



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1st - DECEMBER 31st



 **FriendshipCircle**
of Washington



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
Bracha Walker
Chaya Bogomilsky

Executive Assistant
Andrea Stacy

Music Therapist
Wendy Zeive

Behavioral Specialist
Cara Thompsen
Charlene Pimentel

Kung-Fu Master
Kimberly Bowen

Musician
Erik Lawson

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Annia Mcleary - President
Michael Zhovtiz
Elazar Bogomilsky
Alex Klein
Sandy Gurkewitz

Executive Advisory Board
Dan Levitan
Ian Morris
Kirby Winfield

Advisory Committee
Shelley Bensussen
Neil Ross
Iantha Sidell
Dan Dixon



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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 668 children and families and over 190 teen volunteers across the greater Seattle area.

Our success would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our more than 190 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





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 2018, the Friendship Circle received countless feedback regarding programs and other community events which inspired friendship, inclusion and leadership.

“With Friendship Circle, everyone wins! This unique and exceptional organization provides teens and their buddies the gift of genuine friendship. It creates meaningful moments. At Friendship Circle, all kids can be kids, coming together to share and celebrate their similarities. They experience the pure joy that can only come from a smile or a hug from a friend.”
-Lisa Morris, Volunteer Mom

“I love to see my buddy every other Sunday! He’s just like any other friend. We can hang out and talk and play.” - Max Rubenstein
FC Volunteer

“Friendship Circle signifies a wonderful community; it is an organization that means so much to our family.” – Rachel Margalit
Parent of Child with Special Needs



89% 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.

87% of volunteers said FC has taught them the importance of giving back to the community.

Therapists saw 96% of program participants exhibit positive changes in mental health.

IMPACT VOLUNTEERING REPORT

96% 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.

