



# Among Friends

December 2014 / 5775 Issue

[www.phillyfriendship.com](http://www.phillyfriendship.com)

## It's Not **Just** a Walk

### Chaya's Story

My life has been shaped by my experiences with The Friendship Circle. After volunteering in high school, I chose a career as an Occupational Therapist and thought that was quite a large enough impact. I didn't know what else was in store.

Both of our daughters were born the day after attending The Friendship Circle Walk. One in 2010 and one in 2013, both on the same day of the week, Monday and on the same date on the Jewish calendar, Yud Cheshvan.



The first time it happened, we laughed about The Friendship Circle being a source of blessing for our family. When our second princess came along we were sure of it! Join The Friendship Circle and imbue your own life with magic.

*(Chaya Snyder, FC alum)*

### Korn Meets Kamin

A few years ago I was on my way down to Philadelphia for what I thought would be a normal weekend visiting friends. Little



*Kamin baby posing with his Friendship Circle baseball.*

for a special needs organization called The Philly Friendship Circle. To make a long story short, that friend knew a guy and later that day I was conveniently placed at the same volunteer spot as that guy. We talked, had a catch and I even gave him the responsibility to hold my keys while I went to the restroom. A few months later we became engaged, married and that is why our team name is "Korn Marries Kamin." *(Julie Korn Kamin)*

### Daniele and Misha

We introduced two friends at the walk in 2009 and now they are married! (See above, Korn Meets Kamin)

Misha and I started dating because Hindy, who was working for The Friendship Circle at the time, told Misha to ask me out and he listened!

We love The Friendship Circle and feel so connected to it! Misha wore a Friendship Circle shirt in the delivery room when we had our baby and two nurses asked about it! We explained what The Friendship Circle does and they were so impressed.

*(Daniele Slutsky)*



did I know that... insert incredibly cheesy line here...I was going to meet someone that would change my life forever. A friend of mine invited me to volunteer at an event

## Volunteer Events



Over 90 teens join to kick off the year.



Mystery sensory experience at our recent autism workshop.



Fellow volunteer shares at sensitivity workshop focusing on mental health.



Hands on volunteer workshop to learn the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding.



Volunteer leaders visit the office.

# Thanks to our wonderful community for your generous support. **It's been a great year!**



The Join Our Circle Gala on April 6, 2014 celebrated our teenage volunteers and guests of honor The Axelrod & Albert Families.



## The Ripple Effect

Following the Join Our Circle Annual Gala last April, one parent shared her story of how a small, unexpected act of kindness transformed the entire night for her daughter, Nicole, a participant with special needs. "I felt badly because Nicole was not very responsive to people who greeted her and I knew that leaving was going to be extremely challenging," she wrote. "When we got to the lobby, [Nicole]

*literally dug her heels in and refused to go outside. Then she spotted four young men sitting on a sofa and wanted to say hi. They were so genuinely warm and friendly. In exchanging names, we learned that the boys were two Axelrods and two Axelrod cousins. I asked if they might walk across the lobby with us and they immediately agreed. Nicole was absolutely beaming, got right into the car and had a great night."*

There is no doubt that this year's Join Our

Circle event demonstrated the power of community support and friendship, one small act of kindness at a time.



## Our Philly Friendship Mummers-themed Walk was a smashing success!



Thanks to our event chairs the Moss, Abramson, Banner and Levin Families.



Think of  
The Friendship Circle  
for end of  
year giving.

Other ways you can support The Friendship Circle throughout the year:  
AmazonSmile (Friendship Circle Philadelphia Region Inc)  
Goodshop (Philly Friendship Circle)  
United Way (Designation code: 44542)

# Magnet Madness

*"I have to say, seeing one of those Friendship Circle car magnets can give me the best boost to my day. I know you know the magnets I am talking about. They are everywhere! I don't know how it is possible, but I rarely have a ride or park in a parking lot that does not have a car sporting a Friendship Circle magnet. No matter how mundane my errand or how hard I am working to cajole my son into the store or the doctor's office, they are a little reminder that I am not alone. They are such a clear physical reminder of all that*

*Friendship Circle is working to create – an ever-present community in which we are not alone."*

*– A Friendship Circle Mom*



**We are celebrating 10 years of friendship!**

*Let's flood the streets with Friendship Circle magnets!*

**Check to make sure the FC magnet is in the following places:**

- 1. my car
- 2. my neighbor's car
- 3. my friend's car

Take a picture of the craziest place you have seen a Friendship Circle magnet and post it on Facebook. Be sure to tag The Philly Friendship Circle!

