



NEWSLETTER

Back-to-School Edition

2023-24

Welcome Message

Candi Carter, President & Founder

It's that exciting time again – a new school year is on the horizon; and, I couldn't be more thrilled to welcome you all back to We've Got Friends (WGF)!

As we gear up for another year together, I want you to know that this place is all about you. It's where friendships take center stage, where smiles are contagious, and where every single one of you is a star. Our past adventures have been incredible and the best is yet to come!

Get ready to meet someone absolutely awesome – William Poznansky is stepping into the spotlight as our new Director of Programming at We've Got Friends! Let's make this year even more extraordinary, because together, we can do anything.

William Poznansky, Director of Programming

Hey there! I'm Will, your new Director of Programming at WGF. I'm here to make sure we have a blast together. Whether it's cooking up cool activities or sharing exciting stories, I'm all about making our time unforgettable.

I've helped students rock their SAT prep, created podcasts that are as cool as your favorite tunes, and even made learning a blast at a museum. Now, I'm bringing all that fun to WGF! Get set for amazing adventures, activities, and friendships that will light up our journey. Let's make awesome memories together. See you soon!



Recap of Summer Events

School's Out Party

On June 17th, WGF closed out another action-packed year with our annual School's Out Party at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Montclair, NJ! We made friendship bracelets, hand-print painted WGF's very own banner, decorated garden pots, danced, and enjoyed delicious frozen treats from Montclair's very own: The Towne Scoop ice cream truck!

Summer Programming

We kept the WGF vibe alive all summer long with our virtual group, The Friend Squad, meeting on Zoom three times per week. Participants and volunteers stayed connected while playing trivia, Roblox, and more! We also ran our first ever extended school-year program at John F. Kennedy School in Newark, NJ.

4th Annual Golf Outing

We are pleased to announce that through the collective efforts of our cherished friends & supporters, WGF's 4th Annual Golf Outing on July 11th at Glen Ridge Country Club in Glen Ridge, NJ raised over **\$130,000.00** for teens with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to form lifelong friendships of their very own!



The Montclair Foundation Donor Cultivation Event

On July 25th, WGF's Founder, Candi Carter, spoke at the Montclair Foundation Donor Cultivation Event. WGF is grateful for the Montclair Foundation's continued support.

Call for Volunteers

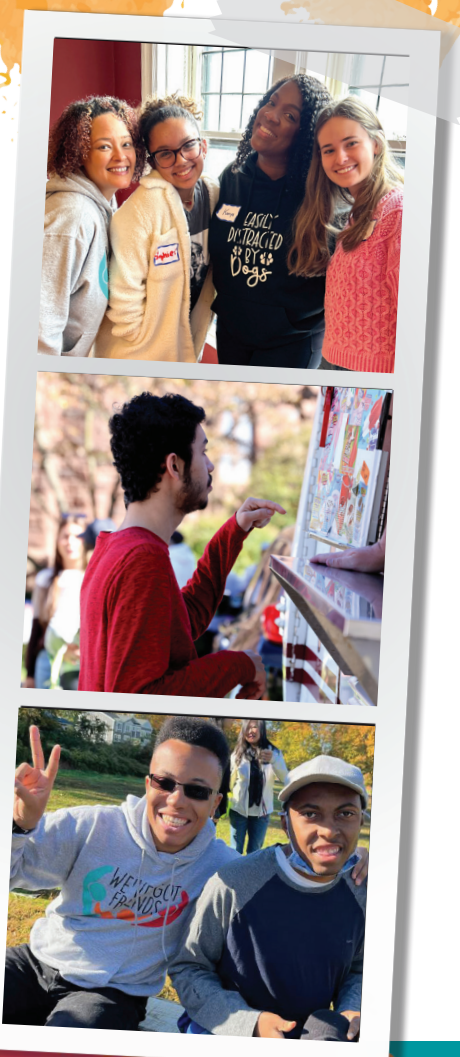
Working with teenagers with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) will give you the skills to communicate with and support a friend with different abilities in their social development. Volunteering with We've Got Friends will teach you how to work in a cognitively diverse environment and increase your awareness of those with I/DD.

Volunteer hours can be accredited by our organization for fieldwork and community service requirements. Learn more and apply today at wgfjn.org/volunteering.



“Every experience has been beyond positive. I recommend this program to anyone who seeks something similar. I talk to everyone about what an amazing opportunity it is; and, as a School Counselor, I encourage my students to volunteer.”

— Parent



Special Thanks to our 2022-2023 Grantors



STAY CONNECTED

wgfjn.org [@wgfjn](https://www.facebook.com/wgfjn) [@weve_got_friends](https://www.instagram.com/weve_got_friends)

Donate at wgfjn.rallyup.com/donate4friends

JOIN US

September

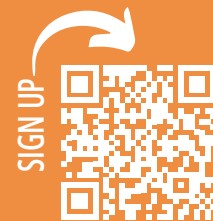
16 - Montclair: 1-3pm (Back-to-School Social)
 23 - Paterson: 2-3:30pm
 27 - West Orange: 4:30-5:45pm
 20 - Morristown: 4:30-6pm
 Virtual - Weekly on M (5-6pm EST),
 W (5-6pm EST), Sa (1-2pm EST)

October

7, 21 - Montclair: WGF (1-2:30pm)
 & WGF Jr (2:30-4pm)
 14 - Paterson: 2-3:30pm
 25 - West Orange: 4:30-5:45pm
 4, 18 - Morristown: 4:30-6pm
 Virtual - Weekly on M (5-6pm EST),
 W (5-6p EST), Sa (1-2pm EST)

November

4, 18 - Montclair: WGF (1-2:30pm)
 & WGF Jr. (2:30-4pm)
 11 - Paterson: 2-3:30pm
 8 - West Orange: 4:30-5:45pm
 1, 15 - Morristown: 4:30-6pm
 Virtual - Weekly on M (5-6pm EST),
 W (5-6pm EST), Sa (1-2pm EST)



Back-to-School SOCIAL

September 16

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 73 S. Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ
 WGF & WGF Jr. 1-3pm



You MUST register to hangout, scan the QR code to the right to sign up. For more information visit wgfjn.org/about-our-groups to see location addresses.

Create a WGF Account

Now Required!

Signing up to meet new friends just got a whole lot easier! If you have not done so already, with a parent or caregiver, go to wgfj.org/participant-registration or scan the QR code to get started today. If you have a question or require assistance, please contact info@wgfj.org.



IMPORTANT NOTE: By November 1, 2023, you must create a WGF account using our new registration system in order to sign up for WGF events. Creating an account will save you time and allow us to get to know you better.

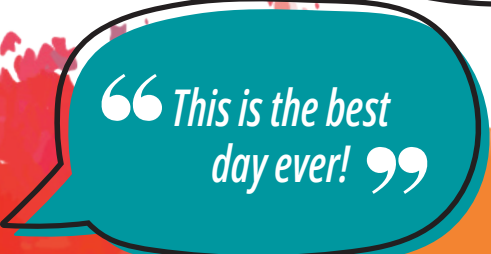
2023-24 Plans

Friends of We've Got Friends "Networking for Good"

Friends of WGF is an advisory board of charitable, diverse, but like-minded professionals with a mission to support We've Got Friends by conceptualizing revenue-generation opportunities for the organization. This is a twelve-month commitment in which friends will "Give and Get" while supporting a worthy cause.



If you and/or someone in your network is interested in joining Friends of We've Got Friends, go to wgfj.activehosted.com/f/44 or scan the QR code.



OVERHEARD AT WGF

