

Learn About...

Elderberry Junction Program

What is the Program?

Elderberry Junction is a day program for participants who are 55 years of age and older who want to stay active in their community. Elderberry Junction offers a wide variety of activities (bingo, arts & crafts, recreational games, educational discussions, pet therapy with Animal Friends, cooking class, holiday parties, chair exercises and more).

Who Does the Program Serve?

The program currently serves 35 adults with developmental disabilities. Some attend on a part-time basis while they maintain a job in Goodwill's Production area.

How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?

Elderberry Junction participants volunteer at three nursing homes (UPMC Heritage Place, Kane-Glen Hazel, Country Meadows in Bridgeville) assisting patients with recreational games. The participants also make holiday cards and crafts for patients in local hospices.

Special Program Accomplishments:

The program partners with Duquesne University Nursing School and Kaplan Occupational Therapy Assistant program. Students from these schools do activities, health presentations, and recreational games with the participants. Participants also have intergenerational experiences with local middle school students.

A Personal Story:

Judy joined the program in August 2009 with a history of depression. Since joining the program Judy's attitude and mood have improved tremendously. The program has helped her grow as an individual; she has made new friends, participates in stimulating activities, and looks forward to coming to the center. The exercise program, recreational games, and community walks at Elderberry have been beneficial to her health by keeping her active and help her to get around better than if she were just sitting at home.



Elderberry Junction also has a "Senior Response Team" that meets monthly and involves all participants. They discuss what they would like to see happen at their center, activities they want to participate in, and community outings they would like to attend. They can also discuss at these meetings any issues or concerns that they may have.