

NECRC/NERI

ANNUAL REPORT



2024 2025



ABOUT US

The North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1998 through collaborative efforts among various community organizations in Winnipeg. Our mission is to foster economic, social, and cultural renewal in the North End of Winnipeg, which encompasses eleven partner neighbourhoods: William Whyte, St. John's, St. John's Park, Dufferin, Dufferin Industrial, Lord Selkirk Park, Inkster-Faraday, Robertson, Burrows Central, Luxton and North Point Douglas. At NECRC, we are dedicated to promoting equity and inclusion for all residents, including Indigenous peoples, newcomer communities, and low-income Manitobans.

NECRC actively works towards promoting a diverse workforce that reflects the North End community, allowing us to better understand and respond to the unique needs and perspectives of North End residents. NECRC is committed to addressing the needs of newcomer communities, providing support and resources to foster a healthy community.

NECRC is dedicated to supporting all low-income Manitobans, regardless of background, by providing access to essential services and resources. NECRC strives to create an inclusive and supportive environment where all residents can thrive and contribute to the ongoing renewal of the North End community. NECRC is committed to responding to the 94 calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, actively engaging in initiatives aimed at reconciliation, healing, and building stronger, more inclusive communities.

MISSION & VISION

NECRC is committed to the social, economic and cultural renewal of the North End of Winnipeg.

NECRC defines its development goals through annual consultations and ongoing networking with North End residents and businesses. The corporation works with community committees to plan and implement development strategies in its goal to revitalize the North End.

NECRC operates on the principles of Community Economic Development using a development system approach to bring about renewal in the North End. Our development themes combine to maximize the impact of our community initiatives.



DEAR NORTH END,

My name is Brown Bear Walking, but my other name is Rylee Nepinak. I really love the North End. I moved here when I was 13 years old, into a blue house on Aikins Street. From grades 8–12 I went to St. John's High School, graduating in 2015.

Growing up, I struggled a lot. I didn't know who I was, what my gifts were, what my clan was, or much at all about being Anishinaabe. I didn't even learn that my father was a residential school survivor until I was older. Because of this, I carried a lot of anger and was on a self-destructive path—until I found football. Being part of a team gave me a sense of belonging and an outlet for my anger. At the same time, I watched my mother, Ricky Ann Nepinak, volunteer at Mamawi community site on Anderson Street. Seeing her passion for helping community inspired me to follow the same path.

In grade 10, I got my first job in the North End working at Ralph Brown Community Centre. After football practice ended at 5:00 PM, I'd head straight to my evening shift to work with kids at the centre. In the summers, I worked at W.A.S.A.C. kids camp, where we played traditional games and ate bologna sandwiches every day with Indigenous youth. Those experiences gave me a deep love for my community. Later, I studied carpentry in college, and my first job was helping renovate the old Merchant Hotel into what it is today.

Over the years my family lived on Aikins, Salter, Bannerman, and eventually Mountain Avenue. I remember often walking down the streets, wishing I could learn more about my culture right here in the North End. It became my dream not only to learn those ways but to help other youth learn them too. In 2021, I co-founded a non-profit called Anishiative to do exactly that. For years we patrolled the North End through our litter patrols and helped the community however we could. In 2023, we opened our own community centre at 366 McGregor Street, where our focus is on Kinship, Culture, and Kindness.

A couple of years ago, I joined the NERC board as a youth member. Eventually, my predecessor, Michael Champagne, asked me to step into the role of Board Chair. I now humbly serve in that position, volunteering my time to support this beautiful organization and the amazing people who dedicate themselves to making a difference in our community.

I know my position is only temporary—I am simply holding it until the next North Ender is ready to step into this role. In the meantime, it has been an absolute blessing, and I will continue doing my best to ensure our community is looked after in a good way

Rylee Nepinak

Board Chair

DEAR NORTH END,

It is my privilege to share this message with you as the new Executive Director of the North End Community Renewal Corporation. I stepped into this role in late October 2024, and I am honoured to continue serving this community in a new capacity.

