

# Tech Connect

## Assistive Technology Across Generations

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### **What is Tech Connect?**

- One hour sessions that are held twice monthly at the Soprema Senior Center.
- Individuals with differing abilities “teach” seniors how to use tablets and devices.
- Senior volunteers “teach” individuals the art of conversation.
- Every session is unique. Participants from both groups thrive outside of their “comfort zone.”
  - Individuals have embraced practicing conversation with the seniors.
  - Seniors have responded well to learning technology, many for the first time! They are wonderful mentors and role models.

### **Why Tech Connect?**

- It explores the use of technology to connect people with diverse backgrounds.
- Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities share their life experiences to develop new relationships.
- Because it is fun!

### **What Makes Tech Connect Work?**

- Technology is now essential to function in society.
- This is a daunting reality to those who are uncomfortable with technology.
- Pairing hesitant users with those who are more comfortable can have very positive results.
- Tech Connect uses technology to bring people together with very different skill sets.

### **Sharing the Past and Present**

- Everyone has a story and technology is a tool that helps them share their story.
- Technology is also a great avenue to help folks travel down memory lane.
- Seniors love this aspect of technology - sharing music, stories, photos, and other things from the past.

### **Collaboration**

- Both groups learn how to engage and work collaboratively.
- These two populations have not historically come together, especially with technology as the common ground.

### **Community Service**

- Both groups sought ways to take their positive connections to the community.
- Other groups and agencies benefit from some of the projects.

### **Study and Replication**

- Technology designers are very interested in the program and in the natural way technology is incorporated into the program.
- Program is easily replicated.

*“Just because I am old ... or young ... or differently abled ...  
or just different ... doesn't mean ... ANYTHING!”*