

Don't Diss My Ability! Friendship Circle Teen Volunteer Kickoff

The Friendship Circle kicked off its year with a spectacular event and Panini Bar to welcome new and existing volunteers and prepare for a great year.

The teens participated in a fun and exciting hands-on project titled "DON'T DIS my ABILITY." Learning how to see past disabilities and to recognize the abilities of individuals with special needs. In addition, teens learned about our programs and how they run, interacting with children who have special needs and more.

The Friendship Circle is an organization that cultivates friendships between teen volunteers and children with special needs. The

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

For more information visit FriendshipCircleNC.org or call 704-366-5983. ☆



Teens learn how to be sensitive to individuals with special needs.

Mazel Tov & Congratulations Long Time Museum Volunteer Honey Kridel Retires

For the past 17 years, Honey Kridel has been a fixture on tours at the Levine Museum of the New South. A charismatic and dedicated docent, this past May she announced her intentions to step down from her volunteer post. "The mind is willing but the body is weak," she quipped during a recent visit back. "I know my limits."

Honey, who celebrated her 88th birthday in September, has led tour groups large and small, young and old, native and newcomer, through *Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers* and dozens of traveling exhibits during her tenure. Doing so has helped her better understand the place she now calls home and impart knowledge to visitors.

"You must remember when I moved down here, there was no black and white," the Long Island, NY, native said. "I came down here with no prejudices because I had none. But I met people who did. They had big ones." Honey never accepted those for herself and when it came time to give back, she felt the Museum and its focus on the changing South and building community were the perfect fit.

She and her husband Arnold volunteered every Tuesday and

Thursday until settling on Tuesday tours. And with each tour group, Honey said she was able to gain as much as she gave. "I rounded out my days. I looked forward to being a docent. I looked forward to leaving with something," she said. "If I could do that with one or two or 10 children a month, then I feel I would have done something." Now she will fill her calendar with family trips, times for breakfast or dinner with friends, or activities with the Oasis senior group at the Levine Jewish Community Center. "I will



Honey at the Levine Museum of the New South.

miss the chatter of the teenagers, the help of the staff, the camaraderie and the fun we always had together," she said. ☆

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Honey stands at the Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers exhibit where she often led tours.

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