



A NuVo World

TRANSFORMING NDG

The Art of Neighbouring - NDG

Block Captains + Neighbours Helping Neighbours



One block. One relationship. One act of care at a time.

A practical invitation to build a healthier, kinder, more connected community.

A NuVo World: from vision to daily life

A NuVo World begins with a simple conviction: communities change when ordinary people choose to care for one another, consistently and practically. NDG is the proving ground - a place where residents, businesses, schools, faith communities and organizations can build a model of belonging that can eventually be adapted elsewhere.

Every person matters. Every act of kindness matters. Every neighbourhood can become extraordinary.

This program brief turns one part of the larger NDG Transformation Plan into an actionable community initiative. It is designed to be shared with prospective Champions, partners, volunteers, donors and residents.

The Art of Neighbouring - NDG

The transformation of a community begins close to home: learn a name, share a conversation, notice a need, offer a hand.

The idea

The Art of Neighbouring - NDG brings together two A NuVo World initiatives: Block Captains and Neighbours Helping Neighbours. It also draws inspiration from the Art of Neighboring movement, whose practical emphasis is on building relationships with the people who literally live closest to us.

From strangers to neighbours

The starting point is wonderfully small: know the people around you. A simple Block Map can help residents learn the names of the households nearest them and notice where relationships are still missing. The objective is not surveillance or administration. It is friendship.

The Block Captain

A Block Captain is not an authority, politician or supervisor. A Block Captain is simply a neighbour who cares - someone who welcomes newcomers, introduces people, shares useful community information, checks on vulnerable neighbours during difficult weather, encourages volunteering and connects needs with available help.

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

- Carry groceries, shovel a walkway or help with a small household task.
- Share tools, skills, books, meals or a ride when appropriate.
- Check in on an older neighbour or someone who lives alone.

- Water plants, walk a dog or help a family during a busy week.
- Invite people for coffee, a walk, a block gathering or a simple meal.
- Listen when what a neighbour most needs is another human being.

A neighbourhood movement, one block at a time

Three practical habits

- **Know:** learn names and a little about the people living nearest to you.
- **Connect:** create natural opportunities for conversation - porches, sidewalks, coffee, block parties and community walks.
- **Care:** notice practical needs and respond personally or connect the neighbour to someone who can help.

Launching in NDG

- Recruit an initial group of 20-30 Block Captains across different parts of NDG.
- Give each Captain a short orientation in listening, privacy, boundaries, inclusion, referrals and emergency preparedness.
- Invite residents to complete a voluntary Block Map for their own use; no central database of neighbours is required.
- Hold simple block gatherings designed for conversation rather than programming.
- Connect Captains to BuyNothing NDG, Feed NDG, NuVoWay LifeStyle Coaches and the broader volunteer network.
- Meet monthly at first to share lessons, celebrate stories and identify community-wide needs.

What success looks like

Measure	What it tells us
Active Block Captains	How much of NDG has a local point of connection.
Neighbours known by name	A simple indicator of relationship density.
New resident welcomes	Whether newcomers are being included.
Acts of mutual help	Practical neighbour-to-neighbour support.
Block gatherings	Opportunities for relationships to deepen.

Measure	What it tells us
Belonging & trust	Resident feedback on whether NDG feels more connected.

A good neighbourhood is not created by a program. It is created when people decide that the people living around them are worth knowing.

THE INVITATION: Start with the eight households closest to you. Learn one name you do not know. Take one small next step. Then keep going.

Inspiration and practical concepts such as the Block Map were informed by The Art of Neighboring resources (Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak, artofneighboring.com). This NDG brief is an original A NuVo World adaptation and is not presented as an official publication of that organization.