



 FriendshipCircle

# IMPACT REPORT 2024

# INTRODUCTION

**This year we are bringing “strength” to our annual Impact Report!**

**The Jewish concept of Chazaka = “strength” is established when something is repeated for the third time. We are more excited and committed than ever to share our third annual report with you.**

Let’s begin by celebrating progress on the goals we outlined in our last impact report:

- **Social programs for young adults:** Young adults with disabilities are now enjoying the bespoke “School Leavers Sunday Circle,” and older adults at FC Social are experiencing a new program strategy and an energetic facilitator.
- **Digitising operations:** Families and volunteers now have a smoother, more user-friendly application process, and we continue to refine other areas for an even better experience.
- **More opportunities at Friendship Bakery:** Our bakers can access critical support on their pathways to employment with four new partnerships and a quarterly worksite visit program.
- **Developing fundraising activities and keeping our community engaged:** Even our strongest team cannot do it alone! We continue to experiment with innovative ways to bring the community together in support of the Friendship Circle mission and have submitted two bold, game-changing applications to interested foundations.

## **So have we made a difference in 2024?**

Yes! Together we are building a connected and inclusive community and in the following pages we present a convincing and compelling picture of Friendship Circle’s impact.

Thanks to Friendship Circle, families with children with disabilities don’t have to face the long summer holidays in isolation. Young people—both with and without disabilities—are finding a true sense of belonging, building their self-identity, and forming lifelong friendships. What’s even more critical is that our alumni are now giving back, perpetuating the impact by making meaningful contributions to the community, both through personal involvement and in formal professional and community roles.

## **As the Lubavitcher Rebbe taught:**

**You are needed. You are unique.  
No one can do what you need to do.**

It is our hope that the collective impact at Friendship Circle ignites our passion, empowers us to fulfill our mission and deepen our commitment to each other and the world around us.



# FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE TREE OF LIFE

**Our tree is made up of 18 unique souls, each growing in their own way but connected at the roots. When we support each other, our whole community thrives, bringing life and joy to the world.**

(Photo Credit: Gazzarazzi Photography)



## MISSION

To inspire young people by creating inclusive communities through education, activities, capacity building and social connections.

## THEORY OF CHANGE





Ruby has been involved in Friendship Circle since she was 4 years old. We were coming to terms with the fact that Ruby was not developing typically and would not have the life we imagined for her.

After some convincing I decided to give Friendship Circle a try. I was so nervous to leave Ruby at her first Day Camp but when I picked her up she was full of joy! Over the next week it was so beautiful to see her excitement each time I dropped her and the close friendships she formed. Six years later and it's still the same. She looks so forward to Friendship Circle and gets so much out of it. The Camps are always the highlight of her holiday.

Importantly, her siblings get to see Ruby also having a social life and activities outside of school - something she doesn't have without Friendship Circle.

One of the true standouts for me has been when we are out in the community and teenagers and young adults come up to Ruby and say hello and know how to include her.

**Friendship Circle is such a shining light in our community and the warmth and care we feel from the programs is unmatched.**

**MANDY DADDIA**  
MUM









# IMPACT IN NUMBERS

## PARTICIPANT SESSIONS FILLED

- 476 DAY CAMP SESSIONS
- 112 FC SOCIAL MEET-UPS
- 138 FRIENDS AT HOME VISITS
- 766 FRIENDSHIP BAKERY SHIFTS
- 108 SPORTS CLUB SESSIONS
- 471 SUNDAY CIRCLE SESSIONS
- 69 WEEKEND GETAWAYS

## VOLUNTEER SESSIONS FILLED

- 857 DAY CAMP SESSIONS
- 290 FRIENDS AT HOME VISITS
- 115 SPORTS CLUB SESSIONS
- 590 SUNDAY CIRCLE SESSIONS
- 203 WEEKEND GETAWAYS
- 159 OTHER VOLUNTEERING SESSIONS

## TOTALS

- 2,140 TOTAL PARTICIPANT SPOTS FILLED
- 2,186 TOTAL VOLUNTEER SPOTS FILLED
- 4,326 TOTAL SPOTS FILLED

## COMMUNITY

- 14,183 VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2024
- 10,532 ENGAGED IN OUR COMMUNITY
- 3,383 PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH STUDENT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES





# FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE IS THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR COMMUNITY

The next generation  
with and without  
disabilities shares why!

...everyone feels so comfortable and at home. It also gives us the ability to make life long relationships.  
- Talia

**I love Friendship Circle because I love spending the day with my buddies and getting to know them.**

- Mia

...it allows us to form strong and special friendships between people with and without disabilities through amazing and inclusive programs!! - Amy

**...it feels like a family** and everyone is so kind and fun.  
- Catherine

...a space of complete acceptance and support, where everyone is there to be friends and create an amazing and fun atmosphere. - Emma

**...it is a place you can always fit in without feeling judged.**

- Abby

...it's a way to make new friends and it is fun. I think it is such an amazing community and I love getting to know new people.

