



Neighbourhood Strategies Community Social Work Program

Tale of two Communities - Exploring the ABCD model in Highland Park and Manchester
Wednesday March 22, 2023

Two Connector Initiatives at a Glance

	Highland Park	Manchester
Program Name	Highland Park Block Connector Program	Manchester Neighbour Connector Initiative
Year Initiated	March 2020	June 2022
Reason it started	To assist residents to connect with one another and local resources in the height of the pandemic.	Following the pandemic there was several incidences of isolation in complexes
Community	Mostly detached, single family dwellings. One seniors subsidized apartment building.	Consists of only one street of detached homes & several multi-unit complexes; three are Calgary Housing
Structure	One coordinator, 8 Block Connectors	One Connector Coordinator (10 hour/month); 9 Connectors
Partners	Works with Community Association	Supported by the Community Social Worker (CSW)
Costs	Community Social Worker provides monthly honorarium for Coordinator. Funds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connector gatherings 4/year • For small block events 	Community Social Worker provides a monthly honorarium for Coordinator; Calgary Dollar honorariums for Connectors; Connector starter kits; supplies for small gatherings or meet-ups;

Examples of roles and responsibilities in a Connector Initiative

Community Social Worker and Partners (if applicable)

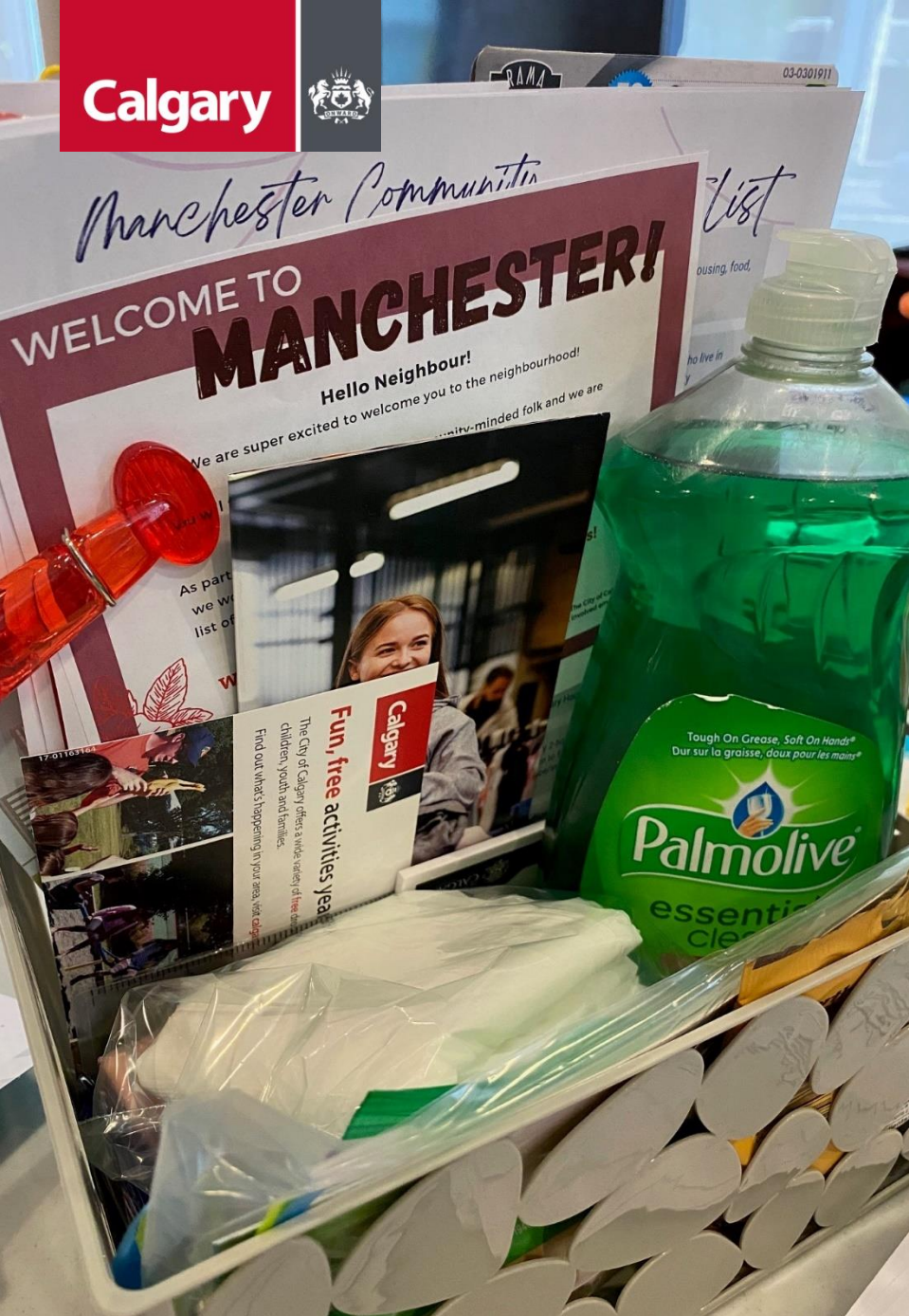
- Oversees the initiative; recruitment; training/info sessions
- Supervises the Resident Coordinator
- May work directly with Connectors
- Provides resources and information

