

# PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF INTERGENERATIONAL VOLUNTEERING: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SNOW-BUDDIES PROGRAM IN THE NIAGARA REGION

## PURPOSE OF OUR STUDY

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Support Services of Niagara (CSSN) identified **older adults** as vulnerable to injuries. Major constraints included a shortage of volunteer-driven programs, with a growing **demand for volunteers**.

In response, Brock University initiated a **Community-Based Partnership Research (CBPR)** project with CSSN and Age-Friendly Niagara to attract more volunteers by highlighting the social, psychological, and economic contributions of current Snow-Buddy volunteers.

## INTERVIEW FINDINGS

OF COURSE, I WOULD GREET THEM, THEY WOULD GREET BE BACK. IT WAS FRIENDLY, VERY FRIENDLY-CLIENT COMMENT ON SENSE OF DEPENDENCY

“IT FEELS GOOD TO KNOW THAT YOU’RE HELPING OUT SOMEBODY WHO NEEDS IT - VOLUNTEER COMMENT ON PERSONAL REWARDS

## SURVEY FINDINGS

FROM MARCH 2020 TO MAY 2023, SNOW-BUDDIES COMPLETED:



106 VOLUNTEER MATCHES



486 SNOW REMOVAL EVENTS



671 VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$11,000 OF VALUE TIME SPENT BY SNOW BUDDIES

\$62

SAVED FROM PREVENTING SLIPS AND FALLS PER VOLUNTEER SHOVELING TASK, ESTIMATING A BENEFIT-TO-COST RATIO OF 0.54



50% RETURN ON FINANCIAL SAVINGS FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON A VOLUNTARY TASK

\$81,398

SAVINGS FROM HOSPITALIZATIONS AVOIDED DUE TO SNOW-RELATED FALL INJURIES/FRACTURES