



**"The People Company"**

Serving Persons with Special Needs Since 1998

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### ***From the Director's Desk ~***

*AmeriServe International, Inc. was established to support the options for persons having special needs being active members of a larger community. Focusing on the things that really matter in creating quality of life for those with challenges, we have made significant progress over the last 2+ years. Employing quality people and making use of detailed transition and personal network planning processes have paved the road for others to follow.*

*Everyday we strive to connect people in many ways. Each builds the person and the community. As we approach the holidays we can be assured that those we have come to know have lives that are better tomorrow because of what is done today.*

**Tom Hoff**

# The Connector

*Choice ~ Respect ~ Participation ~ Presence*

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## **AmeriServe International, Inc.**

Making life better tomorrow because of what is done today.

### **Routines and Life Connections**

What if we could see the future and all we saw was more of the same? To some of us that would be comforting. Status quo being a reasonable goal we would want to see that our current rituals are maintained. As a result it is not uncommon for people to put the preservations of current life routines above the establishment of new ones.

For others routine may indeed be a lofty goal. Many folks with disabilities have never established routines other than those that are provided by program employees and then you have to ask "whose routine is it?" In our lives, if there is a modest amount of dissatisfaction with current circumstance, we look to our routines for comfort.



It is safe to assume that many of us would like the future to hold possibilities. Change for the better, new relationships, new opportunities would all be part of what is considered to be a bright future. Current routines and activities may need to change or be enhanced in order for this to happen.

Life for most of us presents a future full of possibility. Most of that future is attached to those with whom we have formed connections. Throughout our lives we have established routines and other

common occurrences that connect us with people. They form connections with others who have connected with someone who knows someone who knows . . . and so on and so on. As a result, quality and ability to cope are there.

Connecting with purpose and value is core to the philosophy of AmeriServe International. We believe that without connections to the various sectors of the community, isolation and dependency are the result. People with disabilities need to establish routines that connect them with others. Without conscious effort to assist them in making this happen, connections will remain "unconnected."

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## **What We Do**

### **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)**

Habilitation, Respite, Consumer Directed Attendant Care, Group homes

### **Day Treatment**

Adult Day Habilitation and Community Integration Services

### **Residential Support**

Supported Community Living, Specialized Living Arrangements

## Routines and Life Connections (Cont'd)

We give our daily routines and habits little conscious attention. Yet, those routines and the connections they create ease us through our days. Perhaps it is the absence of conscious attention that has led us to neglect the role of routines and connections in the quality of life of people with disabilities. Yet, they are as much a part of quality of life for people with disabilities as they are for everyone else. It is time for those of us who support people with disabilities to consciously consider the role of having connections and to insure the presence of positive routines.

As we look at supporting people in their communities, we need to remember that much of the richness of "community" comes from the relationships that we have and the activities that celebrate and build those relationships. For people who need substantial assistance to get through life, developing positive

routines and connections with others must be a priority. For many people with disabilities, these will need to be developed with assistance and then be supported by activities. Once established, however, they will do the same for people with disabilities as they do for us.

The typical pattern of doing this is for support personnel to think that since the person does not have a routine that it matters little whose routine is used. Unfortunately, employees turn over and so does the routine. Change abounds every time key personnel leave and new ones arrive. Change should be dictated by the changes in the individual, not by the rate at which new staff arrive.

The routines must also be rooted in who each individual is as well as each person's current circumstances. Properly used, routines and connections will help people through major life changes as well as each person's

current circumstances.

AmeriServe International employs the Personal Network Planning process to facilitate the development of routines and connections with focus on the person and their role in the community. It looks at the community as a whole and where the person could develop connections. It sets forth activities and goals to achieve connections. The activities serve to establish routines that focus on the person and not on who is working tonight.

Without such a plan even "routines" aren't routine and connections will not happen. In the support plans of the future, more space should be spent on how to support people in their positive routines and less on how to actively program every waking moment of their lives. A bright future depends more on routines that support connections with others than it does on how well you fold laundry.

