

## The Friendship Circle

Throughout our community, there are thousands of children and young adults with special needs who, along with their families, often live with a sense of desperation and isolation. This includes individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and related disorders or various emotional or physical challenges that prevent children from comfortably interacting with peers and community. The Friendship Circle addresses the challenges facing these children, young adults and their families in a way that celebrates rather than laments their uniqueness and individuality.

Founded in Orange County in 2006, the centerpiece of the Friendship Circle program is the pairing of professionally trained volunteers with the special individuals for weekly home visits, Sunday Circle and Young Adult Circle in the park, summer and winter camp and a full range of activities and events.

By integrating the wisdom of professionals and the energetic spirit of teenagers, The Friendship Circle brings out the best from within all of those involved. It has been found that by utilizing the gift of friendship, the young volunteers succeed in reaching the children in ways that most forms of therapy do not. Furthermore, the program has had a profound effect on the teenagers themselves – instilling within them the values of giving and gratitude.



The underlying philosophy of The Friendship Circle is that every child is an entire world – needy and worthy of love, laughter, nurturing and connection. A child with special needs feels the pain of loneliness and euphoria of friendship. Indeed, the real beauty of The Friendship Circle is that it has so many winners: The special-needs children, their families, the teenage volunteers, the staff members and the benevolent supporters. All are part of a seamless circle of giving and sharing.

Since 2007, the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County has granted over \$20,000 to the Friendship Circle through the generosity of families, such as the Entins, who chose to create endowment funds during their lifetime to benefit our community for generations to come. What will your legacy be?

## Anne & Jacob Entin's Lasting Legacy. . .



Anne Entin was a long-time supporter and board member of our Jewish Community Foundation. Both Anne and her husband, Jacob, gave to a variety of local charitable organizations during their lifetime using their philanthropic fund.

They also set up an Endowment Fund through the Foundation, requesting that the Foundation's Grant Committee determine which programs or institutions would receive an annual distribution from their fund each year.

Anne and Jacob sadly passed away in 1994 and 1998.

Each year since their passing, the Entins have continued their legacy of giving through distributions from their endowment fund at the Foundation, providing for Jewish education for children, social programming and kosher food for seniors, and educational training for women transitioning back into the workforce.

Recently, the Entins provided a grant in their names to the Friendship Circle to help bring teenage volunteers and children with special needs together for fun and friendship.

For more information contact the:



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