



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2014

Community Connections

Newsletter of Connections for Independent Living

Our Great Crew and CO Gives Day

VISTA Volunteers and Interns, Old and New

Connections benefits greatly from the contributions of VISTA Volunteers and Interns. We always appreciate their enthusiasm and ideas, and right now we would like to say a hearty thank you to VISTA Erin McKinstry for her hard work promoting our annual Wine Gala as well as for creating and executing a very successful Accessible Garden project. Erin is completing her year of service with Connections in November; we will miss her.

We would like to welcome new VISTA volunteer Patrick Davis and our new UNC intern Dianne Phillipe. Patrick will be redesigning our website and making it accessible to people with vision impairments. He is also helping recruit volunteers and develop our assistive technology programs.

Diane is working as an independent living specialist intern and assisting with outreach and many administrative needs.

Colorado Gives Day is December 9th!



Connections is happy to be participating in Colorado Gives Day for our second year. This year we join the CO Gives Day Weld County Collaboration in promoting this day of giving where you live to nonprofits serving your community. We hope you will remember us the big day and remind your friends and family too. Watch our Facebook page to see videos by staff highlighting our services and the Gives campaign.

MS and Nutrition Groups Launching

Connections is excited to announce new events and activities including nutrition classes and MS support. The MS Group starts up again on November 12 with a “meet and greet” here at Connections. This group provides ongoing support and education for living with multiple sclerosis.

We are also pleased to be hosting hands-on nutrition classes with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, called Eating Smart, Being Active. We are hosting an intro class on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00—call us to register. The full eight-week course will begin on January 7. Come join us for a hands-on experience with healthy cooking, eating, and exercise.

Important Winter Events

MS Group

Wednesday, November 12, 3:00 to 4:00

Youth Activity: Movie

Friday, November 21, 2:30 to 4:30

Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed

November 27 and 28

Colorado Gives Day

Tuesday, December 9

Intro to Eating Smart, Being Active

Thursday, December 11, 1:00 to 12:30

Call (970) 352-8682 to register.

Consumer Holiday Party

December 17, noon to 2:00

Youth Activity: Holiday Crafts

Friday, December 19, 4:30 to 6:30

Office Closed for Holidays

December 24 through January 2, reopens January 5.

iPhone Donations and Youth Programs

Seeking iPhones and iPads

Connections is seeking donations of iPhones and iPads that our consumers can use as assistive tech-



nologies. iPad 3s and up and iPhone 4s, 5s, and 5c in particular are needed. These devices can help people with vision impairments identify objects, currency, and colors, read labels, and provide walking directions. They help people with motor or commu-

nication disabilities talk to others and develop new skills. If you are in the market for an upgrade, consider donating your old phone to us!

Youth Programs and Greeley Schools

Our Youth Open House connected us with new parents and youth in need of services and helped jump-start our iPad classes and recreational activities with youth.

We have been working with the Greeley School District to provide iPad classes for special needs students since early in the year, and we are now

adding classes on life skills such as cooking, laundry, and money management. In addition, we are scheduling fun days for doing crafts and using the Wii for games. If you would like to join our activities or sign your child up, contact Rose or Jodi at Connections. We also provide independent living services to individual youth: Call us to learn more about how we help youth of all ages, including those making the transition to adulthood.

Gala of Wines Committee Needs Your Help
Call Beth at 352-8682 if you'd like to volunteer.

ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES AND CONNECTIONS



We are excited to announce that VISTA volunteer Patrick Davis is redesigning our website to make it

accessible to people with vision loss. It will soon be usable with a screen reader.



Connections for Independent Living

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