

Connections

Connections for Independent Living | Northeastern Colorado

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021



Connections Gala Celebrates 35 Years

An appreciative audience gathered at Connections for Independent Living on September 17. Under sunny, but cool skies, the gathering commemorated our organization's 35 years of service to northeastern

Coloradans who live with disabling conditions.

The evening featured special recognition for the many years of dedicated service to Connections and to the independent living movement by our organization's

retired Executive Director, Beth Danielson, and to Brad Taylor, our Director of Transitions and Advocacy. Both were gracious in accepting our Legacy Awards.

In addition to offering tours of the offices, Connections also encouraged donations to our building fund. The organization is currently raising \$15,000 related to rebuild its main office entry. This project will make it easier for chair users to enter and exit the building. Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2022.

If you would like to support this and other critical improvement projects, visit our donation page at connectionscolorado.org/donate/. Donations of all amounts are welcome.



Richard Rhinehart



Jessica Standiford



Rochelle Mitchell-Miller

Beth Danielson (left) and Brad Taylor were honored at the Connections 35th Anniversary Celebration September 17.

Inside this issue

Computer Technical Workshops Scheduled.....	2
Welcome to a New Team Member.....	2
Housing Voucher List Opens.....	2
Connections Peer Support Groups	3
News & Notes	3
New Peer Support Groups and Workshops	4

Our Organization

Established in 1986, Connections for Independent Living is one of nine certified Independent Living Centers (ILCs) in the State of Colorado. We serve Weld, Morgan, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties.

All our services are free and voluntary for our valued consumers.

Computer Technical Workshops Scheduled

Connections for Independent Living has partnered with The Arc of Weld County and High Plains Library District to provide equitable access technology workshops and training to area residents with disabilities.

Workshops and tech sessions began in early September and are provided at no cost to

participants. Sessions are hosted in-person at Connections' offices in Greeley, with remote access offered to anyone in the northeastern Colorado community who cannot or wishes not to attend in person.

The Arc of Weld County is hosting three weekly lunch-and-learn workshops beginning

September 14. These hour-long sessions, with lunch included, cover skills and practices related to email, internet safety, and online telehealth and prescriptions.

The High Plains Library District's Book-a-Librarian program provides monthly skills workshops. Sessions will be specialized to an individual's immediate digital needs. Pre-registration for these workshops is requested for participants by contacting Jessica at the Connections office at 970-352-8682, ext. 1009.

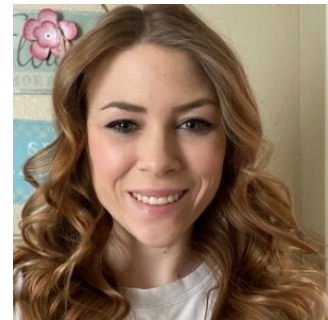


Jessica Standiford

Welcome to a New Team Member

A resident of Colorado's Logan and Morgan counties for most of her life, Hannah Nielsen joined the Connections team in August. She is a member of our northeastern Colorado outreach team and works closely with Kevin Thompson to assist persons who live with disabilities in five counties.

Hannah most recently worked with Centennial Mental Health Center in Fort Morgan, specializing in Individual Placement and Support Services. Currently working on a degree in Psychology with Colorado Christian University, she has a strong interest in community mental health.



Hannah Nielsen.

Courtesy Hannah Nielsen

Housing Voucher List Opens

Connections works closely with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing, to secure Housing Choice Vouchers (termed as Section 8 housing) for persons who live with disabilities in Weld County. This program provides assistance to the individual, allowing for lower rental fees based upon gross income.

Receiving a voucher through Connections begins with adding your name to our housing waiting list. This list opened on October 1, and will close at 5:00 p.m. on October 29. There are specific requirements and paperwork to be completed to join this list. Receiving a voucher does not guarantee housing.

Learn more about this program online at connectionscolorado.org/housing-assistance/. You may also call 970-352-8682 or direct at 970-673-5906 for assistance in this process.