I first started with NECRC in 2018, where I helped create and run a pilot project introducing traditional Indigenous games to youth at the Norquay Community Centre. Since then, I have had the opportunity to serve as Recreation and Wellness Liaison and later as Community Development Manager. These roles have allowed me to work closely with community members, partners, and staff to support initiatives that strengthen the North End. As a Néhíyaw Iskwéw (Cree woman) and member of Peguis First Nation, I try to bring forward the teachings and values of my culture as guiding principles in my leadership.

This annual report reflects the work of NECRC from April 2024 to March 2025. While my time as Executive Director began partway through the year, the accomplishments outlined here are the result of a collective effort. I would like to extend gratitude to our funders for their continued support and investment in NECRC programs, to our Board of Directors for their guidance and oversight, and to the NECRC staff team for their dedication, skill, and commitment to our mission. Together, their efforts have advanced the important work in our community.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Brenda Cameron, our Finance Controller, who provided steady leadership as Acting Executive Director prior to my arrival. Her commitment ensured a smooth transition and continuity of operations.

I look forward to building on this strong foundation, strengthening partnerships, and working collaboratively to support opportunities for all who call the North End home.

With respect and gratitude,

Deana Paisley
Executive Director

MEET OUR TEAM (2024-25)

OPERATIONS

Deana Paisley - Executive Director
Brenda Cameron - Finance Controller
Muriel Lamy - Payroll/Accounts Payable
Talia Syrie - Human Resource Manager

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Shira Newman - Community Development Manager
Meagan Vickers - Community Development Worker (on maternity leave)
Mary Alagao - Community Development Worker
Shayla Lacoff - Community Housing Liaison
Lindsay Schaitel - Lead TLC Coordinator
Jace Kettner - TLC Advocate
Emmett Schaen - TLC Advocate
Mary Rose Rocamora - TLC Support Admin
Ruth Hiebert - Energy Advocate
Brandy Bobier - Food Security Coordinator
Roxanne Kent - Food Security Facilitator

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Addie Ducharme - Citizen's Bridge & PATH Program Manager
Citizen's Bridge (607 Selkirk Ave):
Eva-Marie Stewart - Team Lead/Driving Instructor
Sophie Stevens - DEC Case Worker/Intake Worker
Natasha Halayda - Drivers Ed Reception/Admin
Gloria Cook - Administrative Assistant
Diane Thomas - Case Worker
Maddy Piltzmaker - Outreach Worker
Jazmine Steinke - Support Worker
PATH Employability Centre (627 Selkirk Ave):
Fatima Rodrigues - Team Lead/Employment Counsellor
Debbie Rego - Receptionist
Cheryl Morgan - Employment Counsellor
Abby Nicholls - Work Placement Coordinator
Ashley Thickfoot - Employment Counsellor
Hassan Sheikh - Employment Counsellor

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Dean McIvor - BCMP Program Manager/Safety Rep
Calvin Monkman - Building Maintenance Supervisor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rylee Nepinak

Chair - Anishiativ

Sheldon Bayer

Vice Chair - Median Credit Union

Ashley Pankiw

Secretary - Member @ Large

Alexis Tachnak

Treasurer - Indigenous/Community/Resident

Haven Stumpf

Director - Urban Circle Training Centre Inc.

