

## What is a neighbourhood house (NH)?

- A NH is a welcoming and inclusive place where everyone of any age, nationality and ability can attend, lead and learn through our programs and services
- In 2013, more than 200,000 people participated in almost 450 programs in NHs across Metro Vancouver

## Who are neighbourhood houses for?

### A NH has something for everyone, at every stage, regardless of background

- A NH is accessible, with its informal social atmosphere and low to no cost
- Often, once someone embraces their NH, other family members across generations get involved as well
- Provide examples of the diverse programs at your local NH (e.g. childcare, cultural events, seniors outings, youth programs, support groups)

## How might you benefit by attending a neighbourhood house?

### Engage: A NH can help you create the change you want to see in your community

- Through collaboration with community members and other service groups, your ideas for improving your neighbourhood can be made into reality at a NH
- Provide a local example (e.g. Wen Ling Chan initiated an art therapy group at Kits NH; Vancouver Foundation Small Neighbourhood Grant projects)

### Connect: Develop your personal skills and your ability to connect with others at your local NH

- Of nearly 700 people surveyed, the majority saw an increase in their knowledge about issues in their neighbourhood, as well as an increase in their ability to work with people from different backgrounds
- NHs offer educational services that address practical needs, like tutorial groups, English language circles, employment counselling, and programs for high-risk youth
- In 2013, more than 3,600 people across all age groups registered as volunteers at NHs in Metro Vancouver – through volunteering, you find ways to contribute to your community, develop leadership skills and, if you're a newcomer, familiarize yourself with their new hometown

### Belong: a neighbourhood house can be your home away from home

- We found that 60% of people develop at least one close friendship through their involvement in a NH
- Our research found that people develop a strong sense of belonging to their NH that is uncommon among other organizations
- There are people who first attend a NH as a toddler in a family program, attend after-school programs as a child, take advantage of youth leadership opportunities, and continue to attend events and use services as an adult

## Visit the neighbourhood house nearest you!

- Have current information available on upcoming events, seasonal programming, how people can volunteer, and employment opportunities