

# PROGRAM GUIDE

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2018-2019



STUART I RASKAS



FriendshipCircle  
OF ILLINOIS



# WHAT IS THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE?

The Stuart I Raskas Friendship Circle of Illinois has been serving the Chicagoland community since 2006. We partner typically developing teenage volunteers with children and young adults with disabilities, in a dynamic variety of social, recreational, and educational programs. The relationships formed provide love and acceptance for the child, purpose for the teen volunteer, and respite for the family. Friendship is not a luxury, and everyone deserves to feel they belong. At the Friendship Circle, we're making our community more inclusive one friendship at a time.



# COMMUNITY CIRCLE



We are proud to introduce a brand new program entitled CommUNITY Circle. Join us one Sunday a month for a fun and interactive community service opportunity, because individuals of all abilities can give back!

October 14 | Chicago

Food Pantry Stocking



November 18 | Chicago

Nursing Home Visit



December 2 | Northbrook

FC Wraps - Chanukah Gift Drive



Jan 13 | Chicago

Bikur Cholim Get Well Cards



February 24 | Highland Park

Challah Baking



March 24 | Evanston

Toiletry Kits for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness



April 7 | Northbrook

Pesach Cleaning at Chabad



May 26 | Northbrook

FC Car Wash



# TALMUD TORAH



Talmud Torah provides education enrichment for Jewish children with disabilities ages 4-8, who are not in a Jewish day school. With the gentle guidance of a teen volunteer, they explore the beautiful world of the Hebrew alphabet, Mitzvot, and Jewish holidays through hands on activities, sensory play, and circle time.

## Sunday Mornings:

- September 16
- October 7, 14, 21, 28
- November 4, 11, 18, 25
- December 2, 16, 23, 30
- January 6, 13
- February 3, 10, 17, 24
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- April 7
- May 5, 12, 29, 26
- June 2

*Classes take place at Philip and Rebecca Esformes Cheder Lubavitch Girls School, 2809 West Jarvis, Chicago, IL 60645. You can register your child for Talmud Torah at [fcil.org/talmudtorah](http://fcil.org/talmudtorah).*



# FRIENDS @HOME



Throughout the school year, on any given day of the week, our **Friends@Home** volunteers visit their buddies in the comfort of their own home. They spend quality time with one another while the buddy's family soaks up some respite in another room.



# AFTERSCHOOL BUDDY BASKETBALL



This school year we are undertaking a pilot program at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School and as a partnership with Keshet at Ida Crown Jewish Academy, wherein students and local youth with disabilities come together one afternoon a month to learn basketball skills and play pickup games in a casual and supportive environment.

**Help us make this program a success!**

Seeking lead volunteers. Interested RZJHS and ICJA students should text Bassie at 847-757-4559.



# WINTER CAMP



This year Friendship Circle will run a four day camp in Northbrook for children and teens with disabilities ages 5-17, while school is on winter break.

■ Monday, December 24 - Thursday, December 27



# MOM'S NIGHT OUT



Mothers of children with disabilities are some of the hardest working people we know! We offer them the chance to kick back, relax, and connect with other women at our Mom's Night Out.

- Wednesday Evening, January 9
- Monday Evening, April 1





# VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS



Continuing education is important for our teen volunteers. Our workshops offer new insights into the special needs world and creative approaches to relating to their buddies.

- Tuesday, November 13 (Northbrook)
- Wednesday, February 13 (Chicago)

In addition, we will be hosting a mini retreat for female volunteers and an exciting staycation for male volunteers - details to come!



# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT & FELLOWSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY



The Friendship Circle wouldn't exist, if it weren't for the selfless dedication of our volunteers! That's why we consider it a privilege to gather together and celebrate their achievements. Whether you're the parent of a teen volunteer, a family who has an individual with special needs, or a compassionate community member, you won't want to miss this evening of inspiration!

■ Sunday evening, May 5



# HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING



The holidays are a time to celebrate with friends and family, and everyone should feel welcome. We host inclusive holiday events all across Chicagoland.

## Sukkos

### Sukkos Program at Misericordia

Wednesday, September 26  
4:00-5:00pm



## Sukkos

### Sukkos Program

Hoshana Rabbah  
Sunday, September 30  
10:30-12:00pm



## Chanukah

### Chanukah Bowl at Pinstripes

Monday, December 3  
4:00-5:30pm



## Chanukah

### Chanukah at Misericordia

Tuesday, December 4  
4:00-5:00pm



## Purim

### Purim Party

Thursday, March 21  
4:30-6:00pm  
at Mizrahi Grill



## Pesach

### Pesach Seder

Friday, April 19  
8:00pm  
at the Moscowitz home



## Shavuos

### Ten Commandments & Ice Cream Party

Sunday, June 9  
11:00am





Chicago

# Walk4Friendship

Join us for our 10th Annual Walk4Friendship! This powerful community event brings hundreds of people together in support of special needs, and raises crucial funds for The Friendship Circle's programming.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2019  
[www.ILwalk.com](http://www.ILwalk.com)**

**REGISTER. DONATE. FUNDRAISE.**