



## Tyze 101

What if you didn't have a network? No inner circle to lean on? When faced with a life challenge, we most often turn to our personal networks or circle of friends for help. When that network doesn't exist or is stretched across the country, it's difficult to get the support we need. And without that support, we can feel alone and overwhelmed when dealing with some of life's biggest challenges.

**Tyze helps people help each other.** We have developed a set of online tools that make it easy for people to form personal networks of support. What are online tools? They're things like message and calendar systems, a virtual 'to-do' list, the ability to assign tasks to people, a way to share pictures and stories, and a safe place to store and access files.

Personal networks are a type of social network, like Facebook, where you use your computer via the Internet to join a community of friends online. Tyze is different from other networking sites because your information is never disclosed, there is no advertising, and your network is only open to the people you invite in - like your own private network.

Unlike other open social networks, your Tyze site cannot be searched and none of your data is distributed to third parties. This is why we call Tyze a personal network - **it's a private, closed system** that is set up just for you or someone you care about.

Tyze networks have helped families across the globe to connect, stay updated, and support a relative who is aging or facing a personal challenge, whether health or other. By using the calendar and task tools on Tyze, families can share the workload. And by posting pictures and stories they can stay connected and celebrate important occasions across the miles.

For professional care providers, Tyze has provided **a new way to build community** and collaborate with family members. Families and friends can **monitor formal care arrangements**, while care providers can benefit from up-to-date personal information and close communication. We have over 20 years experience in helping people create resilient, rich, and sustained personal networks. We share this experience through our training, mentoring and online learning services.

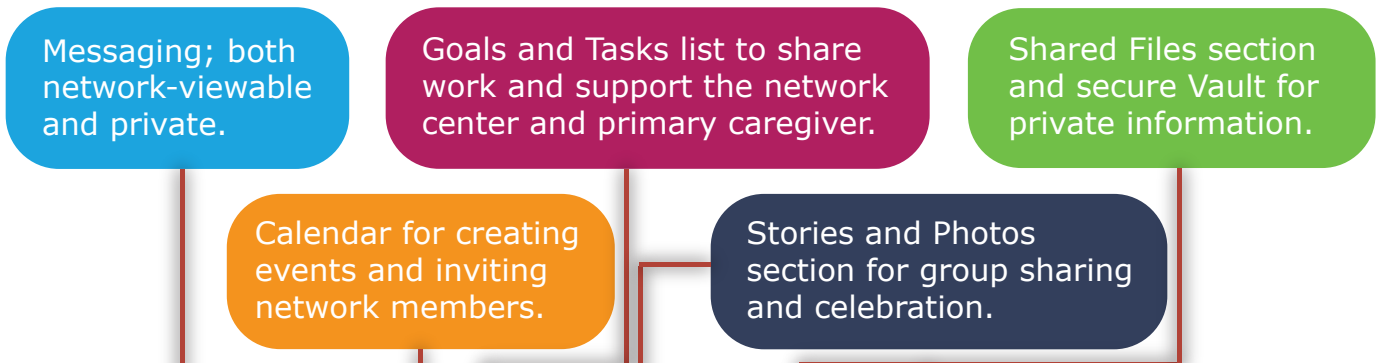
For individuals, Tyze has made it easy to connect with friends and family in both good times and hard times. It is simple to send messages and share stories and photos. Tyze has practical tools that help organize things like trips to medical appointments or outings with friends.

Tyze is a social mission business, which means that we're not just building a business - we're focused on **helping people connect, contribute, and care for one another**. Our sites are easy to use and affordable. We charge a cost-effective monthly fee for individual and organization-wide sites so that we can keep Tyze private, safe and secure for the people on our networks.



# Features

Tyze provides easy to use tools, along with an intuitive user interface:



The screenshot displays the Tyze web interface with the following elements:

- Navigation Tabs:** Connect, Calendar, Contribute, Stories & Photos, Shared Files, Vault, My Networks, and a HELP button.
- Connect Section:**
  - Header: **Connect**
  - Text: "The Connect page gives a brief overview of all the latest messages, events and other activities being posted on your network."
  - Urgent Message: "Urgent Message | ANYONE SEEN KEN'S IPOD?" by Sue Sutherland, posted Today. Content: "Hi guys, I was just speaking with Joan, and it seems Ken can't find his iPod. She mentioned that he last had it before his trip to the library with Paul. Please let me or her Joan know if anyone finds it in their cars or elsewhere - it had all of Ken's favourite music on it." Includes a "Mark Addressed" button.
  - Network Message: "Network Message | Trip to the Doctor" by Marcia Walker, posted Today. Content: "Hey everyone! I just wanted to let you guys know that Ken's visit to the doctor ran smoothly. Ken was very patient while he waited, and was working his charm on all of the people in the waiting room!" Includes "Reply | Read More" links.
  - Story: "Story | Trip of Learning and Wonder" by Paul Walker, posted Yesterday.
- Right Sidebar:**
  - Welcome Joan! with links: My Profile, Private Messages (1), Administer Network, Invite New Member, Logout.
  - Send Network Message with links: Network Message, Urgent Message.
  - Add Event with links: Event, Goal, Task, Story, Shared File, Vault File.
  - Upcoming Events.
  - Latest Comments with a comment from Joan Anderson: "Thank you for responding and offering your..." (commented 15 days ago).
- Left Sidebar:**
  - Ken's Community: "This network is for Ken; to support his dreams and interests, to help him in his daily life, and to contribute to enriching his life and the lives of its members members."
  - Member list: Ken Anderson, Sue Sutherland, Olive Johnson, Marcia Walker, Joan Anderson, Ali Hassen.



## How We Are Unique



Tyze builds its service on a purposeful, relationship-focused approach to networks. Our person-centered, ad-free approach is unique. Here is what makes us different:

- **STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.** Tyze is designed to strengthen relationships – not count them. Tyze is about creating meaningful connections that support the person at the network's center. Its about quality, not quantity.
- **PURPOSE.** Tyze networks are networks with a purpose. They are created around a specific person and a specific situation, rather than for casual socialization.
- **PRIVACY.** Tyze personal networks are completely secure and private. Members can only be invited into networks by a trusted administrator based on real-life interaction. No information is shared online and the sites are [advertising-free](#).
- **INTEGRATION.** Tyze helps to build connections and cooperation between the formal and informal systems of care, making it easier for families and communities to collaborate and communicate with formal care workers, organizations, and professionals.
- **SIMPLICITY.** The user interface is designed specifically for people who may be new to the Internet or who face barriers in using computers.
- **EXPERIENCE.** Tyze draws on over 20 years of experience involving the PLAN Institute and its work building personal support networks.
- **GUIDANCE.** Connectors provide comprehensive training and ongoing support to ensure networks thrive.

"As the lead connector for a Tyze network I really enjoy how easy it is for me to connect with the entire network. I can create events, post messages to encourage participation, and use all the features of Tyze to make connections easier and richer." - (Tyze Network Connector, 2010)

