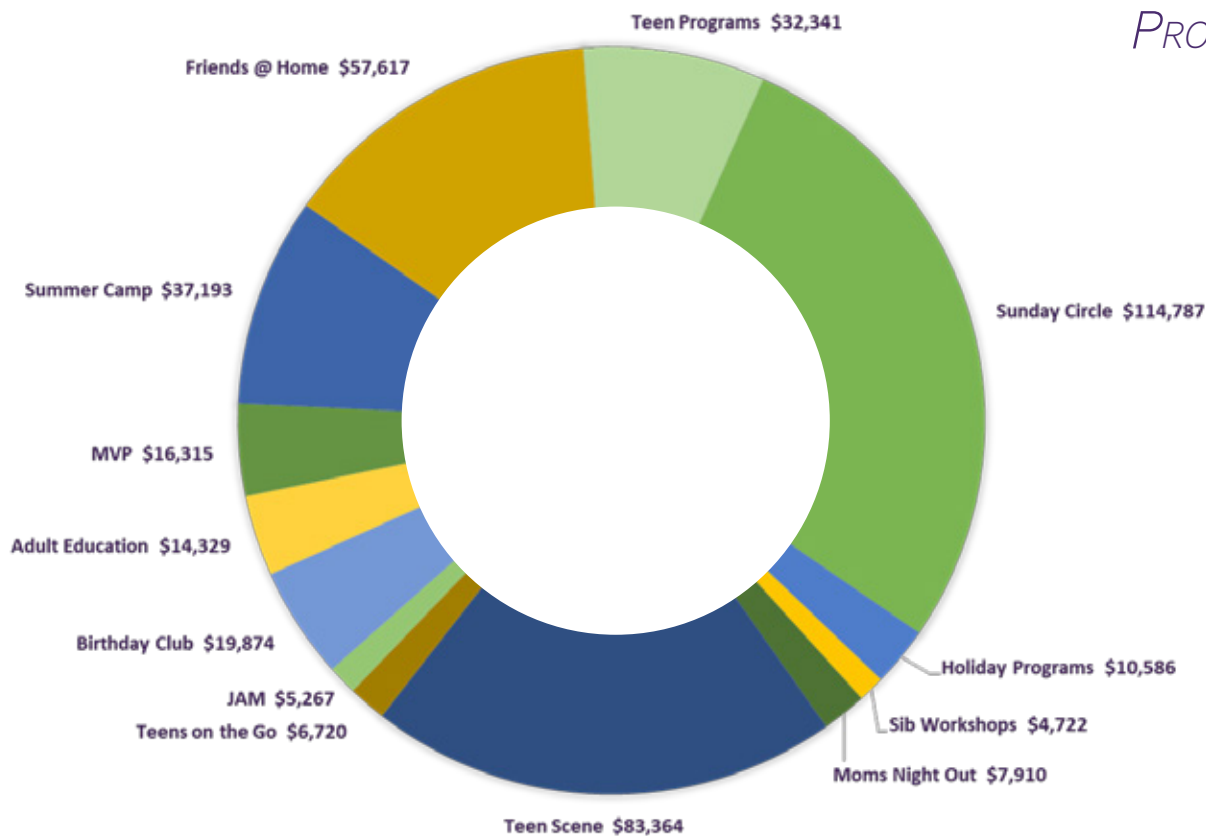
## BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE % REVENUE