Wayne McIntosh

Director - The Anglican Parish of St. Francis

Ricky Ann Nepinak

Director - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Jeremy Raven

Director - Whistling Wind Action Therapy

OUR STRUCTURE

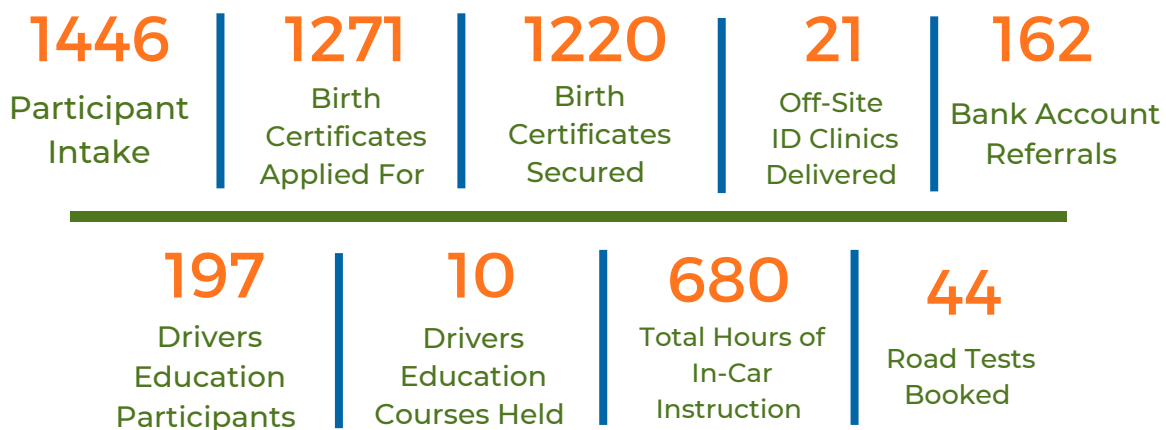


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Citizens' Bridge

The Citizens' Bridge program plays a vital role in supporting individuals with limited financial resources. Engaging yearly with **over 2000 community** members at their 607 Selkirk Ave. location, their comprehensive range of services is specifically designed to assist low-income clients in **obtaining crucial identification documents, establishing bank accounts, and acquiring driver's licenses**. Through strategic partnerships and collaborations with **over 152 referral organizations**, Citizens' Bridge facilitates connections between individuals and various resources, such as **employment skills training, identification assistance, financial literacy programs and Manitoba Public Insurance Adult Education Drivers' courses**.



PATH

PATH Employability Centre completed **503 intakes**, **397** of those include **case management** and **466** of those intakes **resulting in assessment & employment plans** with participants using PATH's SMART goals. Plans include targeting entry-level positions in the industry of participants choice to acquire skills and achievements needed to pursue larger employment goals, incorporating volunteer experience when needed. Plans also include **referrals to mental health, addictions, food & housing support**, as well as skills upgrading, training and/or education based on interest and need.

503
Participant
Intake

- **442** - One-to-One Employment Counselling
- **138** - PATH2Success Program Participants
- **11** - PATH2Success Employability Workshops
- **16** - Short Term Training Workshops
- **78** - Participants Employed

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



NERI Storefront Grant Program

North End Revitalization Inc., in partnership with the Province of Manitoba Department of Municipal Relations and in cooperation with the North End BIZ and Selkirk Avenue BIZ, facilitates the distribution of **\$58,000** in cost sharing grants with the objective of supporting economic development and renewal within the North End.

The Storefront Enhancement Grant program (SEG) promotes local community investment by providing cost-sharing, non-repayable funding grants to eligible North End small businesses and organizations for exterior renovations to the frontage of their property. The SEG grants are intended to enhance the appearance, safety, and value of the property belonging to small businesses and organizations in the North End. The program is administered by the North End Community Renewal Corporations North End Economic Development Centre. Grants are provided on a cost sharing basis up to a **maximum grant of \$5,000**.

17

GRANTS
APPROVED

41%

NEW
APPLICANTS

In 2024-2025, the SEG committee approved 17 grants that leveraged approximately **\$124,427.31** in total investment toward the exterior of small business in the North End of Winnipeg.

41% of awarded grants went to first time applicants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Building Construction Mentorship Program

The Building Construction Mentorship Program (BCMP) is a **paid 2-year supportive training opportunity** open to residents of the North End and surrounding area. Participants qualify if they **experience barriers to employment**, these could include; low literacy, lack of current or relevant work experience, previous involvement in the justice system, lack of education or training, the effects of generational trauma, systemic racism or other challenges. Candidates for this opportunity must demonstrate motivation to further develop professional, interpersonal, and technical skills as well as an interest in pursuing **full-time work in trades** or **trades-adjacent support roles**.

The BCMP aims to prepare participants for the workforce by helping them build new or expand existing skills, gain confidence through supportive mentorship, and achieve financial independence through consistent paid training. The program facilitates **apprenticeship opportunities** as well as **on-site essential safety** and **skills training**.

Through its partnership with Manitoba Housing, the program currently provides **training opportunities** for **painters, building superintendents, clerks, locksmiths, and pest controllers**.