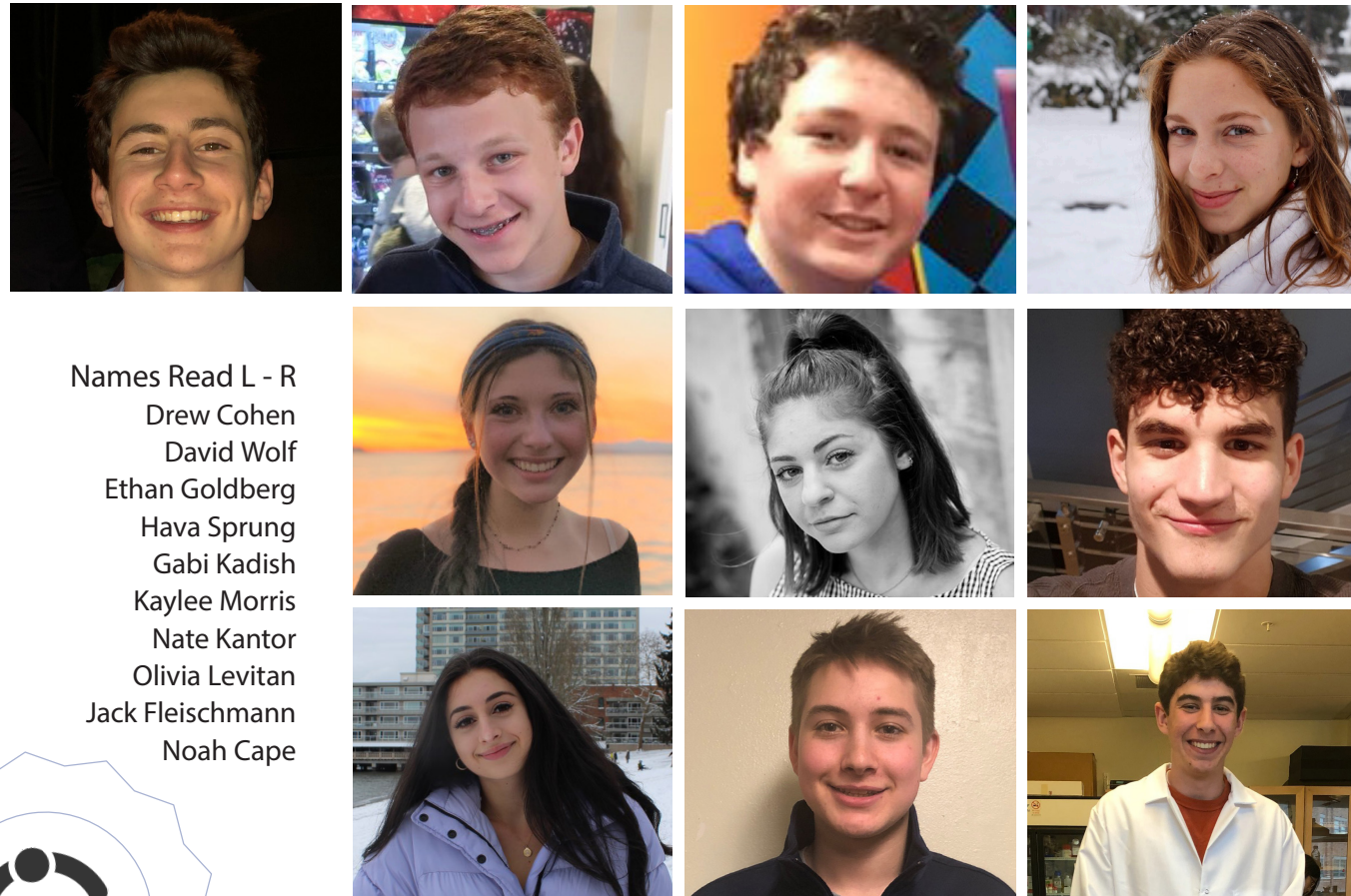




LEADERSHIP TEAM

"The Friendship Circle is special to me because it allows me to see pure unfiltered happiness and love in a world where that is hard to come by. It is a true safe haven for anyone and everyone, driven by love!"

-Drew Cohen
Leadership President



Names Read L - R
Drew Cohen
David Wolf
Ethan Goldberg
Hava Sprung
Gabi Kadish
Kaylee Morris
Nate Kantor