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PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Anxiety Support Group

Participants share information about how they cope with anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD). This group meets monthly, the last Thursday, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Hybrid.




 bit.ly/ConnectionsAnxiety
passcode 549156
 Dial 253-215-8782
86218709472#, 0#, 549156#

Chronic Pain/Illness Group

A support group for those living with chronic pain and illness. Meets monthly, first Thursday, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Online.



bit.ly/ConnectionsChronicPain
passcode 565101
 Dial 346-248-7799
83030138798#, 0#, 565101#



Deaf Social Group

A safe space for deaf, HOH, and Deaf/Blind individuals to socialize. Monthly, second Thursday, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.




In-person only at
Connections.

Low Vision Support Group

Learn about and share strategies for living with low vision or blindness. Meets monthly, first Tuesday, from 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Hybrid.





bit.ly/ConnectionsLowVision
passcode 289228
 Dial 669-900-6833
81692498500#, 0#, 289228#



Self-Advocacy Support Group

This group teaches people how to advocate for themselves. Meets monthly, second Tuesday, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Online.




 bit.ly/ConnectionsSelf-Advocacy
passcode 752016
 Dial 669-900-6833
84949531378#, 0#, 752016#

Social Group

Informal group to socialize and discuss any chosen topic of interest. Monthly, last Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon.





bit.ly/ConnectionsSocialGroup
passcode 279168
 Dial 669-900-6833
87239763680#, 0#, 279168#



Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

This group offers information and support for anyone who has experienced a brain injury. Caregivers welcome. Meets monthly, second Monday, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Online.




 bit.ly/ConnectionsTraumatic
no passcode
 Dial 253-215-8782
87692062801#, #

Women with Disabilities Support Group

A safe environment for women to support each other. Meets monthly, third Tuesday, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.



bit.ly/ConnectionsWomenDisabilities
passcode 373583
 Dial 346-248-7799
89197179026#, 0#, 373583#



NEWS & NOTES

If you'd like to meet in-person with a member of the Connections team, you can schedule an appointment for Tuesdays or Thursdays. Appointments can be made by calling **970-352-8682** or online at connectionscolorado.org/contact/.

The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) is a national call center to connect people with disabilities to information, assistance and resources that can allow informed decisions and access to COVID-19 vaccines. DIAL can also provide information and services that promote independent living and address fundamental needs, such as food, housing, and transportation. Contact DIAL at **888-677-1199** from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. MT, Monday-Friday.

We're raising funds for a good cause! Our Connections building needs improvements, and you can help us meet our fundraising goal. Visit our donation page today at connectionscolorado.org/donate/. Thanks!

Are you a Facebook user? Follow our Connections page at facebook.com/CILgreeley/ for regular updates about our organization, and information about persons with disabilities.

Connections is published bi-monthly by Connections for Independent Living and distributed at no cost to care consumers, followers, supporters, and partners. **Rochelle Miller**—Executive Director; **Joshua Fulenwider**—Director of Independent Living Services; **Karen McCullah**—Interpreting Coordinator; **Richard Rhinehart**—Director of Communications and Editor. Send change of address to Connections, 1331 8th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631-4601.

Connections for Independent Living

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CONNECTIONS

Challenge Barriers. Build Independence.

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GREELEY, CO

About Connections for Independent Living

Our mission is to promote the full inclusion and integration of people with all types of disabilities into all levels of society. We challenge barriers, both physical and attitudinal, which restrict the rights and personal development opportunities of people with disabilities. With a staff and board of directors that consists mostly of persons with disabilities, we are effective in promoting independent living and empowerment.

New Peer Support Groups and Workshops

This fall there are new peer support groups and workshops from Connections for Independent Living.

Our Deaf Social group is specifically for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf/blind to socialize. This group meets in-person at Connections, every second Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Our Connect with Friends workshops, created for individuals who live with paralysis, will offer two workshops in November and December. Beginning October 28, the gaming workshop provides information about gaming through available game consoles such as PlayStation and Nintendo, and through Internet game applications and programs. A limited number of devices will be available to borrow.

The second Connect with Friends workshop begins November 3. The art workshop encourages participants to undertake painting, drawing, and sculpture. Creative writing, poetry, and music may also be included if interest supports.

As always, Connections peer support groups and workshops are provided free of cost to registered consumers.