



The Moment

• Together, we can perform miracles • Together, we can perform miracles • Together, we can perform miracles •

FC Wraps 2011: Kids Give to Kids

This December The Friendship Circle held it's 2nd Annual FC Wraps Toy Drive. In just one week, with four participating schools — Northwest Yeshiva HS, Jewish Day School, Menachem Mendel Seattle Cheder, Seattle Hebrew Academy — and a donation from toy company SpinMaster, the Friendship Circle donate an impressive **718 toys** to three Seattle non-profits: The Kinderling Center, Arc of King County, and Treehouse. These organizations then distributed the toys to children with special needs and foster children throughout King County in need of holiday gifts.

dolls, books, dragon figurines, science sets, and much, much more also received some TLC from our fabulous volunteers, who dedicated their time to wrap up the present in bright papers and ribbons! Any child receiving these toys will know that they are loved. **Thank you** for all of your generous donations of gifts and wrapping paper!



The play dough, stuffed animals, board games,



A Chanukah Message:

Be a leader and light up the world!

The power of this year's Chanukah holiday is to bring more light in to these challenging dark times.



The light of the Menorah teaches us an important universal message of hope, belief and pride. As we gather with family and friends and kindle our Menorah each night, we should always aspire to increase and brighten the world through our acts of kindness and dedication to Torah.

Fun times at Sunday Circle



INSIDE

Two New Exciting Programs 2

Growth in Friends@Home 2

Spotlight: Friendship Circle Volunteers 3

Upcoming Events 4

Together, we can all make a difference!



New: Mitzvah Volunteer Program

On January 9, 2012 we will launch The FC Bnai Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP). MVP will allow 6th and 7th grade children to experience volunteering at a young age in a meaningful hands-on way. To be a volunteer with FC is a serious, year-long commitment. A typical FC teen volunteer devotes many hours each month. Since younger children are generally unable to make this commitment,

MVP will provide these children with a meaningful way of empowering themselves as they give to others. MVP will be a series of 5 sessions, offered twice each year. Through lectures, video presentations, and hands-on volunteering, participants will get a closer look at the lives of children with special needs as well as an educated exposure to volunteering with special children.

New: Teen Scene

Starting January 17, 2012 our extraordinary Teen Scene program will give teenagers with special needs, together with our teen volunteers, an opportunity to practice life skills, pursue their own interests, and hang out with friends their own age. Teen Scene is a new program providing teenagers with special needs an opportunity to do what typical teens do: hang out and have fun!

This unique program gives special needs teenagers the ability to act and interact in a regular social setting like other typical teens. Together, under the supervision and guidance of our trained therapists, the teens will engage in exciting adventures, such as spending the day at the Science Center, taking a trip to the Air and Space Museum, or bowling a few lanes!



FRIENDS@HOME: A SPECIAL GLIMPSE

In FC's Friends@Home program, a teen volunteer visits their special buddy at home several times a month, to play games, hang out, go to the park, read books, and build a special and meaningful friendship. We wanted to share with you two of our newest friendships: Asher Brown & Jon Zawadzki, and Emma Roth & Sophie Cohanim.

Asher & Jon began Friends@Home in October, and have really hit it off! Here are Asher & Jon enjoying their favorite pastime--Monopoly! Asher says, "I like playing with Jon because he gives me big discounts." Jon says, "I like Friends@Home because I like hanging out with Asher."



Emma & Sophie have been meeting since November, and the two love their visits. Sophie says, "I like coming to Emma's house because she seems so happy when I am there and we have so much fun."

Emma says, "It makes me happy to have someone come over to play with just me. I look forward to it for many days. It makes me feel so special. "



Volunteer Spotlights: Binny Greene & Esther Goldberg



Binny and Esther are both in their first year volunteering with the Friendship Circle. Binny, a senior at Northwest Yeshiva High School, and Esther, an 8th grader at Seattle Hebrew Academy have each come to FC at different times in their lives, but are both dedicated, motivated, and can always be counted on to be good role models for their buddies.

When we asked about why they chose to get involved with FC, Binny responded that “since I entered high school my friends have been telling me that Friendship circle is a fun and fulfilling program.” For Esther, “I got involved in Friendship Circle mostly because my sister did it for many years and I thought it would be really beneficial for me. She really inspired me with how often she went and how dedicated she was to Friendship Circle.”

For Binny, “my favorite thing about Friendship circle would definitely be the people. Everybody always seems happy to be there. [At Friendship Circle] I have learned how to work with the different types of kids. I love hanging out with my buddy, he is a good kid and really good at chess. My buddy is really easy to be with, and just talking to him and taking an interest in his life seems to make an impact. Friendship Circle is a giving, fun, and awesome organization.”

For Esther, “my favorite thing about Friendship Circle is really the look on the child’s face when they forget everything except the fun they are having with you and they don’t feel different, just special. The feeling you get afterwards is also really rewarding, that you really helped someone, made a difference. I have learned the idea that I can really make a change and that I am really making a difference in these kids’ lives is very moving to me. As a thirteen year old girl, there’s not much I can participate in to really change things but Friendship Circle gives me the chance, and has taught me how to do that.”



A Mother’s Voice



Cameron Wilson plays with volunteers David Solovy and Daniel Cohen.

The Friendship Circle provides my children with a wonderful experience in a safe and fun environment. It’s a place where my special needs son is accepted for who he is without judgment. The volunteers are an amazing group of people and really care about my children.

- Joanne Wilson, Friendship Circle Mother

If you are interested in participating in the Friendship Circle, please contact Lina@FriendshipCircleWA.org or 206-FRIENDS. Our online application is located on our website under the “Family” tab. We look forward to hearing from you!



From **October to December** our volunteers dedicated **1,559 HOURS** helping children with special needs.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>SUNDAY CIRCLES January 15, 2012 January 22, 2012 February 5, 2012 February 26, 2012 1:30-3:30pm @ Mercer View Community Center</p>	<p>MOMS' NIGHT OUT January 11, 2012 5:30 -7:30pm @ The FC Office</p>	<p>TEEN SCENE January 17, 2012 January 31, 2012 5:00-7:00pm @ TBA Call Office</p>	<p>FRIENDS@HOME VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION January 26, 2012 5:30-7:30pm @ The FC Office</p>	<p>MVP January 9, 2012 January 23, 2012 February 13, 2012 February 27, 2012 5:30-6:30pm @ The FC Office</p>
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If you know a family that can benefit from our programs, please contact us at 206-FRIENDS and we would love to help.

Mark your calendar!