Olivia Levitan
Jack Fleischmann
Noah Cape

190 TEEN HEROES

44 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.liquidcompass.net/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

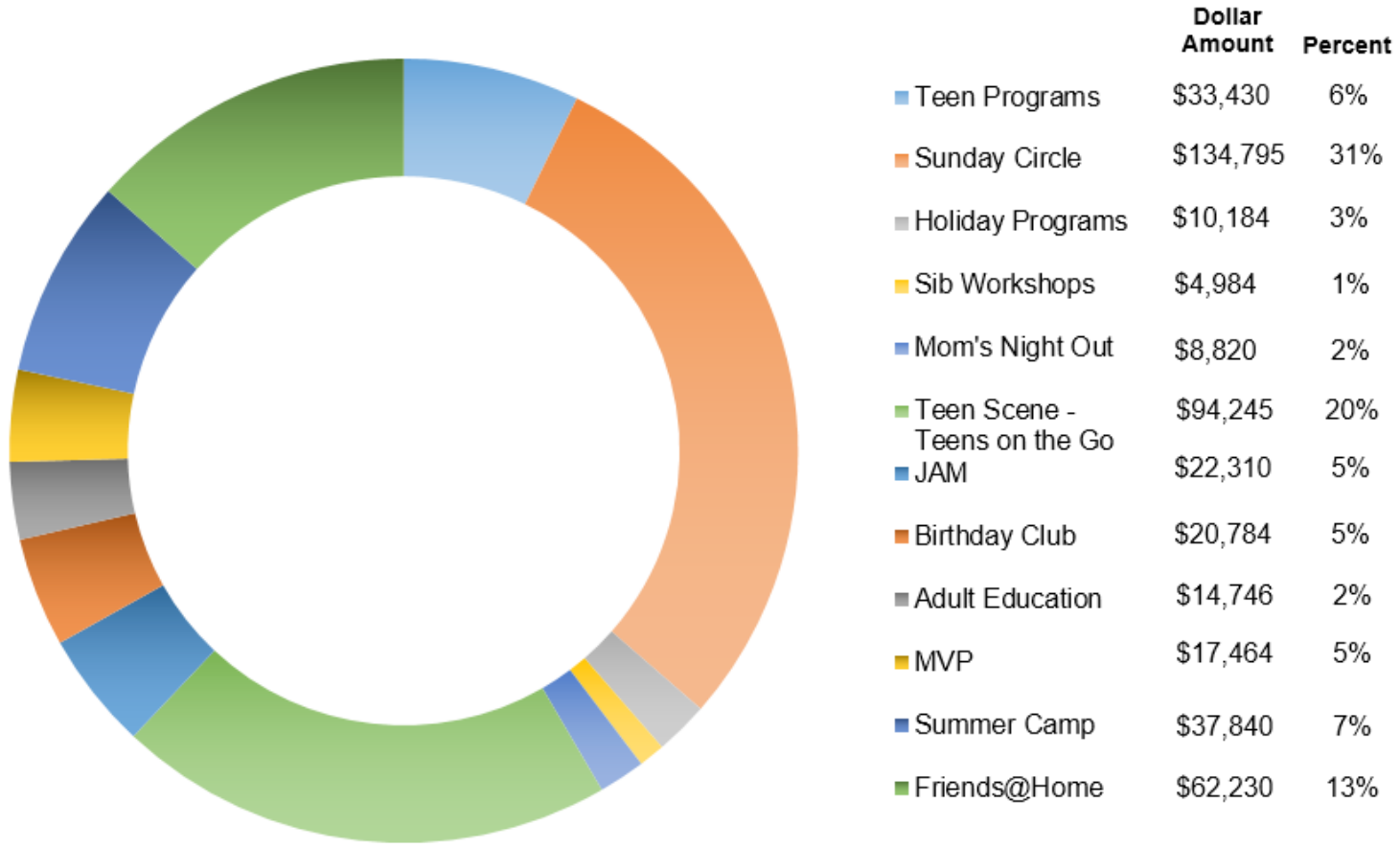
Our interactive Holiday Programs enable children with special needs, their families, and their volunteer friends to experience Jewish holidays and customs in a festive, welcoming environment.





