

Friendship Circle Launching Thrift Boutique and Young Adult Employment Center

Our community is in need of programs that address the needs of young adults with autism and other special needs. Too many of these young people graduate high school without the skills required to continue their education or get and hold a job. While many of these individuals have unique talents, the majority of jobs available to them are janitorial positions and grocery bagging. Left with few alternatives these individuals spend most of their time at home or in programs that are little more than babysitting.

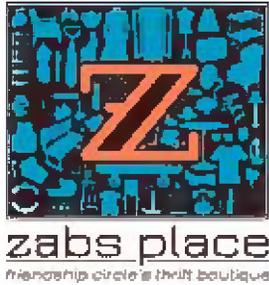
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2013, 69% of typical young adults ages 16-35, were pursuing a college career and/or held a job in an interest-based field. In contrast, 74.3% of young adults with special needs were living at home and were unemployed or had stopped looking for work. Based on research done by the Mecklenburg Disability Action Collaborative there are currently 50,000 adults with special needs in Mecklenburg County. Their unemployment rate is over 80%.

ZABS Place is an eclectic resale shop & employment training center for young adults with special needs run by the Friendship

Circle of Charlotte. We aim to create a customer-centric atmosphere with a diverse assortment of quality resale merchandise and one-of-a-kind creations, made by local young adults with special needs, all with thrift shop prices. Our product lines will include: clothing, furniture, books, and home décor. Through careful location selection we will open in an area with easy access to public transportation and heavy foot traffic. Our store layout will be both handicap-accessible and visually warm and inviting to create an environment that encourages customers to look around and explore.

We're located at 3814 Monroe Road near Wendover. Come check us out.

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



Hebrew High – It's Not Your Father's Religious School

Every Wednesday, at Shalom Park, Jewish teens are busily engaging in all sorts of Jewish learning. Some are studying from the ancient texts, some are listening to and translating Israeli rock music, some are creating culinary masterpieces, and some are learning how to make ethical Jewish decisions. There is something for every student and every learning style at Charlotte's Hebrew High.

We are beginning our third year of "Hebrew for Credit." Due to a generous Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and an agreement with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School district, Hebrew High students are learning conversational Hebrew and receiving language credit in their secular schools. The class was developed to help our young people deepen their connection to the worldwide Jewish community through our common language.

At Hebrew High, we are always developing new curricula to stimulate teens' minds, get their creative juices flowing and strengthen their Jewish identity. We create the Jewish leaders of tomorrow, right here at Shalom Park every Wednesday evening. Don't let your child be left out. For more information call Roz at 704-94-6782 or email rcooper133@aol.com. Or check us out at www.HebrewHigh.org. ☆



Hebrew High students make hamantaschen for Purim.



Matthew Rabinowitz is psyched to make hamantaschen with his Hebrew high friends.

Registration form for next year's Hebrew High is on page 27.

When I grow up, I'm gonna be a Doctor

To get ready, JPS helps me:

- * Strengthen my fingers with beads
- * Problem solve with puzzles
- * Memorize songs, and
- * Care for my friends!

It all begins here...

jps
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Presley, JPS Student