

...could you make a difference?

Become an 'Older Friend'

As always, there are more children needing our support which means that we need more volunteers.

Would you have 2-3 hours to spare per week to become an 'Older Friend'?

Activities can include drawing; painting; shopping; cooking, swimming or watching a football match.

As you would expect, you must meet certain criteria, including being over 18 years old, preferably with transport; having a genuine interest in children and a desire to help those in need; providing two character references and going through a Criminal Records Bureau check.

For more information and an application form, visit our website.

Make a donation

If you would like to make a donation, go to our website for instructions via PayPal. Alternatively, contact us direct using any of the methods below.

Your donation will help fund the children's activities:

£7 for one child's activity per week; £364 to fund a child's activities for one year.



For more details and an application form, please contact

0845 838 2098*

email: info@friendshipproject.co.uk

twitter: [@friendshipproj](https://twitter.com/friendshipproj)

or visit our website:

www.friendshipproject.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 517684

*Calls to this number from a BT telephone line will be approx. 2p/min daytime and 0.5p/min evening (inclusive of VAT).
Calls from mobiles and other operators may vary.

Make a difference to a child's life...

Who we are

The Friendship Project was established in 1986 with the primary aim to support children disadvantaged by family circumstances. We provide children with an 'Older Friend' who helps to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Operating throughout Warwickshire, all children are referred to our Charity through Warwickshire County Council Children's Services. We receive grants and donations from various charities, trusts and commercial organisations, as well as individuals, which help fund our operations.

How we help

The need for help is great and growing. There are many social reasons why more children are in need of our support.

Some have mentally or physically disabled siblings who demand much of their parent's time. Others are being bullied at school and have become withdrawn. Some are neglected and left to fend for themselves too much of the time. Some have lost a parent for whatever reason and feel the loss deeply. Others have some form of minor disability and some of our children just have no other opportunity to go out and have fun.

By providing an individual 'Older Friend' to give them support and take an interest in them, we can ease many of their problems. Our 'Older Friend' can provide access to learning opportunities and experiences the 'Younger Friend' will not receive within the home environment. Regular contact with a positive influence in their life will enable them to broaden their horizons and grow in confidence.



“Experience has shown that a weekly visit by someone who cares does make a difference”

How we make a difference

Meet Sebby...

Sebby was 6 years old when he was referred to The Friendship Project. He is one of five children. His mother has Lymphoedema and is bed bound and two of his siblings are Autistic. Sebby's dad is the sole carer for the family since Sebby's mum cannot be left and his two autistic brother's need constant care. This means that Sebby and his other two siblings are unable to go out and have fun as there is no-one to take them.

The Friendship Project matched Sebby with Lynne as the 'Older Friend'. Lynne describes her time with Sebby as "The highlight of my week." Sebby had never been on an escalator and very rarely did he get to play in the park. "The difference in him in a year is amazing."



Rebuilding

Dean* is 10 years old. His 'Older Friend' is Helen*. Dean's mother sadly died of Cancer and her partner left the family home leaving three children to be raised by their Nan.

Dean became very difficult at school and unable to make eye contact with teachers and other adults. By the onset of the friendship, Dean had moved to a new school.

Helen took Dean to the climbing wall in the sports centre at Warwick University. Both friends enjoyed the visits and Dean rose to the physical challenge which helped to build up trust between the two of them.

Slowly Dean has opened up to Helen and started to talk about himself and his difficulties during the past year or so.

*names have been changed