



NEWSLETTER

Back-to-School Edition

2024-25

Welcome Message

Candi Carter, President & Founder

Hello, We've Got Friends (WGF) family!

As we kick off the 2024-25 school year, I'm thrilled to welcome each of you back to WGF. This year promises new adventures, deeper connections, and countless moments to cherish together.



Here at WGF, your individuality and joy are at the core of everything we do. Whether you're discovering new friendships or simply enjoying the fun and laughter, know that this is your space to grow and thrive. We've had an incredible journey so far, and I'm confident that this sixth year of programming will bring even more opportunities for each of you to shine in your own special way.

Here's to a fantastic new year at We've Got Friends!



Recap of 2023-24 Events

Special Events

We've Got Friends (WGF) really stepped up this year, hosting and attending a variety of special events for participants and their families! By the end of 2023, WGF was invited to Livingston's LACD & SYLS Halloween party, Seton Hall Prep's dress rehearsal of "Moon Over Buffalo," and "Fiddler On The Roof" at Paper Mill Playhouse. The start of 2024 was equally impressive with a Broadway trip to see "How to Dance in Ohio" and a screening of The Wiz on 35mm film. WGF had an action-packed April at Supercharged Entertainment and cheered for the Seton Hall Prep Pirates. May was full of excitement at the Skullduggery Illusion Show, the Montclair Disability Pride Parade, and a visit to No Labels Boxing Fitness, founded by parents of special needs children. Summer closed with a bang at our "Tennis & T-Shirt Decorating BBQ" and a NJ Jackals game in Paterson.

Hangouts

Throughout 2023-24, WGF operated six sites, each hosting three to five fun-filled Hangouts per week! The older friends (ages 13-21) met at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Montclair, the Paterson Community Policing Division, Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, Delbarton School in West Orange, John F. Kennedy School in Newark, and virtually on Zoom! The younger kiddos made long-lasting memories in Montclair at St. Luke's Episcopal Church!

Fundraising

We are incredibly grateful that our fundraisers this year were a great success, enabling WGF to continue creating fun, inclusive communities for our participants! Over \$228k was raised through our various fundraising events, and WGF was honored to be chosen as the beneficiary of Montclair Rock Voices' Winter Concert and the Greater Union County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America's "The Ultimate Mixer." Candi Carter, WGF's founder, was also named the Champion of Inclusivity at the Central New Jersey Chapter of Jack and Jill of America's "Brims & Bow Ties 2024 Extravaganza!"

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. Scan the QR code to learn more and apply or visit wgfnj.org/volunteering



“A smile is worth a thousand words. Seeing our friends light up with joy reinforces why We've Got Friends is so important. Last week, we all got the chance to smile when one of our friends invited another to prom!”

— WGF Site Host

Special Thanks to Our Supporters



STAY CONNECTED

wgfnj.org | [@wgfnj](https://www.facebook.com/wgfnj) | [@wevegotfriends](https://www.instagram.com/wevegotfriends) | [company/we-ve-got-friends](https://www.linkedin.com/company/we-ve-got-friends)

OUR LOCATIONS

Scan the QR code to sign up or visit www.wgfnj.org/calendar



Virtual

Virtual on Zoom:
The Friend Squad
WGF: Ages 13-22
Mondays & Wednesdays:
5pm – 6:15pm
Saturday: 1pm – 2:15pm

Montclair

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
73 S. Fullerton Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042
WGF: Ages 13-22 – Elected
Saturdays: 1pm – 2:30pm
WGF Jr.: Ages 7-12 – Elected
Saturdays: 2:30pm – 4pm

Paterson

Paterson Police
Substation
930 Main Street
Paterson, NJ 07503
WGF: Ages 13-22
Elected Saturdays:
2pm – 3:30pm

Millburn

Millburn Public Library
200 Glen Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041
WGF: Ages 13-22
Elected Thursdays:
6pm-7:30pm

Orange

The Huub
35 & 47 Cleveland Street
City of Orange, NJ 07050
WGF: Ages 13-22
Elected Wednesdays &
Fridays: 6pm – 7:30pm

Morristown

Bethel Church of
Morristown
59 Spring Steet
Morristown, NJ 07960
WGF: Ages 13-22
Elected Wednesdays:
6pm-7:30pm

NEW!

NEW!

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WGF Welcomes New Board of Directors

Help us give a warm We've Got Friends (WGF) welcome to our 2024-2027 Board of Directors! They are a distinguished group of professionals from across multiple industries. Each member is committed to supporting our efforts and initiatives for our community. We look forward to their contributions.



Candi Carter



Steven Andrews



Jason Barak



Joel Boff



Stephen Bohmert



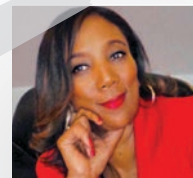
Venessa Dobney



Adam Gale



Whoopi Goldberg



Andrea Holmes Thompkins



Dr. Lisa Thornton



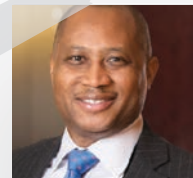
Karen Tucker



Kim Awon-Rivers



Francine Smith



James Sullivan

Save the Date!

We've Got Friends' 6th Annual Golf Outing

July 14, 2025 • Glen Ridge County Club • Glen Ridge, NJ, 07028

We hope you're as excited about We've Got Friends' 6th Annual Golf Outing as we are! This year's 5th annual installment raised over \$193,000, marking it a resounding success! Next year, as always, will be a fun-filled day, including a great showing on the range with 18 holes, sponsorship opportunities, unforgettable connections and friendships to be made, and a luncheon to conclude. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming months! Scan the QR code to register or visit wgfjn.org/2025-golf-registration



Scan the QR code to donate to WGF or visit bit.ly/donate4friends