2018 PROGRAMS BREAKDOWN

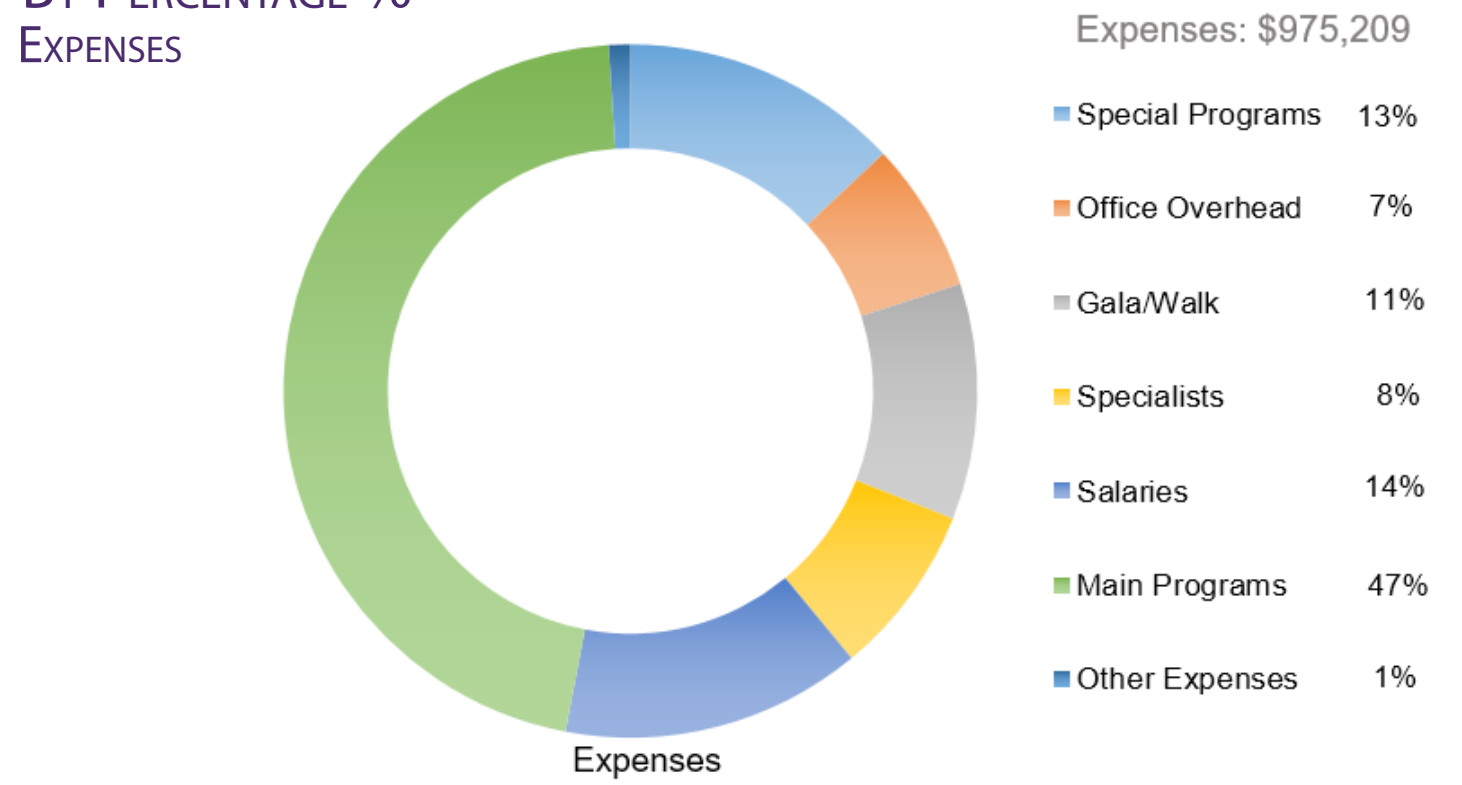
BY PERCENTAGE % AND DOLLAR AMOUNT



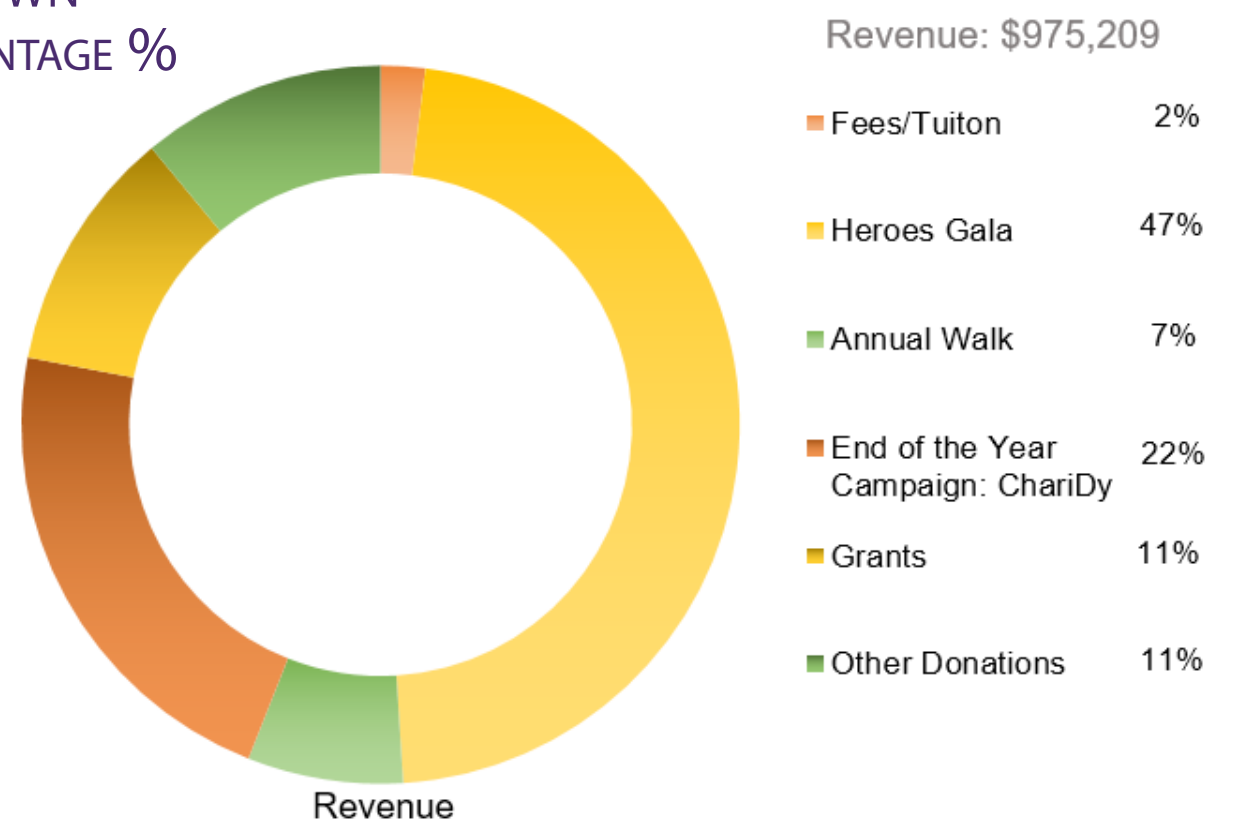
2018 FINANCIALS

GROWTH, REVENUE, IMPACT

BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE % EXPENSES



BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE % REVENUE



Supporting FC is not only a financial exercise, although that is very important. Being a true supporter means being active in The Friendship Circle. It's about giving not just money, but also time. Individuals who step inside the circle and see children growing and teens thinking outside of their own needs will experience the true reward that comes from supporting The Friendship Circle.

-Steven Greenstein



OVER 450
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS!

27 SPONSORS

A DAY OF AWARENESS

OVER 400 COMMUNITY MEMBERS RAISED AWARENESS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS AT OUR 7TH ANNUAL WALK WITH FRIENDSHIP ON OCTOBER 14TH, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT LUTHER BURBANK PARK! WE HAD 27 SPONSORS AND SEVERAL HUNDRED DONORS WHO HELPED RAISE OVER \$80,000!! SPECIAL GUEST SHELLEY HART FROM WARM 106.9 EXCEEDED THIS YEAR'S EVENT, AND MANY AMAZING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO THE WALK'S SUCCESS! THE MARINERS MOOSE CAME AROUND FOR PICTURES, AND THE SPARKLE SQUAD WOWED THE CROWD WITH THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE!

"I LOVE SEEING ALL THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS TAKING TIME OUT OF THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE TO COME TO FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. I VOLUNTEER WITH FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE TO BOND WITH KIDS OF ALL AGES AND ALL ABILITIES." - SADIE WOLF



CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS



MEDIA



