



Fall Newsletter

September 2022

Hey Friend,

Fall is right around the corner and we are anticipating it being the best yet!

This will be my third back-to-school season with We've Got Friends (WGF) and I am very excited to see our programming continue to develop. I am even more thrilled that we get to take part in this growth together!

Our team has been working hard, planning so many wonderful events and opportunities to share with you, with more in the works coming soon. I am looking forward to seeing both new and familiar faces this fall; I can tell that we are all going to be friends!



Grants & Major Gifts Updates



Thanks to a generous \$15,000 grant from the *National Recreation Foundation* (NRF), we are now able to offer more unique programming opportunities for our friends to connect, putting this pandemic in the past and looking forward to a season of being together. The NRF, "is dedicated to enhancing the role of recreation as a positive force in improving the quality of life of youth." They do this by investing in recreation programs serving those who are economically, physically or mentally disadvantaged. Learn more about the NRF on their [website](#).



Our gratitude extends to *Autism Speaks* for their \$4,996 contribution toward *We've Got Friends'* programatic funding. "Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families." They do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions. Learn more about Autism Speaks on their [website](#).

Fundraising

We've Got Friends' 3rd Annual Golf Outing is approaching and it is an event you truly won't want to miss. Whether you and your BFFs join us

as sponsors, golfers, event volunteers, or at the luncheon, we will be overjoyed to have you with us on this extra special day!

The *3rd Annual Golf Outing* is on **Monday, October 31st, 2022.**

Registration will begin at 7:30am ET.

Tee time will begin at 9:00am ET.

The *Luncheon and Awards* will begin at 2:00pm ET.

To register as a golfer, become a sponsor, or purchase a luncheon ticket:

Please visit the [3rd Annual Golf Outing Event Page](#)

To join our event committee:

Please fill out the [3rd Annual Golf Committee Interest Form](#)

Programming Developments

Our Back to School Social, a Giants game, and The Sound of Music at the Paper Mill Playhouse are just a few of the many amazing occasions we have planned so far.

Registration is officially open for these upcoming events. You can scroll to the bottom of this newsletter or visit www.wgfnj.org/calendar to sign up. Space is limited; sign up today! Stay tuned as more announcements roll out in the coming weeks.

In the Media

On September 9th, We've Got Friends was featured in the Montclair Local, an independent, locally printed newspaper whose mission is to, "spark dialogue, objectively inform, and build community in Montclair."

Click [here](#) to check out the full article!

Welcoming a New Friend to our Team

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce WGF's new Director of Development: Sandy Peddicord. Sandy and I will be working in tandem, striving



to improve funding and development at the highest WGF standard:

"As WGF's Director of Development, I am grateful to be a part of maximizing the positive impact our organization

has on the lives of our friends and their families. As WGF grows, so will unique opportunities to connect and form genuine friendships that will endure for years to come," Sandy Peddicord, *Director of Development*.

I can't wait to see you all soon!

Sincerely,
Jordanna Spaulding

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spaulding".

Executive Director of We've Got Friends

Message From Program Director

Hey Friend,

We hope you enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Saturday, September 24th at our Back to School Social in Montclair!

We have some very special activities planned for you and are thrilled to welcome back Jason Hartelius and his



guitar - start thinking of songs you want to sing along to.

We are also expecting a visit from the ice cream truck so make sure not to fill up on too much pizza and snacks!

We are very excited to bring you our fall outings. Make sure to RSVP as tickets are limited.

Sincerely,
Gina Russomano



Program Director of We've Got Friends

Upcoming Events

Back to School Social

Saturday, September 24th

WGF (ages 13-21): 1-2:30pm

WGF Jr. (ages 7-12): 2:30-4pm

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

[73 S Fullerton Ave](#)

[Montclair, NJ](#)

[Sign up WGF](#)

[Sign up WGF Jr.](#)

Virtual Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays

The Friend Squad (Virtual - Zoom)

Mondays: 5-6pm ET with Mallory

Wednesdays: 5-6pm ET with Erica

Saturdays: 1-2pm ET with Erica

[Sign Up](#)

Giants Game

Sunday, October 2nd

The WGF bus departs at 10:30am
from

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

73 S Fullerton Ave

Montclair, NJ

Tailgate before the game!

