



Get to know us

Friendship Circle of Greater Fort Lauderdale brings together individuals with special needs, their families, and dedicated volunteers to create a warm, inclusive community. Through meaningful friendships, engaging social programs, and hands-on life and job skills experiences, participants build confidence, independence, and find a place they can truly call home.

Our Journey

Our story started in 2012 with a simple, powerful idea: everyone deserves the gift of friendship. From our humble beginnings with just two families, we have grown to serve over 250 families with children and adults with special needs, building their social, life, and job-training skills. This incredible journey is powered by hundreds of devoted volunteers, teens from more than 20 local schools, and business professionals, all uniting to create a community where everyone belongs.

Our Programs

Life Skills & Job Training
Teen Scene
Friendship Gallery Art Studio
Culinary Club

Cheerleading
Young Adult Circle
Mom's Night Out
Music Circle

You're not just changing a life. You're changing the world.

Your gift to Friendship Circle empowers individuals with disabilities to thrive, learn, and build lasting friendships, while also providing vital support for their families.

Make an Impact



Give online at friendshipfl.org/donate



Assist with scholarships



Sponsor a program or event

Every contribution, big or small, helps our friends grow, succeed, and live life to the fullest.

Get In Touch

754-800-1770

Office@friendshipfl.org

Friendshipfl.org



CONNECTION. INCLUSION. COMMUNITY.

Because everyone deserves the gift of friendship.

Join us in building a world where everyone belongs.



Be Our Partner, Make an Impact

Your gift provides individuals with disabilities with the tools and opportunities they need to gain independence, build confidence, and access life-changing programs, empowering them to thrive and live their best lives.

Monthly Giving Opportunities

Friend - \$18/month

Provides an annual scholarship for one participant in our Teen Scene or Young Adult Circle program.

Partner - \$36/month

Covers the cost for four moms to attend our Mom's Night Out programs.

Builder - \$60/month

Provides four full scholarships for Culinary Club for the year.

Leader - \$180/month

Supports three students for the academic year in the Friendship Gallery Art Studio.

Champion - \$400/month

Provides 12 participants with a full Social Program Scholarship for the year.

Visionary - \$1000/month

Covers a 50% scholarship for one participant in our Life Skills & Job Training program for the year.

Community Pillar - \$2,000/month

Funds a full scholarship for one Life Skills and Job Training participant for the year.



To donate,
Scan the QR code.

About Our Programs



• Life Skills & Job Training

Each day, adults with special needs gain a sense of purpose and pride as they build essential independent living and job training skills, empowering them to enter the workforce and become confident, valued members of our community.

• Teen Scene & Young Adult Circle

These programs create memories filled with fun and friendship, bringing together teens and adults with special needs alongside incredible volunteers from the community. From Olympic Day and movie nights to cupcake wars, karaoke, and dance parties, every activity creates beautiful long-lasting friendships.

• Music Circle

Music connects us beyond words. Participants don't just play music—they perform. Our full-fledged band brings rhythm and joy to community events, while highlighting their incredible talents.

• Pat's Culinary Club

Our Special Friends embark on delicious adventures guided by chefs from around the world. Through interactive cooking experiences, every recipe becomes a fun-filled opportunity for connection and creativity.

• Cheerleading

Where spirit and teamwork shine. Special friends learn and perform exciting cheer routines, building confidence and proudly showcasing their talents for the community.

• Friendship Gallery Art Studio

Creativity comes to life in the Friendship Art Studio. See our Special Friends explore a variety of art mediums while creating unique masterpieces reflecting their incredible talents.

• Mom's Night Out

Celebrating our superhero Friendship Circle moms with special evenings of relaxation, connection, and well-deserved pampering just for them.



To see a glimpse of our
programs in action,
Scan the QR code.

What our participants are saying

"This program has been a true blessing for our family. Every day feels like a Thanksgiving miracle. Seeing my child excited to attend, feeling valued and purposeful, means more to us than words can express."

— A Grateful Parent

"I love coming here. This is where my friends are, where everyone says 'hi' to me, and where I always feel included. I feel happy. It's my favorite place to be."

— A Friendship Circle Participant

"Before I started volunteering, I never knew what it truly meant to meet people where they are at. My special friends have taught me what kindness and true acceptance look like."

— A Teen Volunteer

Financials

We believe cost should never be a barrier to friendship or to gaining the crucial skills needed to enter the workforce, which is why we provide substantial financial assistance to families in need.

HOW OUR PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED:

Grants & Foundations:

\$352,000

Individual Donors:

\$129,727

Program Fees:

\$202,495

TOTAL

\$684,222

DIRECT PROGRAM SPENDING:

Life Skills & Job Training Program:

\$406,980

Social Programs:

\$177,454

Scholarships:

\$102,798

TOTAL

\$687,232