



New Friends

New Friends connects teens and young adults in high school and college with special needs children and their families. The purpose of New Friends is to build relationships by focusing on our abilities, not our disabilities, while creating a fun-filled atmosphere where the entire family feels safe, relaxed and happy!

Participate in New Friends

New Friends is affiliated with WELS supported Lutheran schools, but families of all denominations are welcome. Participants consist of high school and college volunteers from surrounding communities, and special needs children/teens, along with their families/mentors.

Meet monthly

New Friends groups gather at a place of their choosing that best suits their individual needs. Events are held once each month. Monthly events are typically two hours long. They begin with a brief devotional message of hope, followed by fun activities planned by the volunteers. Some activities include sporting activities, music, games, singing, dancing, crafts and snacks.

Get involved

Being a part of New Friends gives you the opportunity to make a positive difference in your life, and in someone else's, by sharing your friendship and faith. You will develop relationships and experiences that are truly rewarding!

Help us share the Gospel with people who have special needs

This program is a ministry of our national Jesus Cares Ministries program is a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association. Its funding comes from grants and donations from churches, schools, organizations and individuals. There is no charge to the local church as JCM assists in developing a program, and there is no fee to student participants. There are 2 ways to donate.

- By mail, with or without a JCM donation envelope
- Online at www.tlha.org by clicking on the "Donate" button at the top right of the website

Learn more

For more information about New Friends or to start a local program, visit www.tlha.org or contact Elli Bonack by email at eabonack@tlha.org.