[Sign Up](#)

Paper Mill Playhouse:

The Sound of Music

A Sensory-Friendly Show

Friday, December 30th at 1:30pm

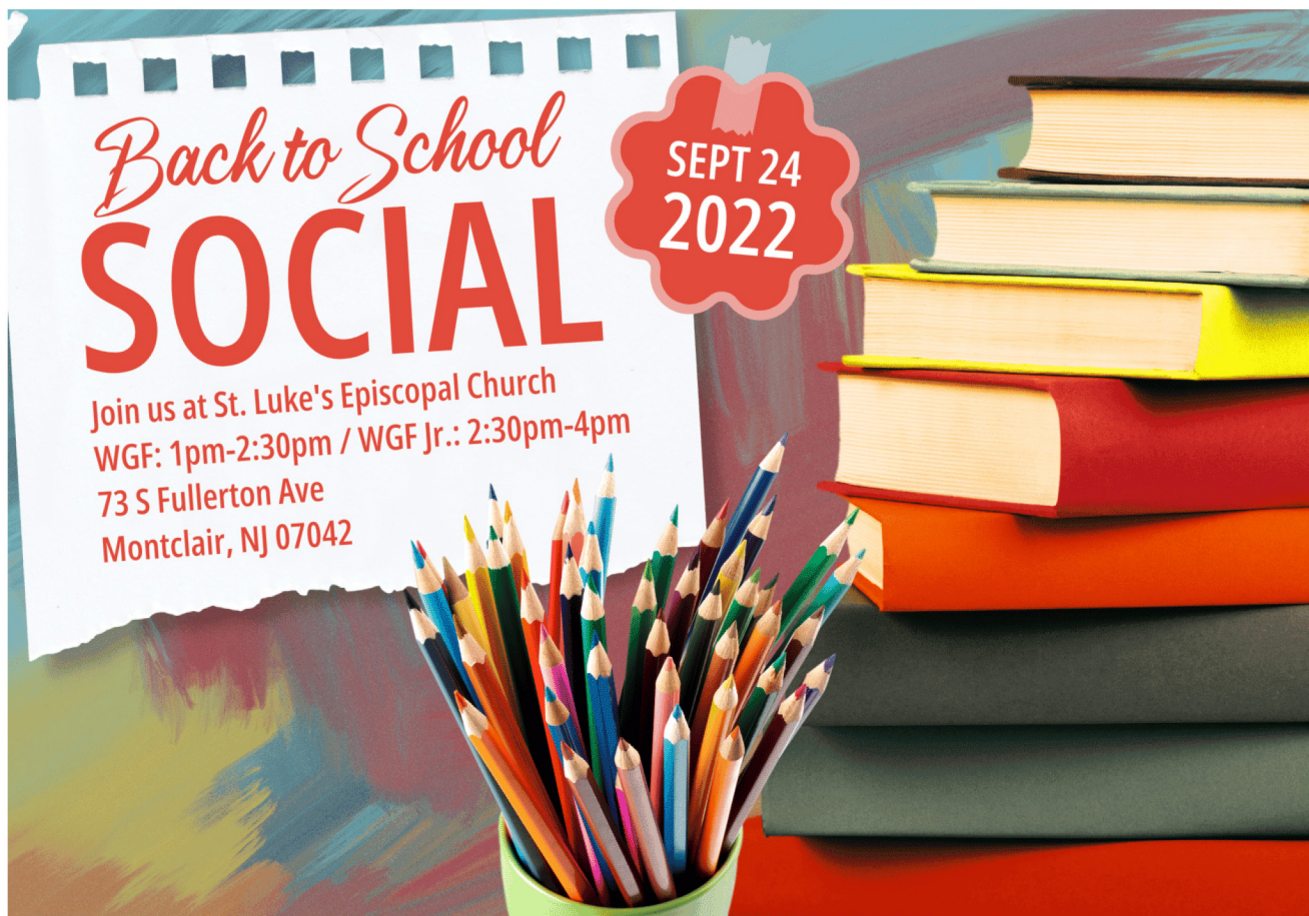
Paper Mill Playhouse

22 Brookside Dr

Millburn, NJ

[Sign Up](#)

Join Us For Our Next Special Event



Gallery of Events



Testimonials

“ We create the opportunity for these kids to find each other. They know this is their tribe. ”

– Candi Carter, Special Needs Parent

We've Got Friends

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See what's happening on our social sites:



[Visit Our Website](#)