Program Expansion

The BCMP is currently being redesigned to increase its reach and impact in the community. The program is actively pursuing new industry and government partnerships to support this growth. Currently, the program provides training opportunities for **25 participants** at a time, but with the planned expansion, we hope to double our capacity. As part of this expansion, we are partnering with **PATH Employability Center**.

This partnership will give us access to PATH's pool of job seekers, helping us connect with more individuals who are ready and motivated to pursue careers in the trades, and will provide pre-employment training to better prepare participants for the workforce.

BCMP staff offer a variety of supports to set clients up for success by assisting with both work-related and personal needs as they arise. Staff also work as liaisons between industry managers and trainees to help facilitate clear communication and ensure successful training outcomes.

HOUSING

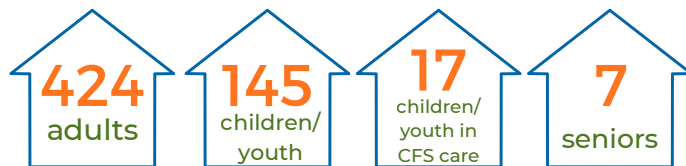


The Tenant Landlord Cooperation

The Tenant-Landlord Cooperation (TLC) Program is a Winnipeg city-wide eviction prevention program. TLC staff mediate tenant and landlord disputes and provide direct advocacy to ensure both tenants and landlords rights and responsibilities are being upheld. TLC works to support positive solutions that focus on preventing displacement and homelessness of individuals and families.

In 2024-2025, TLC supported 254 households

These households composed of:



Of the 254 households, **151** identify as **Indigenous**, **73** clients shared they have a **physical disability** and **51** shared they have a **mental disability**.

The TLC program offers over 40 different housing supportive services to tenants and over 20 different housing services to landlords.

In 2024-25, TLC provided 850 services to tenants and 167 services to landlords.

- **77 evictions** were prevented
- **34 clients** were connected to income supports
- **5 damage deposits returns** were supported
- **68 conflicts** mediated

Additionally in April 2024 - March 2025, The Tenant Landlord Cooperation Program...

- Provided financial supports to individuals and families who were at risk of being evicted and becoming homeless.
- Supported **29 individuals and families** with **Rent arrears payments**, **38 individuals and families** with **utility payments** to prevent disconnections and support reconnections. **17 individuals and families** in **Re-housing support funds** towards damage deposits and first month's rent payments.
- Supported **10 families** with funds towards other housing supports to help stabilize their housing situations. This included cleaning, prepping suite for pest spray suite, furniture delivery, moving expenses and emergency stays.
- Helped tenants to recover funds totaling **\$5,903.12** and supported landlords in recovering **\$1,980.60**.
- Supports tenants and landlords in navigating other systems that impact housing, (e.g. EIA, CFS, CRA, Hydro/City Winnipeg Water and Waste, Residential Tenancies Branch and City of Winnipeg By-law services and public health Services) to prevent displacement, offer education and support positive tenancies.
- Provided the following services: including **mediation, housing education, and assistance with rental concerns** and matters related to the Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB).
- Provided **cleaning supplies** and **mattress/box spring covers** and **pest traps** to help tenants manage pest infestations that were impacting their tenancies.

HOUSING



The Exterior Home Improvement Program (EHIP)

The Exterior Home Improvement Program (EHIP) is a **grant incentive** available to all **homeowners and property owners** in the **William Whyte** and **North Point Douglas** communities for the last 23 years. The program aims to **encourage and support maintenance** of existing housing stock by incentivizing **exterior repairs**, in goal to infuse a sense of **pride, renewal, and safety** in the North End. The North End Revitalization Inc. partners with the City of Winnipeg, William Whyte Neighbourhood Association (WWNA), and Point Douglas Resident's Committee (PDRC) to run the program year-to-year.

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, **\$106,967.23** in grants were distributed, leveraging an additional **\$128,412.24** in resident contribution (representing an **120% leverage** on City of Winnipeg initial investment) for a total of **\$235,379.47** invested into North End housing renewal.

