

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Samantha Novick

hello@thefriendshipjourney.org



The Friendship Initiative is now The Friendship Journey

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The Friendship Initiative has changed its name to The Friendship Journey. The Friendship Initiative, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, was established in 2011 with the mission to unite individuals of all abilities through inclusive experiences that embrace diversity and foster friendships.

As an organization, we are committed to furthering our reach, finding new ways to inclusively support the community and continuing to do what we do best – create friendships! Our board of directors is proud to announce that beginning April 1, 2019, our organization will serve the community under our new name, **The Friendship Journey** (TFJ), with the same spirit and a refreshed mission. The mission of The Friendship Journey is to unite individuals of all cognitive & developmental abilities through friendship. We offer a variety of inclusive programs and activities to foster relationships, embrace diversity, enrich lives and create a community that is home to everyone.

The founders of The Friendship Initiative built a solid foundation for the organization to grow and expand its services. The organization now offers seven programs to the community, including a revamped music program, "Rock Friends" and a new dance program, "Dance Party Friends." To further support our families, TFJ has created new committees, including "The Friends of the Board." TFJ continues to explore other opportunities to celebrate diversity, promote inclusion and expand reach and organizational relevance.

"Over this past year, we have discussed many ways in which we can serve our community more holistically," says Mrs. Samantha Novick, M.S., CCC-SLP, board President. "Changing the organization's name to The Friendship Journey reflects how the organization has evolved, beginning as an 'initiative' through the concept of redefining friendship and blossoming into a 'journey,' as we continue to foster these relationships and support our community," said Novick.

We love making new friends! If you're interested in learning more about The Friendship Journey's programs, committees and volunteer opportunities, please visit thefriendshipjourney.org or follow us on virtually all social media platforms. Life is a journey and there is always space to "share the path with a friend."

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