

NEWS & KNOWLEDGE...
NEWS YOU CAN USE....
DECEMBER, 2022



Connections Pottery Fundraiser:

When: Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Where: 1679 Southwest Boulevard, Newton, NC, 28658.

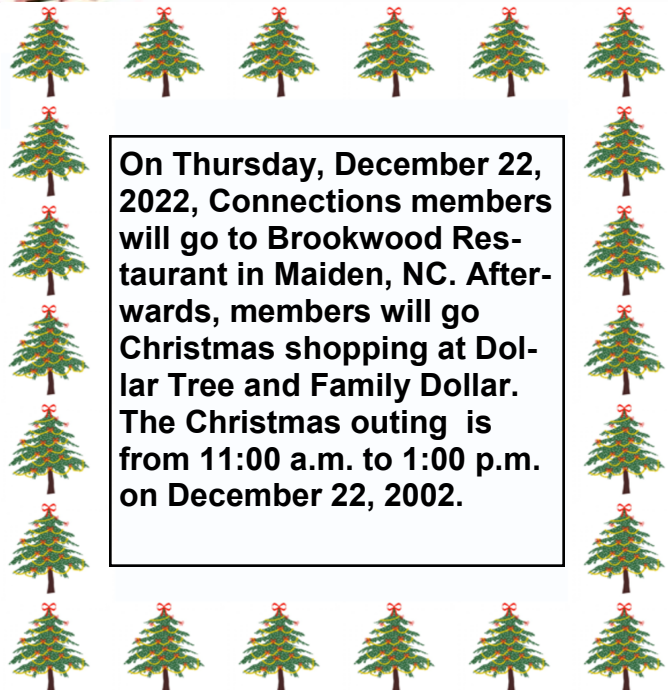
There will be a food truck, a bookmobile and Santa Claus!

Please, come to the Pottery Fundraiser for your Christmas Shopping!



Connections will be closed on Friday, December 23, 2022 and on Monday, December 26, 2022. However, Connections will be open on Monday, December 26, 2022, for people who sign up to help with the Food Lion Food Run and to engage in a special activity afterwards.

On Thursday, December 22, 2022, Connections members will go to Brookwood Restaurant in Maiden, NC. Afterwards, members will go Christmas shopping at Dollar Tree and Family Dollar. The Christmas outing is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 22, 2022.



Employment News:

Connections TE (Transitional Employment):


Right now, we have two members working at Hart Square and two members working at Catawba Valley Healthcare in our TE Program.

Connections SE (Supported Employment):

Currently, in our SE Program, we have one member working at Lee Industries and one member working at Olive Garden.

Connections IE (Independent Employment):

We have one member working at Catawba Valley Healthcare, another member works at Black Diamond Collision Center and a third member works at Sarstedt.



*Have a Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year!*

Introduction to Connections:

Connections is a clubhouse model affiliated with Catawba Valley Healthcare in Hickory, North Carolina. Connections is a program designed to serve adults 18 years old and older who are living with symptoms of mental illness. In 1990, the Connections program was created to offer supports in the community to persons engaged in mental health recovery. Connections gives people living with symptoms of mental illness opportunities to attain educational, housing, and wellness goals and enables people in the Clubhouse to make and maintain supportive friendships. Connections is a place where people are welcomed and are valued as people in their own right without the stigma of mental illness. The goal of Connections is to give people in the program a sense of belonging and self-worth, a place of hope, a place of respect and dignity and a place for opportunity for individuals with mental illness.

One becomes a member of Connections by a referral from a therapist or other mental health professional. It is recommended that a prospective member takes a tour of Connections to learn about the clubhouse model by observation of the working units and meeting other Connections staff and members. A Comprehensive Clinical Assessment is also required to verify a prospective member's the need for psychosocial rehabilitation services.

One component of the Connections Clubhouse includes work-ordered days that include volunteer work in the kitchen, clerical and snack bar/employment units of the member's choice . Other components include education (ABE/GED) and connections to community education programs, health and wellness, social and recreational activities, assistance with accessing community resources, volunteer work opportunities and paid community based work opportunities.

Connections offers a work ordered day to support the rehabilitation of members, as well as support the operations of the clubhouse. Members can get access to education, socialization, housing, volunteer opportunities and employment.

Work is one central component of the Connections program. Members are given an opportunity to enhance their work skills by working in the clubhouse units, building up their stamina and improving their self-esteem by having meaningful activities. Also, members are given chances to reach their employment goals by participating in the Transitional Employment (TE) and Supported Employment (SE) programs. Access to education, housing, wellness, friendships, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities offer both opportunity and hope for Connections members.

One benefit of membership in Connections includes members being accepted and valued as individuals and contributors. Other benefits include clubhouse members receiving opportunities to work toward their individual goals and members gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills necessary to help them lead fulfilling lives of **THEIR** choice in the community.

Connections gives each member a guaranteed right to a place to come, a guaranteed right to meaningful work, a guaranteed right to meaningful relationships and a guaranteed pace to return. Connections is accredited by Clubhouse International (CI) and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Connections is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Thursday afternoon recreational activities are held from 3:00 pm. to 5:00 p.m. Times for Saturday or Sunday recreation vary. We welcome community support of Connections. There are many ways in which people can get involved in the Connections program. We appreciate the consideration of a monetary gift, a donated item or the gift of your time in volunteering. For more information on Connections, please contact us at Connections, P.O. Box 1256, 1679 Southwest Boulevard in Newton, North Carolina 28658. Our

Connections is a program of Catawba Valley Healthcare in Hickory, North Carolina-a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Connections. Please like us on Facebook at cvbhconnections.



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