Before & After Staircase Repair:



54 Grants Awarded

- 19 to fixed-income homeowners
- 18 to general-income homeowners
- 17 to property owners

71 Projects Completed

- 18 Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- 17 Roofs Replaced
- 14 Accessibility Upgrades
- 9 Eavestroughs Replaced
- 9 New Fences
- 2 Siding Projects
- 2 Exterior Painting Projects

Housing Network Meetings

North End Community Renewal Corporation hosts regular housing network meetings to gather leaders in the community, share common goals, collaborate, and collectively advance our housing practices. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, we hosted two (2) meetings with a total of thirty-three (33) attendees.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Recreation

- NECRC provided community members **40 passes** to Assiniboine Park Zoo or the Leaf, **66 tickets** to a variety of Winnipeg Goldeyes games & **10 tickets** to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.
- We provided a **Recreation and Leisure Grant** to Iron Eagle Warriors Ltd. for their Nijii Pickleball program, out of St. Tommy Prince Place. **37 Indigenous participants** met twice a week to develop skills, learn the game, and get the benefits from exercise and socialization.
- Another **Recreation and Leisure Grant** was given to Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre to support taking **30 community members** to Rainbow Stage to see the Mary Poppins production.
- We were active members of the **Healthy Together Now Review Committee** which supports initiatives to help prevent chronic disease in Manitoba by funding projects which promote healthy eating, physical activity, mental well-being, and tobacco prevention and reduction. This year, we gave out **two grants**.

Events

- Hosted the **24th annual Picnic in the Park** event. This was a free event for families that was held on August 24th, 2024 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at St. John's Park. This event had activities such as **bouncy castles, popcorn, cotton candy, face painting, and a bike valet**. Additionally, **12 community organizations** had resource tables with activities such as free giveaways for community members. A **free meal** of hotdogs, chips and a drink were available to attendees. This event saw approximately **1200 people**.
- Participated in **Smudge the North End** with **Indigenous Vision for the North End** where we walked with IVNE and **7 other community organizations** to distribute snacks and water throughout the North End while offering interested community members the opportunity to smudge. **75 community members** received snacks, water and were able to smudge with us.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Events (cont'd)

- Hosted a stop on the **Indigenous Vision for the North End** event '**Lighting Up the Avenue**'. This event had community members participate in a number of activities hosted by organizations on Selkirk Avenue. NECRC held a **gingerbread house decorating contest**. We also handed out **snacks** and **hot chocolate** to attendees. Community members voted for the **top three best gingerbread houses** and we provided the winners with **gift card prizes**. This event saw approximately **40 people**.
- Worked with **Koats for Kids** to distribute coats to community members for the winter. A total of **21 individuals received coats**, among these recipients included **6 families with children**. We also accepted donations and **donated 8 coats and a bag of toques and mittens** back to the Koats for Kids program.
- Co-hosted a **holiday party** for Newcomer and Indigenous families in the North End area as a part of the **R2W R2X Newcomer Hub**. Activities included **photos with Santa, grab bags filled with toys and treats, sugar cookie decorating** and **various food options** such as hot dogs, hot chocolate, cotton candy, and sugar cookies. This event saw approximately **250 people**.

Food Security

- The **North End Farmers market** was held **weekly** from **July until the end of August**. The market had an average of **10 local vendors weekly**, selling goods, such as **hand made jewelry, beading supplies, fresh vegetables, and baked goods**. We provide the tables, chairs, and canopies. Tables at the market are **free to local vendors**. This year we continued our partnership with **Community Helpers Unite** to offer the "**pay what you can**" program for local produce, making it accessible and affordable for all community members. The market served approximately **725 community members** including **250** who accessed the "pay what you can" program.



- In January, we provided the '**After Holiday Hampers**' to **200 North End residents** that included a food box containing **non perishables, 1 frozen chicken, 1 ground beef, 1 dozen eggs**, and a **\$25 President's Choice gift card**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Food Security

- Started the new **'Good Food Box Program'** where residents pay **\$20**, for a **minimum of \$40 worth of fresh food**. Boxes include **fruits, vegetables, eggs and bread**. Program runs **bi-weekly** and started in January. **26 community members** use the program regularly and it has been growing weekly.
- Attended **Main Street Community Walks** with OPK and CHU where we helped with **food and water distribution, safe needle disposal, garbage clean-up, harm reduction and peace-keeping**.



