

Disability Lead Sponsor: Toodie & Frank Trestman Special Needs and Collaborative Education Endowment Fund, a designated fund of the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation

Caring Connections is a JFCS program that provides opportunities for Jewish adults with disabilities to take part in social and educational events and to engage in Jewish holidays, celebrations, and traditions. Caring Connections members find belonging, friendship, and a whole lot of fun at every Caring Connections event.



"When is the next Caring Connections event?? I can't wait!"

- In 2025, Caring Connections brought people together in powerful and joyful ways. **Across six events, 330 participants**, including Caring Connections members, their family, friends and staff, **gathered to celebrate holidays, milestones, and community**. From the laughter-filled **"Bingo Birthday Bash for All"** to a meaningful **Rosh Hashanah celebration** focused on reflection and new beginnings, each Caring Connections event created space for belonging.
- Our Disability Services Manager completed **101 home visits** throughout the year, delivering holiday packages for Passover, Chanukah, and other Jewish celebrations. These visits were a cherished part of the holiday experience for Caring Connections members across the program — **offering not only meaningful ritual items, but also personal connection, warmth, and shared celebration**.



- This year also sparked creativity and wonder. **Participants experienced live theatre performance** at Unlabeled Theatre and an **interactive puppetry workshop** with The Heart of the Beast Theater, sharing in artistic expression and joyful discovery together.
- **At its heart, Caring Connections is about strengthening community and ensuring every person feels seen, celebrated, and included** — at events, in their homes, and throughout the year.

"You and your crew of volunteers orchestrated a safe place where our community could slow down and be happy with friends."

Members were asked to pick a word that describes what Caring Connections means to them:

fun caring friendships
support
holidays friends
family exciting
connections community

