**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT BECKY SIMONS, SENIOR CORPS COORDINATOR**

**800.432.9209 EXT 8131**

Connections Area Agency on Aging is pleased to host a Dessert Auction fundraiser to benefit our Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs. This event will be held on Thursday, April 13 from 5pm – 7pm in the Food Court of Mall of the Bluffs in Council Bluffs.

Attendees will enjoy complimentary wine and tempting appetizers as professional auctioneer Gail Hunter presents an array of delicious desserts and sweet treats for bid, prepared by pastry chefs from fine dining establishments in the area. Also featured will be a raffle where attendees can win a variety of fun prizes!

All proceeds from this event will support two of Connections Area Agency on Aging’s Senior Corps Programs: the Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Program. Foster Grandparents volunteer their time in local schools, daycare facilities, Head Start programs, children’s shelter facilities and after school programs. These dedicated volunteers spend time with at-risk children, serving as a surrogate grandparent, always ready with a listening ear or a hug as they work one-on-one with children, helping them with math and reading skills. Foster Grandparents are currently serving in Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties. Senior Companions devote their time visiting with home-bound frail elders in Pottawattamie County, providing them with friendship, socialization and a caring presence in their life.

Please join us for a fun, delicious evening as we raise funds to support these two incredible programs that provide such a benefit for children and older Iowans. If you are interested in more information about this event, donating a raffle item or about volunteering as a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion, please contact Becky Simons at 800-432-9209 ext. 8131 or bsimons@connectionsaaa.org.

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Connections Area Agency is one of six Area Agencies on Aging in Iowa, and part of a nationwide network. With a mission of enhancing the quality of life for elders in 20 counties through education, planning and coordination of services, Connections Area Agency on Aging is the premier agency for assisting elders, caregivers, and their families to access the information and services needed for independence and life transitions. Offices are located in Council Bluffs, Creston and Sioux City. For more information, contact Connections AAA at 800-432-9209 or at [www.connectionsaaa.org](http://www.connectionsaaa.org)

Three national programs comprise the Senior Corps: [the Foster Grandparent Program](http://www.connectionsaaa.org/volunteer/seniorcorps/fostergrandparent.html) (FGP), the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and [the Senior Companion Program](http://www.connectionsaaa.org/volunteer/seniorcorps/seniorcompanion.html) (SCP). Each program was designed to achieve specific and varying goals related to volunteer service, but all were crafted on the same belief: Senior volunteers are valuable resources to meet community needs. Senior Corps connects today’s 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.