

# Connect Community concept

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## Issues to solve

- Difficult to promote services (Get the word out): Limited channels, resources, staff
- Lack of funding: Many programs might be cut in the coming year(s)
- Lack of personalized services: In home/companion care, pet care, home care
- Too few venues for social engagement
- Isolation: Fear, difficult to engage, won't recognize being senior, cultural/language, mobility, poverty, transportation, safe places (distance to venues)

## Proposed solution

- Partnerships: Develop and leverage existing organizations: schools, non-profits, merchants, parks & rec, libraries, government, students, volunteers, etc.  
"Community Connect", (will be) non-profit that promotes community partnerships and services

**Community Connect outreach** (Funded by sponsorships/advertising from community business. A student incubator to learn digital marketing, broadcast, events)

- **Website:** Not a directory of services, but partnerships and opportunities
- **Radio/TV show:** Hear the (unbiased) news of the day, local heroes, activities
- **Vendor Showcase:** Trade show of local service providers, 2x year, north/south county
- **Merchant directory:** Discounts, home delivery, shoppers

**Community Connect transportation** (Fee for service, rated by ability to pay)

- **"Rabbit Transit"** Good for short hops. Uber-like app (Go to local college team to develop or the developer meetup). Low cost, volunteer based, or a senior job. Do as a pilot and when it works, purchase a small fleet of electric VW mini vans (Easy in/out). Donate your car and get free rides...
- **"Get around" concierge:** Metro/Lift-line/Uber/senior services- How to get there, ride along with someone to show you how to navigate.
- **Metro fare discount**

**Community Connect technology** (We have a few local multi-gazillionaires)

- Everyone gets or gets access to a Chromebook, tablet or phone and broadband
- Small group, 1:1 training, partner with libraries, local venues, engage students, youth

**Community Connect companionship**

- **Promote SNS and VC programs**
- **Neighborhood phone tree network:** Call, text your neighbor, everyone gets a hello
- **Small group activities**--based on similar interests/language/culture/age/ability--meet at the park, library, someone's home, community/senior center, by interests/age.
- **Pet care:** Inhome visits to check on people and their pet(s), foster pet care (partner with and empty the spca/animal services), everyone gets a companion pet (even a goldfish or hamster) and a visitor who will help tend (Seniors, home-bound people may not get pets due to cost, effort. Engage with local organizations to support)

- **Companion care** (Not a caregiver): Need someone to take you to the store, doctor, drop in and talk, shop, read a book, watch a movie, etc. Caregiver respite.
- **Advocacy:** Guidance for services
- **Local venues:** Reduce travel, more localized activities. Partner with organizations and small venues to host activities. Senior and community centers with libraries, churches, park & rec, private property venues.
- **More fun/Bring a friend/Make a friend:** Senior prom, pie tasting at Gizdich farm, etc.