THE 13TH ANNUAL HEROES GALA, WHICH HONORED ROB & LISI WOLF AND ELI & IRIT SHECTMAN ALONG WITH 180 TEEN HEROES, WAS ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS TO DATE. ON APRIL 26TH, 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 \$500,000 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.



13TH ANNUAL HEROES GALA

ANNUAL GIVINGS

“THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE GIVES ME THE FOUNDATION
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE ELSE’S LIFE.
-JAKE HARPER

CORPORATIONS

Adobe
Aegis Living
Amazon
American Classic Homes
American Life
Bank of America
Boeing
Costco
Credit Suisse
Green Leaf Dental
International Marine Industrial
Microsoft
Minuteman Press Bellevue
Network for Good
Providence Health Services
Susman Godfrey LLP
SWEDISH Health Services

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Greenstein Family Foundation
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Isaac Alhadeff Foundation
Isador Simon Family Foundation
Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
Levitan Family Foundation
Mercer Island Rotary Club
Moccasin Lake Foundation
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Pollard Family Philanthropic Fund
Safeco Insurance
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The Loeb Family Charitable Fund
The Max and Anna Levinson
Foundation
The Nordcliffe Foundation
The Sallee Foundation
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William Campbell Foundation

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Kate Rogers
Iiya Roitburg
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Samuel Rosenblatt
Norman Rosenbloom

“THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE IS THE MOST PROFOUND GROWING OPPORTUNITY OUR CHILDREN HAVE EXPERIENCED. THEY’VE LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT THEMSELVES, THEIR BUDDIES, AND THE REAL MEANING OF BOTH FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY.”

-JUDY G, MOTHER OF VOLUNTEERS AARON, GAILEN, AND GABRIEL

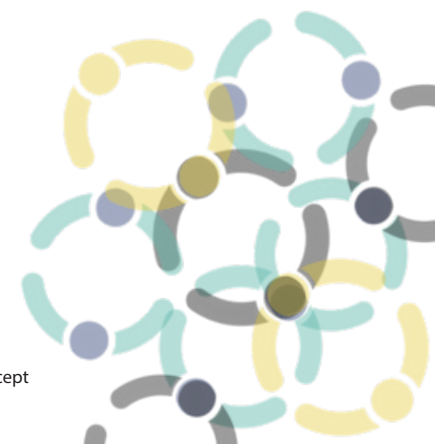
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Mary Beth Sherman