## Highlighting a Relationship



I met Brooke my freshman year of high school. I was really nervous going to her house for the first time because I had no idea what to expect. I felt like I wouldn't know how to act or what to say upon meeting her. At first, we were both pretty shy around each other, but after a few weeks that faded away and we became close.

What I love most about hanging out with Brooke is the chance to just let go of whatever else is going on in my life and be with a friend and have fun. Together we usually walk her dog, watch videos on the computer, do an art project or find a game to play.

The relationship has grown so much over the past four years, even beyond Friends at Home. When I got my license, Brooke and I started taking outings to places like Rita's, the library or just around town. This was really special because I was the first teenager Brooke had ever come in a car with alone, and we had the chance to take small adventures together.

Since graduating from Abington Senior High School, I attend the University of Pennsylvania. I plan to visit Brooke when I return home on breaks and keep in touch with her and her family.

I'm so lucky to have gotten involved with The Friendship Circle because while I see the amazing impact it has had on Brooke and the other kids, I personally have grown so much and had so much fun throughout the years. What makes The Friendship Circle a real circle is the sense that as a volunteer, you are truly gaining as much as you are giving. Spending time with your buddy feels like spending time with any other friend, but you are sharing a relationship and learning from each other in truly unique ways.

*– Elana Waldstein, Volunteer Alum*



**Celebrating 10 years of friendship!**



**The Philly Friendship Circle**  
 754 South 9th Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19147

[www.phillyfriendship.com](http://www.phillyfriendship.com)  
 215-574-1765

Based on the bedrock foundation of “love your fellow as yourself,” our mission:

The Friendship Circle provides organized physical and social structures to support inclusive friendships, connections, respite and fulfillment for youth with special needs, young adult volunteers, their respective families and the Jewish community at large.

Through fun and interactive experiences, these relationships bring a sense of joy and meaning to The Friendship Circle community and beyond.

**Executive Board:**

Rebecca Cohen    Michael Levin    Gail Simon  
 Linda J. Heller    Jonathan Seltzer

**A WALK CLASSIC, FC LENTIL SOUP**

- 2 tbsp olive oil      1 diced carrot      1 28 oz. can of diced tomatoes
- 1 diced onion        1 diced yam        salt, pepper and cumin to taste
- 4 diced cloves of garlic    1 lb dry lentils
- 3 diced stalks of celery    10 Cups of water

Saute diced onions, garlic, carrots and celery in oil for about 15 minutes. Add lentils, tomatoes, water and diced yam. Season to your liking and cook for 1.5 hours on medium heat or until lentils are very soft. Enjoy!

The Friendship Circle Philadelphia Region South, a 501c3 organization founded by the Lubavitch House, serves families of children with special needs and provides volunteer opportunities for teenagers in Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester & Delaware Counties.



Jammin' at our Pre-Rosh Hashana carnival

**Fall 2014 Programs**



One delicious Torah



Drumming with volunteers from Haverford College



Creative friends at Sunday Circle

Dinner in the Sukkah for teens and young adults



Adding my touch to the group mural



**PROGRAMS:**

- Friends at Home Weekly Play Dates ~ Sunday Circle Respite Sessions ~ Cooking Circle
- Jewish Celebrations & Holiday Events ~ Holidays at Home Activity Packages ~ Helpers Circle ~ Haverford Circle
- Drop-Off Programs and Trips ~ Teen and Young Adult Social and Volunteer Opportunities ~ Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP) ~ Volunteer Sensitivity Workshops ~ Leadership Positions ~ Birthright Israel Trip ~ Parent Listserv
- Parent Networking Sessions & Informative Speaker Presentations ~ Moms' & Dads' Nights Out