## One Extremely Special Day

They gathered in large numbers, and began to line up behind the many different games and events that were taking place in Bayliss Park on that very special day. The day was a day of celebration and everybody was invited to come. Ten years. Can you believe it? For ten years this special group of individuals has been provide a plethora of social activities for people who are mentally challenged. All were there. The many individuals for which "Special Friends" provide service or have serviced in the past, the public, previous volunteers, city leaders, and the many financial supporters that have helped this non-profit organization continue its outreach and support for all of our special friends.

Throughout the park there was

excited anticipation for the fun events of the day. Just like the Labor Day telethon, there was a stage set up where dancing, bands, singers, and many different people using their varied talents provided continuous entertainment throughout the whole day. Many of our very own special friends provided performances for the appreciative audience.

"Awareness" was the theme, and Bayliss Park was the place, and fun and excitement was the atmosphere. Smiles were abundant on the faces of the many that attended this celebration of the Special Friends organization. This day provided a great opportunity for the general public to



gain an insight into the many contributions these individuals continually add to the quality of the community in which they live.

It was fun to see business people, volunteers, and public leaders take their place on the seat of the dunk

See Sign-up sheet  
at your work location.

## ASI Monthly Elective Education

Training provided by  
American Institute of Management.

### Different Generations + Understanding = New Normal

Thursday, November 8th 3:30 - 6:30pm  
Friday, November 30th 12:00 - 3:00pm

Our teams are made of people from different generations. Did you know that when a person was born can influence how they view rules, communication, define respect and their work ethic? Join us for the November session that will address the following objectives:

#### Attend the session to:

- Discover the social experiences that shaped each generation
- Recognize the behaviors that may cause you to frustrate your co-worker
- Learn ways to behave and communicate with people from different generations to create better work environments

### A Say in the Life...

Tuesday, December 4th 12:00 - 3:00pm  
Tuesday, December 18th 3:30 - 6:30pm

#### Attend the session to:

- Identify how your personal values are demonstrated through your daily actions
- Create an awareness of how you impose your values on others
- Demonstrate the true meaning of respect to others you serve

#### Special Event:

Jeopardy! How well do you know the questions?

## One Extremely Special Day (Cont'd)

tank and be willing to be doused in that chilly water to raise funds and awareness for this special cause. There were clowns tying balloons and handing them out to the children, and adults with their painted faces as they came away from the booth where creative artists painted just about any design that was requested. A long line continually formed outside the wind machine as tickets were purchased for a chance at winning one of the many exciting prizes that were so graciously donated by the

business community.

This was truly a day of celebration! A day to celebrate strengths, not weaknesses; community, not individuals; the things that bind us together, not pull us apart; joy and fun, not sadness and the stresses of life. All of these things came together to make this one extremely special day for all the special people that attended.

Larry Taylor, CSC Specialist

## Support Options

1. In-home Support—training to increase self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills within the home and community.
2. Day Treatment— specialized sensory-motor, cognitive, communicative, social, interaction and behavioral support.
3. Residential— designed to maximize consumer successes through the use of habilitative therapies, special developmental skills, participative enhancement, and sensory-motor development in the group home or specialized living setting.

## News From The Planning Center

Ghouls and goblins made their appearances at the Planning Center for the yearly Halloween extravaganza. Those attending the party took turns playing Pin the Face on the Pumpkin, Spooky Bingo, the scariest creature invented contest and doing the limbo.



Prizes were awarded for most creative, scariest, funniest and best look-alike.





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### Making a Difference

AmeriServe International, Inc. carefully selects all personnel to ensure that they possess beliefs, experiences, skills, and knowledge that will assist persons with special needs in exercising a quality of life of their choice. If you or someone you know is interested in doing the right things, in the right way, for the right reasons, at the right times, we are looking for the right people.

Please call **712-322-0272** to find out how you can make a difference.



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