

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY AT NORTH WAY



Prayer Needs: Friendship Ministries is an interdenominational, intergenerational, international ministry with people who have intellectual disabilities. There are over 1,000 Friendship groups in 70 denominations and 25 countries worldwide.

- Pray for those who participate in the Friendship ministry services each week and the volunteers who care for them.
- Pray about how your group could participate in God's work through the Friendship ministry.

Descriptions of Volunteer Opportunities:

Seasonal Goody Bags – *One-time or occasional need* – The attendees of the Friendship Ministry's weekly classes love receiving goody bags. A small group could plan seasonal gift bags and then gather the necessary items and assemble them. Bags can then be distributed during a Sunday class.

Help Celebrate Christmas – *Annual event* – Each year, the Friendship Ministry celebrates Christmas with those served by the ministry. One opportunity is to plan and prepare a dessert for this annual event. There are also opportunities to participate in the Friendship Angel Tree program. Groups can work with ministry leadership to purchase gifts to bless those served by the ministry.

Provide Snacks for a Sunday Class – *Weekly opportunity* – From September through May, the Friendship Ministry meets every Sunday in the North Way Wexford Field House. A snack is provided for each attendee as part of their time together. A small group can work with ministry leaders to plan and prepare a snack for a meeting. This could be a one-time activity or could lead to a more regular commitment.

You're a Star Prom – *Annual Event* – Every summer, Embrace Life partners with The Friendship Ministry at North Way to host a formal dance for individuals with developmental disabilities in the church and surrounding community, embracing all lives as unique representations of the image of God. Groups can donate food or could attend the event, celebrating with those participating.

Prayer Commitment – *Ongoing need* – "Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition" (Ephesians 6:18). Commit to praying for the Friendship Life ministry and those they serve on a weekly or monthly basis as a group. Pray about how each individual can participate in God's work in this ministry.

Help with Sunday Classes – *Weekly opportunity, possible monthly commitment* – From September through May, North Way welcomes those who are intellectually disabled living in home of residential care sites. This group joins together at the North Way Field House at 11am each Sunday. Their time together consists of a study, worship, prayer, snacks, and crafts. Groups can come and serve any week to make sure that the service is a blessing to all who attend. This can begin as a one-time activity and progress to a monthly commitment.

Be a Friend to an Individual – *Ongoing commitment* – A primary goal of the Friendship Ministry is to build meaningful relationships with those served by the ministry. Individuals from your group can be partnered with a regular ministry attendee as a North Way friend. This person would serve as a consistent friend to the person, sending cards and care packages and visiting them regularly in class.

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