

## Friendship Fields Newsletter

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi

### Highlights:

- We scrimmaged against Men & Women’s Basketball Teams
- We ran the bases at Lawrence Dumont
- We got to know the Cross Country Team
- Mikyla and Jen from MFT make us think

### Marriage & Family Therapy Involvement

Every other Tuesday, two Marriage and Family Therapy students (Mikyla and Jennifer) interact with us by providing a time of learning by helping us think. “We are honored and happy to be working with Friendship Fields. As students of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program, we gain hours, wisdom and lots of laughs while teaching and learning from the young adults who are participating. So far, we have learned how to cooperate with each other and contribute to a group project in a unique, collaborative way. In other words, we learned how to play Jenga and put some (pretty complicated) puzzles together while respecting each other’s space and having fun! Again, we are having so much fun participating in Friendship Fields and hope to learn and share in the months to come!”

-Jen & Mikyla



### Sports Teams

Extra-curricular activities in college keep students active, and Friendship Fields is experiencing various sports teams!



-Blake Stucky



### From Our Coordinator

My first experience with an individual with a disability was when I babysat a boy named Shane. Shane had Down Syndrome. His mom was one of my middle school teachers. I wish I could find her to tell her how that experience has shaped my life. I love seeing the potential in individuals. I don’t see them as individuals with disabilities anymore. As the director of Circle of Friends and working with 4000 students and over 120 schools, while working with a variety show that had 100 students-60 of them in special education, and now as director of Friendship Fields, I have had one mission-for others to see what I see; People with disabilities are people with gifts and they can teach us more than we can teach them. Once we spend time with one another, differences fade away. I love that and it has been my professional mission for 29 years. I am blessed that God has led me to each of the schools and programs I have had the opportunity to work with. Friendship Fields is a perfect fit for Friends University-a university that values service learning, that is faith based, that is open to new experiences. All of the things that Friends University says it is has been revealed in their investment in Friendship Fields and the relationships that have been made in just one semester, with 13 new individuals coming onto this campus.

Valerie Wall, Director, Friendship Fields



### A Word from an Intern

Tuesday afternoons have become one of the things that I look forward to most each week. This program provides a great opportunity for disabled adults to experience the life of a college student. What I love to see most is the pure joy in each one of the student’s faces as we participate in various college activities. These students have an amazing ability to look past the obstacles that lay in their path and truly enjoy life and the opportunities before them. This is something that many college students and even I sometimes miss. I love hanging out with these kids because they remind me to cherish the many blessings in my life, to stay positive in times of trouble, and to simply enjoy life.