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FAQ " FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ("FC")*

What is The Friendship Circle?

FC is an initiative of Chabad-Lubavitch to provide constructive activities for developmentally-handicapped and at-need children in our community, and to assist their parents and families via support, respite, education, and peer-interaction. It addresses the children and family's alienation and isolation from the Jewish community by building relationships between our teenagers and the children.

What is FC sponsor, Chabad-Lubavitch?

Chabad-Lubavitch is a worldwide organization established in the 18th century, dedicated to outreach to alienated and isolated Jews. Its activities and relationship-building have been singularly successful in our community and around the world in re-enfranchising Jews with their G-d and community. Its impetus comes from the guidance and spiritual direction of "The Rebbe," Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson.

Where and when was the first FC established?

FC was established by Chabad-Lubavitch in Detroit in 1994. The Detroit FC remains the most elaborate and highly-developed program in the FC network and includes a 20,000 square-foot Friendship Center. The Detroit FC program is the prototype for FC programs around the world.

Who is funding the Friendship Circle?

Although the Friendship Circles around the world follow the same protocol and use the same name and logo, each FC chapter functions independently, remains community based and is supported by the local community.

Why emphasize teen leadership?

Extensive teen participation addresses complementary FC goals: Teen leadership will benefit the at-need children in our Jewish community by connecting them with "buddies" who are accessible, active, patient, highly motivated, and realistic role models for the youngsters. We have repeatedly seen that bonding with teenagers far surpasses that with adults.

The FC will likewise afford our teens precisely the involvement that establishes a sense of higher purpose, personal values, motivation, and identification with Judaism and our Jewish community. It is a hedge against the indifference and lack of purpose that so often mark the teenage years. The FC will enable bonding not merely with our children, but building relationships with their peers, fostering friendship and positive interaction. Naturally, all teen participants go through extensive background checks and are trained and monitored by a local interdisciplinary team of professionals.

What about lay leadership?

We will establish a lay infrastructure that will include local advisory committee and task forces to address programming, fundraising, publicity and public relations, training, and advocacy, for our FC.

What are the immediate needs of the FC?

The FC requires assistance in . . .

- ⌘ **Establishing all aspects of a presence for City FC, including staffing, programmatic support, facilities, infrastructure, and startup capital and underwriting the all aspects of the program.**
- ⌘ **Developing an ongoing public relations campaign to generate community support and teen involvement.**
- ⌘ **Devising and executing successful fundraising campaigns to establish and sustain (City) FC.**
- ⌘ **Sustaining unity and a positive, mutually helpful relationship between our FC and FC's worldwide.**
- ⌘ **Determining processes to gain corporate support and institutional grants.**
- ⌘ **Generating public awareness and support for the goals, and providing advocacy as required**