# 2017 FINANCIALS

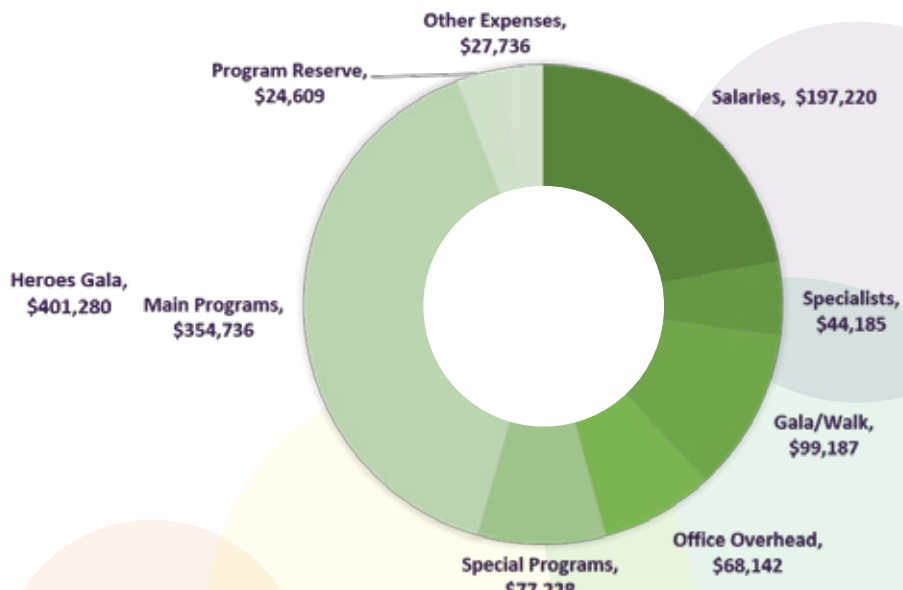
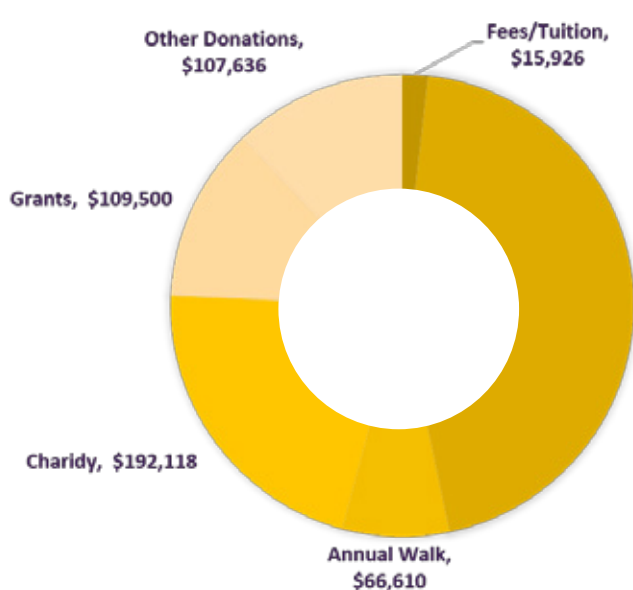
GROWTH, REVENUE, IMPACT

## BREAKDOWN By Dollar Amount PROGRAMS



REVENUE: \$893,070

EXPENSES: \$893,070



## A DAY OF AWARENESS

OVER 400 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RAISED AWARENESS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS AT OUR 6TH ANNUAL WALK WITH FRIENDSHIP ON OCTOBER 22ND, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT LUTHER BURBANK PARK! WE HAD 23 SPONSORS AND SEVERAL HUNDRED DONORS WHO HELPED RAISE OVER \$65,000!! SPECIAL GUEST SHELLEY HART FROM WARM 106.9 EMCEED THIS YEAR'S EVENT, AND MANY AMAZING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO THE WALKS SUCCESS! THE MARINERS MOOSE CAME AROUND FOR PICTURES, AND WE ENDED THE DAY WITH THE WORLD-RENOWNED BIKE STUNT TEAM RIDE & GLIDE WHO WOWED THE CROWD WITH THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!

**OVER 400  
COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS**

**RAISED OVER  
\$65,000**

**23 SPONSORS**



### CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

### MEDIA



THE 12TH ANNUAL HEROES GALA, WHICH HONORED ROBBIE AND BONNIE CAPE ALONG WITH 162 TEEN HEROES, WAS ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS TO DATE. ON MAY 25TH, MORE THAN 500 FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS GATHERED IN SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE AND IN CELEBRATION OF THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF OUR TEEN VOLUNTEERS. THE DINNER RAISED OVER \$400,000 FOR FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE PROGRAMS. FUNDS, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION TO SERVE MORE CHILDREN, HELP CREATE CONTINUING GENERATIONS OF TEEN LEADERS AND BUILD A MORE INCLUSION COMMUNITY.

## 12TH ANNUAL HEROES GALA



**"SEEING MY BUDDY SMILE MAKES  
ME FEEL SO FULL OF JOY THAT I  
CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE BACK."**



# ANNUAL GIVINGS

**"TO ME, FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE MEANS  
CONNECTING WITH AND BRINGING JOY TO CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND HELPING TO SUPPORT THEM  
AND THEIR FAMILIES."**

**-EZRA MAGARAM**

## CORPORATIONS

Adobe  
American Life, Inc  
Boeing  
Chaplins Subaru  
Costco  
Denihan Corporations  
International Marine Industrial  
Microsoft  
Minuteman Press - Bellevue  
Providence Health & Services  
QFC  
Safeco Insurance  
Sweish Medical

