



*The NPI is addressing the immediate needs of people living in poverty, and enhancing the ability of communities to work together toward reducing poverty.*

The NPI, a partnership among Niagara Region, the non-profit sector and the private sector, uses a neighbourhood-based approach to addressing poverty, investing in areas of Niagara most in need.

Since 2008 when the NPI was established, 183 projects have been funded through 62 different community agencies in Niagara. Almost half of the projects funded are geared specifically towards assisting children and youth.

### IS THE NPI WORKING?

Feedback from Niagara residents helped by NPI projects indicate the strategy is making a substantial difference in the lives of individuals.

The NPI is evaluated according to three measures also used by Vibrant Communities, a national poverty reduction initiative. They are:

- enhancing community capacity for poverty reduction
- improvements in individual and household assets
- changes in systems and policies

An analysis of feedback\* collected from 352 residents served by an NPI project shows that:

- 52% experienced improvements in individual and household assets;
- 48% experienced an increase in the community's capacity for poverty reduction

Breaking down individual and household assets, the data shows significant improvements in 5 key areas:

**PERSONAL ASSETS** – Inner resources such as self-esteem and self-confidence

**PHYSICAL ASSETS** – Basic material goods and services such as food, shelter, transportation and child care

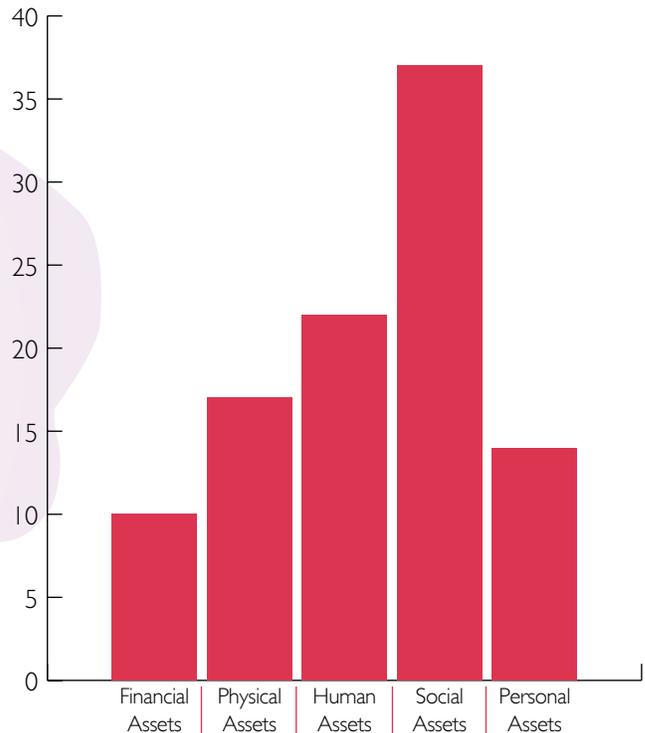
**SOCIAL ASSETS** – Relationships and networks

**HUMAN ASSETS** – Skills, knowledge, education and health

**FINANCIAL ASSETS** – Income, savings and sources of financial security including government income security programs

*\*Resident feedback related to systems and policies was collected, but has not yet been analyzed*

### IMPROVEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS (percentage of respondents)



352 residents assisted by an NPI project were asked what impact the project had on them. The chart shows the percentage of respondents who indicated improvements in five areas.

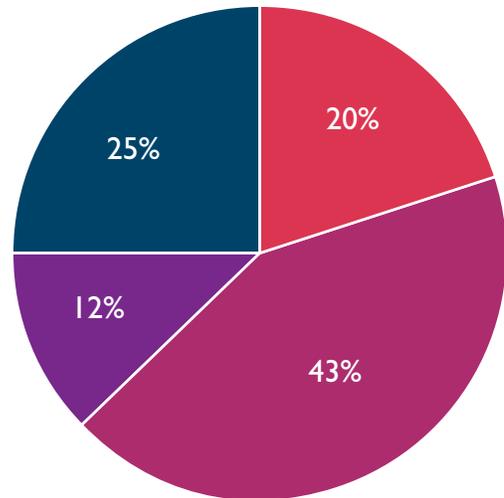
*Making a difference*

## SCOPE OF PROJECTS

Given the goal of addressing immediate needs and building community capacity to prevent poverty, NPI projects fall into four main areas:

- **INDIVIDUAL – SHORT-TERM.** These projects respond to the urgent needs of individuals (examples: bus pass, grocery cards)
- **INDIVIDUAL – LONG-TERM.** These projects have a long-term effect on the individual and influences their life path (examples: skill/confidence building through after school programs).
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE.** These projects provide lasting infrastructure to neighbourhoods that can be used by individuals living in the neighbourhood (examples: food banks, community gardens)
- **NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.** These projects create networks and grow leadership among the people in the neighbourhood (examples: Good Food Box, community developers)

## SCOPE OF NPI PROJECTS 2008-2012



- Individual Short-Term
- Individual Long-Term
- Neighbourhood Infrastructure
- Neighbourhood Community Development

*Almost half of the NPI projects are geared specifically towards assisting children and youth.*

## WHAT RESIDENTS ARE SAYING

“Since participating in the cooking club, my daughter insists on cooking every day. She has also learned kitchen safety, safe food handling, and teamwork skills.”

— Participant, youth after-school program

“We visited the (community) garden every two days as it’s within walking distance. Gardening tools were always readily available. We were able to show our children how to grow vegetables.”

— Participant, Community Gardens Project

“Both my children enjoyed the Summer HEAT program. They made a lot of new friends and enjoyed the activities in the library. They liked bringing home a new book each week and reading it with me.”

— Parent of participants in a summer reading program

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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