Ron Sherman
Donald & Bobbi Shifrin
David & Rose Shinder
Michelle Shriki
Kirk & Ngina Shulman
Stan & Iantha Sidell
Alan & Carol Sidell
Isabel Siebrecht
Jonah & Lisa Sigel
Jim & Janet Sinegal
Raj & Jill Singh
Don & Moya Skillman
Anita Skop
Garrett & Ilene Sloan
Scott & Joanne Smith
Kim Smith
Bob & Susan Solomon
Paul & Lisa Song
Ron & Ronnie Spiegel
Robert & Kathleen Spitzer
Jeff & Vicky Sprung
Peter C. Sprung
Hava Sprung
Tim & Sandra Stacy
Ted & Marlene Stacy
Burke & Krista Stansbury
Jamie Starnicky
Paul & Susan Steckler
Harvey Stein
Jack Steinberg
Gregory Steinhauer
Bobbie Stern
David & Joy Stiefel
Jason & Amanda Stoffer
Sarah Stokley
Gary & Cindy Stratiner
Chris & Jamie Strausz-Clark
Cynthia Stroum
Willie & Trilby Stump
Gary & Lily Stute
Bobby & Alayne Sulkin
Kerry Sundholm
Erik & Kerry Sundholm
Scott & Brooke Swerland
Diana T
Eric Yap & Masako Tamura

Carol Teitz
Shmuel & Rosi Tennenhaus
Mikal & Lynn Thomsen
Laura Tomaselli
Jim & Bonnie Towne
Karen Treiger
Erica Tripard
Merin Troutman
Lloyd & Gabriela Tucker
Bobby & Lauren Turner
Jytte Tuttle
Stewart & Stephanie Vassau
Lisa Vasser
Manlio & Gail Vecchiet
Greg Vernoy
Ripley Vernoy
Remington Vernoy
Michael & Stacy Vinnick
Lucy Waggoner
Gregory & Ilyse Wagner
Alan & Kim Waldbaum
Bracha Walker
Neil & Lisa Wallack
Amanda Wannan
Eli & Sheryl Warshal
Anthony & Lynn Wartnick
Julie Weed
Yarden Weidenfeld
Mendel & Miriam Weingarten
Jason & Liz Weinstein
Mark & Kim Weinstein
Jonathan Weintraub
Peter & Robin Weiss
Peter & Tina Weiss
Heather Whitmore
Court & Michelle Will
Shanika Williams
Kirby & Alison Winfield
Ruth Winston
David & Gillian Witus

Verena Woern
Marshall & Judi Wolf
Robert & Lisi Wolf
Judi Wolf
Susan Wolf
Amy Wolff
Charlotte Wollheim
David & Sally Wright
Jennifer Wydra
Nora Yagolnitser
Igor & Larisa Yagolnitser
Moshe & Karen Yalovsky
Isabela Yanakieva
Gary & Lark Young
Diane Young
Netanel Younker
Steven & Ruth Younker
David & Shauna Youssefnia
Ilan & Patricia Zawadzki
Michael & Julia Zhovtis
Eric Zimmerman

THANK YOU!

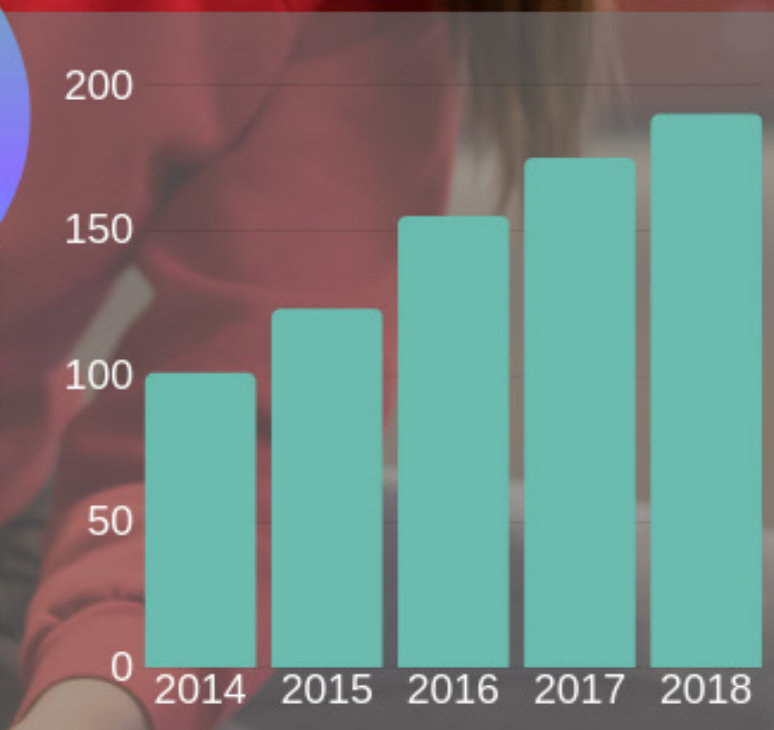


If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please accept our apology and know your support is greatly appreciated.





