

# Summary of Findings from ‘Piece Our Neighbourhood Together’ Event Evaluation

## Youth Findings

### Question 1

What made you decide to come to this event?

24 youth responded to the first question. Some of the key reasons that youth listed for deciding to come to the event included the availability of food, that the event was convenient, because of existing or the opportunity to develop new relationships, volunteering, and skating. A summary of each of these reasons, and recommendations follows.

#### **Availability of food**

11 youth reported that they came to the event because of the availability of food.

#### **Event was convenient**

5 youth reported that they came to the event because it was convenient. For example, some youth played hockey either at the event location or near to it. Another youth responded, “because it was here,” again suggesting that the event was in a location that was convenient.

#### **Relationships**

3 youth reported attending the event for reasons related to relationships, including, “the volunteers seemed nice,” and, “to be with the community.”

#### **Volunteering**

2 youth reported that they were at the event because they were volunteering.

#### **Other**

1 youth stated they were at the event for skating, 1 youth stated that they were there because of scouts (ambiguous answer), and 1 youth stated they were there for mental health reasons, or, “just to calm myself down.”

### Question 2

Did this event help you feel more connected to your neighbourhood? If yes, how? If no, what can we do better next time?

22 youth responded to this question. 19 youth answered “yes,” 1 youth responded “no,” and 2 youth did not answer either yes or no to the question. Of the youth who answered, 14 provided additional information. Some of the key ways that the event helped youth feel more connected include that it was an opportunity to socialize, and that there was food available.

#### **Opportunity to socialize**

9 youth reported that the event helped them feel more connected to the neighbourhood because it was an opportunity to socialize. Examples in this response category include, “yes, it was all connected together and fun, it felt very including,” and, “yes, because talking to people is fun.” 3 youth mentioned that they had the opportunity to talk to others, and 2 said that they met new people.

### **Availability of food**

3 youth reported that the event helped them feel more connected to their neighbourhood because food was available.

### **Other**

1 youth said the event helped them feel more connected to their neighbourhood because the music was fun and energetic, and 1 youth wrote that their hockey team is in Oakville.

### **Recommendations**

The responses to this question suggest that the event was very successful in helping youth feel more connected to their neighbourhood. It is clear that having fun together is a key way that youth feel connected. A number of factors influence this, including shared experiences such as having food together, music, and lots of opportunities to talk and interact. As with the current event, future events could strive to have a spirit of fun and connection, and plan for ways to make this happen.

### Question 3

What's one thing you can do after the event to help build a caring neighbourhood in your community?

19 youth responded to this question. Some of the ways that youth reported that they could help build a caring neighbourhood in their community included finding ways to interact with others, taking care of the environment, participating in other opportunities, and sharing food.

### **Interacting with others**

9 youth reported that they could take action that involved interacting with others, including volunteering in the community, helping neighbours, or finding opportunities to talk to others more.

### **Environment**

4 youth reported that they could take action related to the environment, such as recycling and cleaning up.

### **Food**

3 youth stated that sharing food with other people was something they could do to help build a caring neighbourhood.

### **Participation**

2 youth reported that they could participate in their neighbourhood/community, for example through extracurricular opportunities, or other free activities available in the community.

### Recommendations from Youth Feedback

The survey responses suggest that the event was very successful in helping youth feel more connected to their neighbourhood. A number of factors influence this, including shared experiences such as having food together, music, and lots of opportunities to talk and interact. As with the current event, future events could strive to have a spirit of fun and connection, and plan for ways to make this happen. Some specific examples include:

- Having food freely available is an important draw for many people. When planning future events, ensure that food is a core component. In addition, you may consider highlighting the availability of free food in your event marketing.
- When choosing an event location and time, find venues where youth already have a presence.
- A number of the youth saw the event as an opportunity to socialize and meet new people. You may want to ensure that there are opportunities for people to socialize at the event, through games, structured activities, or by having name tags.
- Ensure that there are enough volunteer roles that everyone who wants to participate in this way has the opportunity to.
- At future events, you may consider having an arts and crafts station, or another activity for youth who experience mental health challenges to relax.

### **Adult Findings**

Compared to the youth, fewer adults completed the survey, and the description of key findings is shorter as a result.

#### **Question 1**

**What made you decide to come to this event?**

7 adults responded to this question. 3 adults decided to come to the event because of the activities taking place. 1 adult came because the event looked fun, 1 because it was free, 1 because they were a part of the committee, and 1 because they “happened to know.”

#### **Question 2**

**Did this event help you feel more connected to your neighbourhood? If yes, how? If no, what can we do better next time?**

7 adults responded to this question. 6 adults responded that the event did make them feel more connected to their neighbourhood. 1 adult stated that they were unsure. 4 adults provided more information about how the event made them feel more connected. They responded that the event helped them feel more connected to their neighbourhood by providing an opportunity to meet others in their neighbourhood, and by having greater knowledge of what’s happening in the community.

#### **Question 3**

**What’s one thing you can do after the event to help build a caring neighbourhood in your community?**

6 adults responded to this question. 3 adults stated that, in order to help build a caring neighbourhood, they could promote or attend events similar to the ‘Piecing Our Neighbourhood Together’ event. 2 adults stated that they could volunteer in the community. 1 adult stated they could learn about resources for youth and share this information with others.

### Recommendations from Adult Feedback

Based on the available responses, it appears that the activities available at the event motivated parents to attend the event. At future events, having a wide variety of activities that appeal to a number of age groups may help motivate parents to attend.

Responses to question 3 indicate that parents may be interested in promoting the event. In the future, the Youth Development Council could leverage adults' interest in promotion by asking them to share information about the event.