

Community Matters

stories of connections, hospitality, & reciprocity in the community

Community Matters is a newsletter by the Asset Based Community Development team.
251 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Ph: 604-365-9113.

Portraits of a Connected Neighbourhood



Sharing a photograph is an easy way to talk about an idea or tell a story. Photographs capture moments of beauty and the abundance of the communities around us. By exploring citizens' stories, photographs and experiences, *Project CLIC: Creating Liveable and Interactive Communities* was driven to create more welcoming and inclusive neighbourhoods, one 'clic' at a time.

On October 4, 2013, 22 people came together to share pizza and talk about the project. Each person was paired with a partner and given a disposable camera, a list of suggestions and a 'photo story' form on which to record their experiences. Over the course of two weeks, each photojournalist chose four topics from the list of questions and took 12 photographs. Once completed, they passed the camera to their photo buddy, so they in turn could shoot their photographs. The list of suggestions included 'something that makes you laugh', 'a place you love to go', 'something you would love to learn more about' and 'what this community needs'.

Two weeks later all of the photographers and their guests were invited to a dinner to view the photographs and share their stories. In small groups, people discussed the prints and contemplated how they reflect upon our community and the experiences of our neighbours. The conversation was lively and emotional and helped the participants get to know one another better in a supportive space.

Project CLIC was animated by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, with support from Vancity, Fresh Slice Pizza, ABCD Vancouver and the citizens of Mount Pleasant.

If you would like more info or are interested in hosting a similar event, please contact us.

An Abundance of Sharing

Sharing Abundance is a weekly lunch program hosted at St. Andrew's United Church that builds community around food. People experience such a warm welcome at the *Sharing Abundance* lunch that they immediately feel part of the family. Alice experienced this warmth when she stopped by one day and it keeps her coming back every week.

Alice has many reasons for offering her gifts at *Sharing Abundance*. "It's nice for people to come together and eat so they aren't sitting at home alone," she says. One of her favourite things about volunteering at St. Andrew's is making connections and talking with new friends. She enjoys meeting new people and the opportunity to cook and prepare food for the community. Every Thursday, you can count on Alice to pour you a warm cup of coffee or tea and start a friendly chat.



Lunches are served every Thursday, 11:50 am - 12:50 pm at St Andrew's United Church in North Vancouver. To learn more about *Sharing Abundance*, visit www.sharingabundance.ca.

Waves of Hospitality

"Business should be part of and build community." These are the inspiring words of Joon Yoo, manager of Waves Coffee House at 2588 Main Street. Passersby may have noticed the funky vertical tables outside the cafe. The idea was masterminded by Joon when he wondered how he could better serve the many cyclists who pass by the coffee house each day. During his research, he came upon the innovative biking tables used in Amsterdam and Tokyo. As part of his goal to build and grow community, Joon hopes the tables will bring cyclists together and provide a convenient stop for them on their travels.

A book exchange library has recently popped up in the corner of the café, so you can read and exchange books while you savour your coffee! Stop by soon and enjoy the warm hospitality spreading from Waves Coffee House.



Get connected in your community: UPCOMING EVENTS

ArtStarts Weekend Workshops Tap Dance Class with TapCo

**Nov. 30, 2013, 11-11:45 am &
1-1:45 pm**

**Dec. 1, 2013, 11-11:45 am &
1-1:45 pm
FREE**

**ArtStarts Gallery, River Market,
New Westminster Quay**

Arriving with tap shoes on hand to fit all sizes and ages, TapCo will teach you some tap dance steps and entertain you with their moves. Come along to learn some tips and tricks from the amazing TapCo dancers and have some fun!

Christmas Comedy Showcase and Fundraiser

Dec. 17, 2013, doors at 6 pm, \$15

**Lafflines
530 Columbia Street
New Westminster**

Bring your holiday spirit and prepare to laugh for a good cause! Starring the hilarious Richard McDonald, Ben Simcoe, Jordana Pratt, Clifford Prang and special guests. 50/50 draw and door prizes. All profits go to support BC People First.

Sports Day in Canada Carnival Jersey Day

Nov. 29, 2013, 3-6 pm, FREE

**Sunset Community Centre
6810 Main Street, Vancouver**

Represent your favourite team by wearing their jersey! Come out to the Sunset Community Centre after school to try out different sports, carnival games and activities for families, children and youth.

Looking to get more connected in your neighbourhood?
Have a great community initiative you want to spread the word about?
Contact the ABCD team at the HUB: thehub@posabilities.ca.