

***Connections* Program Description**

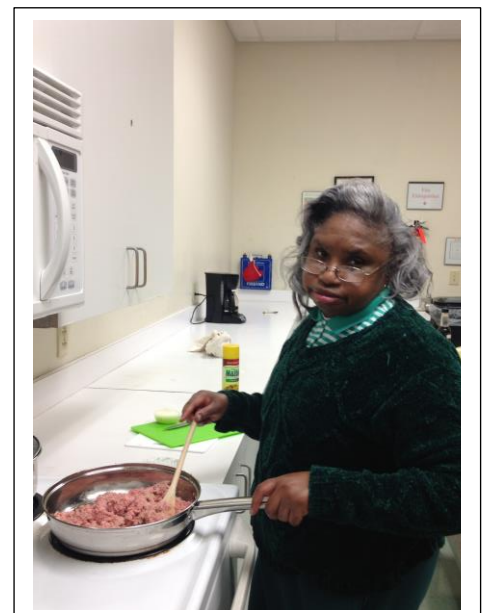
No one, including adults with disabilities, wants to live in a bubble. People thrive on developing and maintaining relationships with other people. *Connections* is a program of the Stevens Center that promotes connections. *Connections* addresses the specific needs of adults with developmental disabilities who do not receive publicly funded support services.

Under the direction of the Activities Coordinator, *Connections* operates 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Via paid staff, volunteers and guest presenters, *Connections*:

- Provides opportunity for people to enjoy life
- Develops skills needed to be more independent
- Develops problem solving skills so a person can have more personal control
- Promotes better physical and emotional health
- Helps people apply the knowledge they have to real life situations
- Addresses the individual learning needs of each person
- Helps people network with the community

The program components that address the learning needs of adults with disabilities rely less on handouts and workbooks, and more on developing or maintaining skills through use of what people already know or can learn. For example:

- **Playing cards and board games**, then adding the score uses number recognition, math skills, matching skills and also develops an age appropriate leisure skill
- Reading the newspaper and discussing **current events**, and then participants will learn to use the **Internet** to gather more information
- **Cooking classes** promote reading, math, and better health decisions
- **Sports and exercise**, and keeping track of progress, promotes math & good physical health
- **Volunteering** to assist area causes, as part of employment readiness
- **Unpaid work** at the Stevens Center, to develop job skills



Connections is limited to a maximum of ten people that attend regularly. New participants attend on a 90 day probationary period, to determine how well the program structure works for them. Individuals that detract from the flow of the program will not remain in the program.

Registration for the basic core program is \$200 per month for approximately 100 program hours each month. Financial aid may be available to participants that live in a private home.

Requirements for Participation:

- Ability to function in a group setting of 10 people with one supervisor
- Ability to safely maneuver within an environment that provides only peripheral supervision
- No behaviors that are disruptive to the program's operation
- Does not require a one-on-one support
- Can care for self, including eating, toileting and medicating
- Does not receive publicly funded supports during the time s/he is in the program

If you have questions, would like to register, or want to make a donation to the financial aid fund, please call Roger Bailey at (919) 776-4048.