Community Clean-Ups

- We supported **North End wide community spring clean-ups**, which included **Lord Selkirk Park, William Whyte Neighbourhood Association, Luxton Resident's Association, North Point Douglas Residents Committee, St. John's Resident's Association, and Inkster North End Residents' Association**. **228 community members** participated between all the clean-ups. We donated a garden prize pack at each clean up, which was given by random draw to volunteers. NECRC staff also participated in each clean-up.
- The **Lord Selkirk Resource Centre's** community clean-up also held a **community BBQ**, which NECRC staff helped facilitate. **170 hotdog lunches** were given out to community members.

Community Engagement

- Co-hosted a meeting on arson prevention with the **North End History Group** to **preserve North End historical buildings**. We also held an **arson prevention panel event** for community members to participate in brainstorming ideas for arson prevention.
- Attended **monthly meetings** of the **Indigenous Vision for the North End Steering Committee** which we sit on. **8 community organizations** sit on the committee, where we **share ideas, resource, and community updates** on programming. We participated in the IVNE PATH, which is a planning tool that is facilitated to create a shared vision for the group moving forward.
- Facilitated **bi-monthly** North End Resident Coalition meetings. These meeting have representation from **WWNA, Luxton Resident's Association, Inkster Resident's Association, St. John's Resident's Association, and Point Douglas Resident's Committee**. These meeting give the resident associations throughout the North End a space to discuss area wide problem and challenges, while sharing resources and giving NECRC an opportunity to hear from each neighbourhood.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



NERI Small Grants

The **purpose** of the SGF is to **support small projects that bring people together** and **respond to priorities of local groups that require short term project funding** less than \$5000. The SGF is available to local groups and organizations within the William Whyte, Lord Selkirk Park, Point Douglas, St. John's and Dufferin neighborhoods. Organizations who reside outside these areas, but provide service within these communities can also apply.

The 2024-2025 Small Grant Fund had **51 applications** with 2 withdrawing, for a total of **48 being approved**, by the Small Grant Resident Committee.

The Small Grant Fund supports a variety of community programming that include small projects that bring people together and respond to the priorities of local groups.

All approved projects address one or more of the following categories:

Capacity Building: Knowledge/skill enhancement, leadership development, organizational development.

Well-being: Safety and crime prevention, physical and mental health, enhanced parenting, food security, after school programs, Newcomer programs, youth support.

Stability: Greenspace improvement, facility enhancement.

Community Connecting: Community pride, community cooperation, neighbourhood consultation and outreach.

Economic Development: Social enterprise development or support, enhancement of local business opportunities, knowledge/skill enhancement (marketable), projects promoting local purchasing.

\$139,253.85 in funds
leveraged

43 of the projects had
skill building and
volunteer opportunities

4 projects had a main category of **capacity building**

9 projects focus was on **community connecting**

3 projects main focus was **economic development**

8 projects primary category was **stability**

24 projects main focus was **well-being**

FINANCES

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please see audited
financial statements for
complete picture of
finances

The logo for MNP, consisting of the letters 'MNP' in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font.

Thank you to MNP for
being our auditors!

5 YEAR PLAN

The purpose of this strategic plan is to bring together North End community organizations, stakeholders, members and residents to coordinate, design and consult a North End-wide neighbourhood renewal plan that focuses on building a sustainable community.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action will be considered in community planning, activities & initiatives.



INCREASE AFFORDABLE & ADEQUATE HOUSING

- Physical improvements to inadequate housing
- Develop affordable housing units
- Resources for residents experiencing homelessness
- Better communication between property owners/tenants



INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Labour market participation rates & job creation
- Training/employment preparation & adult education opportunities
- Increased jobs for youth transitioning into workforce
- More childcare options for working parents



IMPROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

- Reductions in crime including fires/arson
- Improved security measures: street lighting, community safe walks, etc.
- Overall greater perception of safety



RECREATION & WELLNESS

- Improvements to parks & greenspace
- Increase in activities & programming for youth
- Regular updates on community programs & activities
- Reduce barriers: transportation, access to equipment, etc.



FOOD SECURITY

- Increase access to affordable & healthier food options
- Increase accessibility to food resources: food hampers, meal programs, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**We thank our funders for
their continued support.**