## FOUNDATIONS

Issac Alhadeff Foundation  
Greenstein Family Foundation  
Jewish Federation of Greater  
Seattle  
The Max & Anna Levinson  
Foundation  
Levitan Family Foundation  
The Loeb Family Charitable  
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Mercer Island Rotary Club  
Muckleshoot Charitable Fund  
The Norcliffe Foundation  
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Samis Foundation  
Schultz Family Foundation  
Isador Simon Family  
Foundation  
The Sunbridge Foundation  
Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund

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**“FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE HAS BROADENED MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAYS PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND AND MISTREAT THOSE DIFFERENT FROM THEM.”**

**-JONAH HYMAN**

Saar & Shirly Safra	Anita Skop	Matt & Molly Turetsky	Eric & Rachael Zimmerman
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Steven & Stacey Sarkowsky	Spektor	Gregory & Ilyse Wagner	
Barbara Sayres	Ron Spiegel	Martin & Deb Wahl	
Carl & Brianna Sayres	Ronnie Spiegel	Alan & Kim Waldbaum	
Jack Schaloum & Lisa	Jonathan & Taliah Spitz	Jonathan & Sarah	
Nakamura	Robert & Kathleen	Walton	
Gabriel & Nevet Scherzer	Spitzer	Mike & Dina Wampold	
Irwin & Babette Schiller	Jeff & Vicky Sprung	Yarden Weidenfeld	
Michael & Dawn Schiller	Peter Sprung	Ellen Weidner	
Teri Schneeweiss	Yoav Srebnik	Mark & Kim Weinstein	
Roy & Rachael Schnitzer	Eli & Natasha Srulowitz	Ron & Devorah	
Jeff & Julie Schoenfeld	Paul & Susan Steckler	Weinstein	
Michael & Shainie Schuffler	Gregory Steinhauer	Chad & Ida Wicklund	
Jeffrey Schwartz	Ronnie & Tamar Stern	Sherry Williams	
Steven and Peggy Schwartz	David & Joy Stiefel	Mike & Joan Willingham	
Julie Sedlacek	Gary & Cindy Stratiner	Gail Wilson	
Janet Seidel	Cynthia Stroum	Kirby & Alison Winfield	
Jennifer Selby	Willie Stump & Trilby	Bonnie Winston	
Norman Nathan Share	Cohen	Marshall & Judi Wolf	
Eli & Irit Shechtman	Henry Stupp	Robert & Lisi Wolf	
Evan Shereck	Gary & Lily Stute	Charlotte Wollheim	
Mary Sherman	Erik & Kerry Sundholm	Aaron & Rhianon Wood-	
Rich Sherman	Linnea Sundholm	Snyderman	
Donald & Bobbi Shifrin	Shmuel & Rosi	Jennifer Wydra	
David Shinder & Rose	Tennenhaus	Igor & Larisa	
Dembo	Brad Thomspen	Yagolnitser	
Michelle Shriki	Laura Tomaselli	Nora Yagolnitser	
Alan & Carol Sidell	Rhonda Tomsic	Marvin Yamaguchi	
Stan & Iantha Sidell	James Toney	Jennifer Yerkes	
Ani Sieler	Maya Toribio	Ze'Ev & Laurie Young	
Lori Silverstein	Yosef & Lael Trachtman	David & Shauna	
Amy Sindorf	Erica Tripard	Youssefnia	
Hannah Sindorf	Merin Troutman	Ilan Zawadzki & Patricia	
Rachel Sindorf	Lloyd & Gabriela Tucker	Blount	

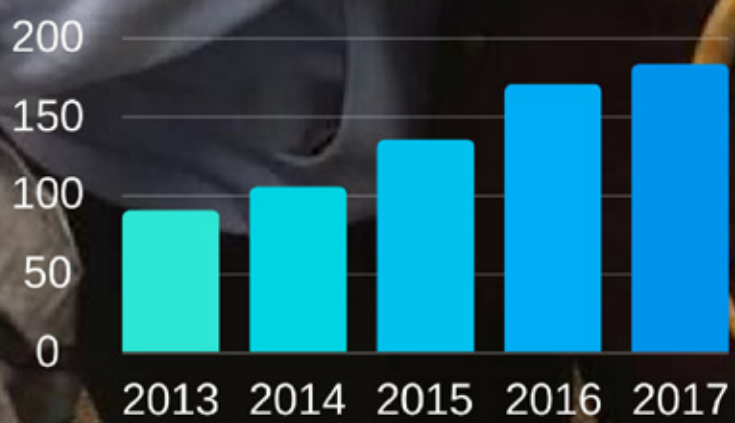
**THANK  
YOU!**

If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please accept our apology and know your support is greatly appreciated.