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TEEN
HEROES



TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Lara Aizenstros
Noah Aizenstros
Mira Babani
Callie Barokas
Aaron Behar
Lily Behar
Anna Benoliel
Cece Bensussen
Ethan Bensussen
Tyler Bienstock
Michael Boddie
Alyssa Boden
Kimberly Bowen
Josh Britt
Sarah Butterklee
Dalia Cape
Noah Cape
Gracie Castellanos
Claire Chatalas
Nick Chatalas
Golda Chessler
Carly Cohen
Drew Cohen
Rakefet Cooperman
Laura Davenport
Ellory Dembo
Alexander Dickstein
Evan Dickstein
Anya Draine
Lucien Ducharme-Coats
Pasquale Ducharme-Coats
Marty Estrin
Emily Fain
Talia Fain
Aleah Farac
Gavin Farac
Harrison Feld
Casey Feldman
Matthew Feldman
Dani Fisher
Jack Fleischman
Katie Friedman
Parker Friedman
Eden Geisser
Josh Geisser
Rachel Geisser
Sophia Goffe

Asher Gold
Ethan Goldberg
Ella Gonchar
Lily Gotel
Aaron Greenstein
Gabriel Greenstein
Gailen Greenstein
Oliver Haas
Huck Hammer
Jake Harper
Eliana Harrick
Jasmine Harrick
Sophie Harris
Noam Hashash
Alexandra Hyman
Jonah Hyman
Sophie Isaac
Ryan Jacobson
Georgia Joers
Gabi Kadish
Kenna Kantor
Mikayla Kantor
Nate Kantor
Ben Katz
Hannah Kellerman
Sienna Kessary
Maya Kintzer
Gabriel Kiviat
Gabby Kleiman
Andrei Klesse
Michaela Klesse
Oliver Kleese
Adina Klitzner
Dani Kohorn
David Kohorn
Dina Koyfman

Mia Kunins
Sam Lawson
Hannah Leahy
Grace Leibowitz
Olivia Levitan
Jadyn Lewis
Jossalyn Lott
Jonathan Lotzkar
Julia Lotzkar
Isaac Maclean-Cury
Ezra Magaram
Aliza Margolese
Ezra Mason
Aisling McSwiney
Lila Medin
Max Medin
Daniel Mezistrano
Kaylee Morris
Robbie Morris
Jack Nachtigal
Tim Nachtigal
Eliana Newman
Ingrid Odmark
Emma Paskett
Lauren Pearl
Samantha Pelter
Liat Perlman
Jadon Piha
Lily Podolsky
Macy Poll
Ella Powell
Hannah Prossin
Marina Prossin
Lexi Ratener
Ariana Reibman
Barak Reibman

Moriah Reibman
Stella Robins
Ashima Robinson
Soule Robinson
David Robon
Maggie Rojas
Molly Rojas
Zev Roschy
Lee Rousso
Max Rubenstein
Ava Schwartz
Quincy Schwartz
Roni Shechtman
Eden Shelby
Jake Shleifer
Joseph Shleifer
Mila Shulman
Isabel Siebrecht
Jake Snyder
Olivia Spain
Emma Spiegel
Sydney Spiegel
Mark Spiro
Hava Sprung
Levi Sprung
Samantha Tarlowe
Danielle Topaz
Anna Turetsky
Indie Vernoy
Lucca Vernoy
Kenzie Waldbaum
Layla Walters
Andre Wax
Carter Wax
Justin Weiss
Michela Weiss
Ella Will
David Wolf
Sadie Wolf
AJ Wolff
Shifra Wren

"THESE AMAZING CHILDREN HAVE TAUGHT ME UNFORGETTABLE LESSONS ABOUT COMPASSION, PATIENCE, AND UNCONDITIONAL LOVE."
-NATE KANTOR





THANK YOU
for an amazing 2018!

