

Project Summary:

The Happy Community Project invites community members to imagine the community they want, using a process developed by Reshaping Our World. Grassroot members of the community decide what they should do to increase social connectedness in their community, and the process provides a platform for them to find the confidence and resources to turn those ideas into action. These projects are informally organized, requiring little resources from traditional agencies, and yet are making a huge difference for communities.

This project funded a summer student to research and create a manual that could be used in communities beyond Windsor and West Hants. The summer research student engaged in a development and publication process based on research gathered from the previous summer. This research project involved analyzing data and developing an accessible manual based on the Happy Community Project that could be disseminated to and implemented in other communities around the world.

Projected Benefits

The Happy Community Project has shown very positive results. In Windsor, an initial launch event attended by 50 people led to 3000 community members engaged in 10 projects several months later. There is a renewed sense of community pride and confidence that is noticeable in the town. The project has also been recognized and praised by many esteemed institutions in Canada and around the world.

Producing a guidebook will not only serve to celebrate and showcase the successes of the project, but will be a tool in extending the impact of the Happy Community Project to other communities. The creation of a guidebook will also provide a valuable opportunity for a student to develop tangible work and research experience in the field of community development.