Friendship

Inclusion

Leadership



**180**  
Teen Heroes

# TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Emily Angiulo  
Tania Aronowitz  
Sara Balter  
Avidan Baral  
Lily Behar  
Shoshana Behar  
Robert Belkin  
Orel Benisti  
Ethan Bensussen  
Carly Bernstein  
Sara Bradner  
Josh Britt  
Molly Brogan  
Asaph Brumer  
Dalia Cape  
Noah Cape  
Mia Cassidy  
Rachel Caren  
Samuel Castellanos  
Claire Chatalas  
Junhong Chong  
Eliana Coe  
Drew Cohen  
Bella Cooperman  
Jeremy Cordova  
Hannah Davis-  
Jacobs  
Ali Dickstein  
Evan Dickstein  
Zach Eastern  
Marty Estrin  
Talia Fain  
Aleah Farac  
Gavin Farac  
Matthew Feldman  
Robin Fern  
Matan Gavish  
Levi Gettleman  
Costello Giannone  
Asher Gold  
Ethan Goldberg  
Jordi Goldberg  
Josh Goldman  
Steven Goldman  
Ella Gonchar  
Micah Gonchar  
Lily Gotel  
Karen Greene  
Aaron Greenstein  
Gailen Greenstein

Eli Gunderman  
Sophie Harris  
Huckleberry Hammer  
Nash Hawkins  
Yuleeka Hayashi  
Zohar Hemmat  
Sam Holland  
Josh Hollar  
Barak Horowitz  
Jonah Hyman  
Gabi Kadish  
Kenna Kantor  
Mikayla Kantor  
Sammy Kantor  
Stuart Keener  
Elisa Kershaw  
Sophia Kershaw  
Adina Klitzner  
Avi Kintzer  
Maya Kintzer  
Yoel Kintzer  
Andrei Klesse  
Mikala Klesse  
Oliver Klesse  
Caleb Kleiman  
Gabi Kleiman  
Naomie Klinghoffer  
Danielle Kohorn  
Dina Koyfman  
Fay Koyfman  
Justin Ladner  
Mark Ladner  
Gabe Lerner  
Elana Levitan  
Olivia Levitan  
Jonathan Lotzkar  
Julia Lotzkar

Ezra Magaram  
Rodney Marks  
Ivy Martinez  
Mackenzie Martinez  
Sophie Mason  
Zack Matter  
Shallot Mayors  
Max Medin  
Lily Medway  
Ella Meltzer  
Ben Menashirov  
Marcus Mesnik-  
Greene  
Julia Millard  
Hannah Mae Morris  
Kaylee Morris  
Audrey Moscovitz  
Daniel Negrin  
Josh Negrin  
Akina Nishikawa  
Josh Palter  
Nata Parker  
Emma Paskett  
Lauren Pearl  
Annie Pearse  
Jonna Pelling  
Liat Perlman  
Jack Podolsky  
Lily Podolsky  
Nate Podolsky  
Talia Podradchik  
Emma Poll  
Edee Polyakovski  
Annie Poole  
Hannah Prossin  
Moriah Reibman  
James Rickel

Sam Rodner  
Annie Rosenstein  
Adam Rothman  
Hannah Rubens  
Liat Salomon  
Jamie Sandler  
Jordan Schenkin  
Marcus Schiller  
Eden Shelby  
Ben Shoren  
Evan Sigmon  
Josh Slate  
Haley Slate  
Clare Spiegel  
Emma Spiegel  
Hava Sprung  
Wyatt Stuart  
Dorian Stump  
Robin Stump  
Maya Sulkin  
Campbell Taylor  
Corry Tedner  
Reuven Toban  
Sophie Tollar  
Anna Turetsky  
Gabe Vinnick  
Shana Volbach  
Risa Wagner  
Shayna Wagner  
Hannah Wahl  
Kenzie Waldbaum  
Ava Wampold  
Lydia Wampold  
Zachary Weinberg  
Amara Weinstein  
Michela Weiss  
Talia Winter  
David Wolf  
Sadie Wolf  
AJ Wolff  
Justin Yolden  
Max Youssefnia

**“EVERY TIME I GET TO GO TO FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE I AM SO EXCITED BECAUSE I KNOW I HAVE FRIENDS THERE BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY I KNOW IT’S AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE I CAN MAKE FRIENDS AND CREATE STRONG BONDS.”**

**—MAX MEDIN**



# THANK YOU !

*"NONE OF US ARE  
COMPLETE UNLESS ALL  
OF US ARE INCLUDED"*



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