

Neighbourhood Developers



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The Neighbourhood Developers (ND) project aims to address poverty and enhance community support services in four priority neighbourhoods in Saint John, New Brunswick: Old North End, Lower West Side, Crescent Valley, and Lower South End. Each neighbourhood is represented by a grassroots organization that plays a vital role in community development and advocacy.

Objectives and Approach

The ND project focuses on:

1. Alleviating Poverty: Providing direct support to residents to reduce poverty's immediate effects.
2. Service Coordination: Enhancing access to support services through case management and referral processes.
3. Community Collaboration: Building partnerships and networks to maximize resource utilization and impact.
4. Sustainability and Advocacy: Demonstrating the value of dedicated, community-based support roles for long-term funding and development.

Key Achievements

- Direct Support and Case Management: Each ND position is embedded within the community, offering long-term support, resource connections, and advocacy for residents.
- Collective Impact: Standardized protocols, shared resources, and collaborative problem-solving meetings strengthen the collective capacity of the organizations.
- Increased Capacity and Engagement: The project has enabled greater outreach, the establishment of a Community Champions Network, and enhanced partnerships with stakeholders.

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Community Impact

The ND project has significantly improved support for housing, employment, food security, mental health, financial assistance, and education. Notable achievements include:

- Housing Support: Assisted 21 residents in finding housing and helped 70 residents maintain their homes.
- Food Security: Supported 252 residents through emergency food services and food purchase programs.
- Financial Assistance: Facilitated the completion of 1,919 income tax returns and helped residents access various financial supports.
- Mental Health and Health Services: Provided emotional support and coordinated health appointments for 112 residents.

Success Stories

The ND initiative has had transformative impacts on residents' lives, including helping a senior citizen access overdue pensions and guiding a resident through rehabilitation after overcoming financial barriers. These stories illustrate the project's critical role in fostering long-term stability and independence.

Partnership and Collaboration

The project has built extensive networks with key partners, including local health services, educational institutions, and community organizations. This collaborative approach maximizes the effectiveness of interventions and ensures that residents receive comprehensive support.

Conclusion

The ND project demonstrates the profound impact of dedicated community support roles within marginalized neighbourhoods. The success achieved so far highlights the importance of sustainable funding and continued investment in grassroots organizations to maintain and expand this vital work.