



Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund

Seeking Connection Initiatives

The Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund (JFM) is seeking initiatives for people living with disability that support genuine connections, meaningful relationships and valued roles in mainstream community life.

To help with this process we have gathered some examples of initiatives to help you understand the types of ideas we are seeking. In particular we are looking for:

- Something new to South Australia
- Initiatives that provide opportunities for adults living with an Acquired Brain Injury or Degenerative Neurological Condition to take up valued roles in their local community. For example, volunteering, leadership roles or opportunities that create genuine and ongoing friendships within their local community.

Julia Farr Youth Mentoring

Julia Farr Youth Mentoring is an initiative of Julia Farr Youth, a policy and advisory group to JFA Purple Orange.

Julia Farr Youth Mentoring is a volunteer initiative where young adults living with disability provide a mentoring role and offer peer and group mentoring to students living with disability. Mentoring is a leadership role and provides guidance, support and friendship to another young person. It can also assist with overcoming perceived life challenges associated with education, employment, social and community connection that a young person may have. A mentor and volunteer is a valued role within the community.

You can find out more information about this initiative at:

<http://www.purpleorange.org.au/projects/jfymentoring/>

Circles Initiative

The Circles Initiative is a South Australian initiative of Community Living Project (CLP).

The Circles Initiative seeks to build and strengthen a person's network of friends and supports. This can involve intentional relationship building; vision building and person centred planning that brings people together in a person's life for the purpose of protecting their interests into the future. The Circles Initiative also assists the person to identify their hopes and dreams for their future and to share their interests, gifts and talents. This initiative supports genuine connections within the community which is a valued role.

You can find out more information at: <http://www.clp-sa.org.au/content/circles-initiative>

The Up the Hill Project

The Up the Hill Project is an initiative of Flinders University, South Australia. It provides an inclusive and supportive opportunity to enable people living with intellectual disability to access the university environment, develop social skills and social networks and experience a range of educational opportunities and activities. Participants are given a mentor to assist with their educational and social experience at university. A university student is a valued role within the community.

You can find out more information at: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/sohs/sites/disability-studies/associated-programs/up-the-hill-project---flinders-university.cfm>

Inclusion Alberta

Inclusion Alberta has been the primary developer of inclusive post-secondary education opportunities in Alberta, Canada with 18 universities offering inclusive education.

Students are assisted in class by their fellow classmates and take part in the same learning activities as their peers such as assignments, practicums, exams, and study groups. Students are also supported by Inclusive Post-Secondary Education to expand their student role by becoming involved in extracurricular activities such as clubs, student associations, recreation and social activities.

You can find more information and view the video *Living the Dream: Inclusive Post-Secondary Education* at: <http://inclusionalberta.org/inclusive-education/post-secondary-education/>

If you would like further information about funding for an employment initiative, or have an idea you would like to discuss, we invite you to contact us at the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund on (08) 8373 8333 or email katieb@purpleorange.org.au