Neighbour Connector Coordinator (resident leader)

- Resident leader in the community to support Connectors
- Coordinate meetings and provides ideas to overall initiative
- Provides resources
- Promotion

Connectors (residents)

- Act as a point person to gather and share information
- May learn about other skills in the community, resources and/or arising community issues
- Can create own opportunities to meet neighbours
- Not intended to provide counselling services, direct financial support, or manage neighbour conflict and disputes



Manchester Examples

Welcome packages to new neighbours

Coffee Meet-ups

Card games and chat night

Paint Night

Secret Santa

Community Dinner



Neighbour Connectors
PAINT NIGHT - December 2022

Highland Park Examples

Neighbourhood Art Walk

Highland Park Rocks

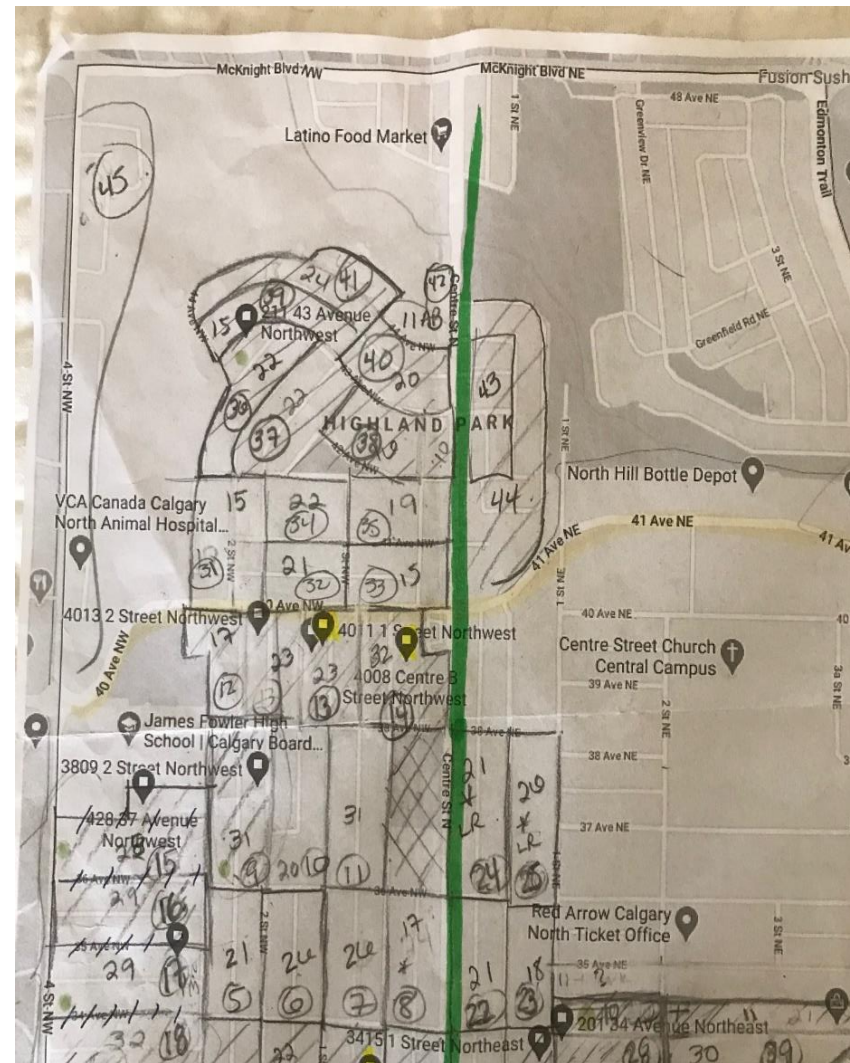
Lemonade Stands

Library of Extraordinary Humans



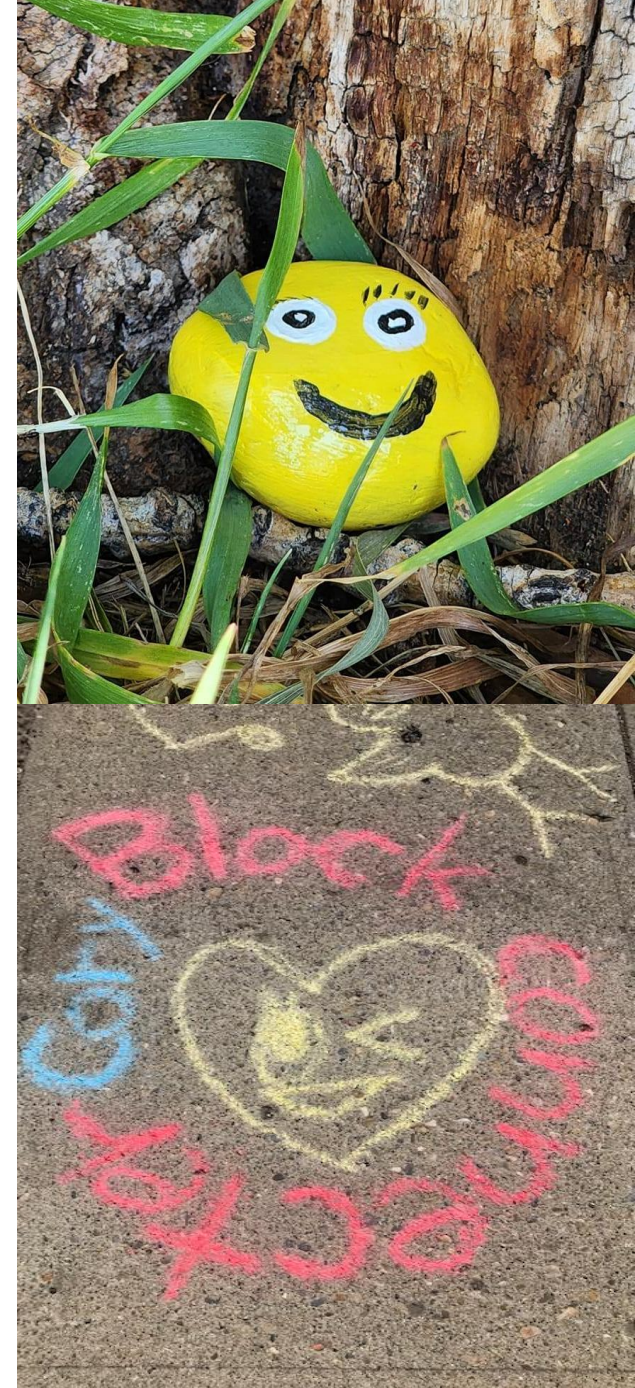
Common Challenges


- The “block” concept was not as easy to adapt and evolved to a broader community concept
- Recruitment; Turnover and Transitions
- Barriers to participation
- Communication methods
- Limited capacity of residents to find solutions to larger issues



Successes

- Provides a broader communication channel on programs and resources
- Learn about the skills/assets in the community to find solutions
- Opportunity to engage new residents as volunteers; gives an excuse to connect
- Community Social Worker works with Connectors to build their capacity and skills; while reducing some of the barriers to participation



A photograph of a modern bridge with red, curved metal railings over a body of water. The sun is shining brightly in a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A tree is visible on the right side of the frame.

**“Every single person has
skills, abilities, and gifts”**

-JOHN MCKNIGHT

Thank you!