

# I-Connect

All too often individuals with disabilities do not have a full web of relationships, and are not active members of their own communities. However, we are changing that, and you can play a key role by participating in a new initiative called I-Connect.

*“Community is a web of relationships that are informal. It is the connectedness to everyday lives and everyday relationships.” ~ John McKnight*

## What is I-Connect?

I-Connect is a grassroots initiative where members of the community volunteer and are paired with a person with a disability around their same age. The volunteer will have two primary roles:

To support the person in participating in activities they enjoy in the community.

To help the person meet and get to know others.

In essence, the volunteer will take on the role of a ‘social guide’ to help individuals with disabilities become more active in their community, meet new people, join groups, and develop friendships.

Volunteers will be educated, empowered, and equipped to implement a variety of strategies outlined in the book *Making a Difference: The Art of Community Connecting*.

**For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact Sandi Sammon, Director of Development and Community Relations, at [ssammon@shc-medina.org](mailto:ssammon@shc-medina.org) or 330-722-1900.**



**The Arc of Medina County**

*“There is no being or becoming without relationship. From the beginning, we grow to sense the need and importance of relatedness. At birth in total helplessness, we engage in our first coupling, mother-child, and from that time on, the more sophisticated our lives become, the more interrelated we become. In a sense, we spend our entire existence weaving one relationship into another until we’ve created, like the web of a spider, a complete pattern.”*

*~ Leo Buscaglia*