- Nadav

...it provides a safe, caring, warm and inclusive environment where my child can thrive and be himself. - Stacey



**...EVERYONE IS VERY INCLUSIVE. - INDI**

...it removes our fears in otherwise uncontrolled environments where Thomas may be misled and confused, in important issues such as puberty.  
- Dean

**...MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY**  
- GENEVIEVE

...I know **my daughter is having fun and making friends.** - Gemma

...it is **a special place** where Ruby is completely accepted and loved. It is her happy place.  
- Mandy

...I am able to make good friends there, and my weekends are no longer boring. **I can't wait for the next Day Camp!** - Thomas



Friendship Circle are the only people who don't make us feel like they are doing us a favour looking after him, it's the only place Eddy feels wanted.  
- Joanna

...it's fun and I enjoy spending time with the volunteers and leaders.  
- Aiden

...it feels like a family where everyone is not only included but valued for who they are!  
- Jared

Friendship Circle is so much fun and I love it so much.  
- Brigitte

It's a camp for disabled people and a place where I can be myself. It makes me feel very respected.  
- Ella

...it has so many lovely people and we have made lots of friends. Also the activities are fun most of the time. We love to get together with everyone.  
- Dina

...it is a place where I can be myself and connect with friends and my Jewish heritage.  
- Tahli

**...it is a place where everyone is included regardless of ability.**  
- Jayden

**...it's a space that fosters growth and learning in the best way possible.**  
- Kelli

...it's **full of beautiful, caring people who care** about neurodiversity and being inclusive. It's also 2 hours of respite for us knowing that our daughter is being well cared for and engaged in fun activities.  
- Kerry

**IT'S GREAT INCLUSIVE, KIND AND PATIENT.**  
- RENATA

...it facilitates connections with a wide range of people.  
- Elliot

**...it's such good fun.** - Otto

...because of my friends and family.  
- Mikey

**...it gives me the opportunity to hang out with new and old people, growing a friendship with them.** - Bella

...it's an inclusive and warm community for all.  
- Daniel

...it's a place where everyone is accepted and appreciated :)  
- Zac

**...it's a home where everyone can feel loved, appreciated and safe!** - Noa

**...I GET TO HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS. - ROSE**

...they are happy to see me.  
- Eddy





# CORPORATE SPONSORS

## PARTNER



## PRINCIPAL SPONSOR



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



# 2024 INCOME SOURCES

31%

PROGRAM  
INCOME

7%

GRANTS

8%

FOOD SALES

25%

FRIENDSHIP  
WALK

30%

DONATIONS





# IN 2025 WE ARE GOING TO DO MORE

## MORE LISTENING

The world is changing at a rapid pace, many families are experiencing economic uncertainty and the NDIS is reforming and tightening. That is why we are committed to listening more than ever to ensure that we continue to add value where it is most needed. Take this as an invitation to give us a call.

## MORE COLLABORATION

Our Bakery team has seen success in forming authentic partnerships to support people with disabilities to achieve their employment goals. When the goals are clear and the roles played are defined, the field is open for an awesome game. We are keen to connect with more inspired people and organisations to create inclusion.

## MORE VOLUNTEERING

And we don't just mean more spaces filled at our programs. There are so many ways that volunteers can provide meaningful support using their unique skills and create more pathways for connection and community. Let's explore what we can create together.

## MORE SHARING

Friendship Circle is doing amazing things. Friendship Circle is changing lives. We will share these inspiring stories so that people hope for a brighter future.

# IMPACT INSIGHTS

## From School Holiday Adventures to Weekly Catch-Ups

When Josh and Ryan first began volunteering at Friendship Circle’s Day Camps, they had no idea how profoundly a connection with Jayden would shape their lives. From there it felt like such a natural progression when they continued their bond with Jayden through the Friends at Home program. It wasn’t just about volunteering anymore; it had grown into a genuine friendship.

Visiting Jayden at home has given both Josh and Ryan the chance to deepen their understanding and connection by bonding in his own environment. They look forward to their weekly visits and approach them with a strong sense of responsibility, commitment and care plus I have the privilege of getting to know Jayden’s family as well! Without Friendship Circle, these incredible relationships would never have been possible.

**JOSH AND RYAN'S MUM**

Before I started doing Friends at Home with Jayden, I participated in an incredible program called Friendship Circle’s Day Camp. During my time there, I worked alongside other volunteers, helping the participants have a great day and being a friend to them. One of those friendships was with Jayden. Having Jayden as my buddy was a privilege and I enjoyed our time so much that my brother and I decided to do Friends at Home with him in 2024. Throughout our weekly visits, we played games, socialised and had lots of fun. **I got to see a new side of Jayden, in his own environment.** It was and continues to be an incredible experience. Jayden, Josh and I have a blast together and I feel honoured to be able to support Jayden and his family through Friends at Home.

**- RYAN**

I like to see my friends and play games with them. We always have so much fun and they make me laugh and tell me jokes.

**- JAYDEN**

I first met Jayden through Friendships Circle’s Day Camps. Our bond was instant, and we connected through games and shared interests. Camp after camp, I was paired with Jayden and our bond grew stronger and stronger. This led to me wanting to continue this connection with Jayden through the Friends at Home program and we grew even closer with our weekly visits. These moments together gave me an opportunity to watch Jayden grow, and in turn, allowed me to grow in ways I never expected.

**- JOSH**

**Friendship Circle Day Camp program has made it possible for Jayden to learn how to socialise in a friendly and patient environment.** Jayden really struggles on how to communicate and interact with his peers and this program has allowed for both Josh and Ryan to help him, and not only model how to be with friends but also teach him how to engage and “play.” It’s been so rewarding for us to see how much he has progressed and learnt through his time at Camp, and how incredible Josh and Ryan are with him.

**JAYDEN'S MUM**



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 FriendshipCircle

