



## Tx Network Connections (TxNC), a New TxP2P Program

Linda Jones, Texas Parent to Parent

Welcome to the **Texas Network Connections (TxNC)** Update Section of the newsletter! From now on, in each newsletter, we will endeavor to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments with TxNC. In case you have not yet heard, TxP2P has created a program, called Texas Network Connections, where parents and people with disabilities can hire a trained facilitator to help them establish a personal support network.

A network is a group of committed individuals who meet 2-4 times a year to be the intentional community of caring that we all need throughout our lives and that a person with a disability especially needs as they live in their community. Parents can have peace of mind knowing that if anything happens to them, the network members will step in to insure the safety and continuity of care/support for their family member.

To date, we have launched **ten** networks! One has been meeting for over ten years and others are just getting started. Consider starting a network if you, as a parent, want to:

- increase your child's social opportunities,
- give caring friends and family an opportunity to have a meaningful relationship with your child,
- help you and your child make decisions,
- support your child's increasing independence,
- wonder how to make sure that your child with a disability will have a good life after you are no longer there to care for them, and
- wish for a group to increase your connections to the community, energy, ideas and hope, for now and the future.

In future updates, we will talk about how TxP2P can help get your network started or how you can start your own network. We will share stories and experiences of those participating in networks. And we will talk about the benefits of networks and how they evolve.

If you are interested in exploring more information about networks, please refer to our section on the TxP2P website

(<http://www.txp2p.org/parents/TexasNetworkConnections.html> and/or call Linda Jones, our consultant who works on networks, at 512-659-8682.

## Texas Parent to Parent

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