

Nelson & District

CREDIT UNION  *Logically. Locally.*

Giving Back 101

Want to give back to the community? It's easier than you might think. Here are some simple ways to make a positive contribution to your community.

Give the basics

Are you comfortable buying shampoo, soap, toothpaste and socks? Probably. So why not make care packages for your community's homeless? Ask your local shelter or assistance agency for suggestions. Blankets, hats and gloves are almost always appreciated. Or help your local food bank. Pick up some non-perishable food items yourself, or spearhead a canned food drive at your office.

Give your energy

Are there a lot of seniors in your community? It's shocking how easy it is to make their lives a little easier. Give them the gift of your energy. Rake leaves, shovel snow, help them with their garden or assist with other physical tasks.

Give up your seat

Random acts of kindness like giving up your seat on the bus, or opening a door for a mom with a stroller isn't hard to do. Or try this: make someone's day in the drive-thru lane by paying for his or her order too.

Give from the heart (and your closet)

Take a good look around your house. Chances are you've got a lot of items you're not using. Gather up unused clothes, books, toys and other household items and donate them to charity. Or sell them online through sites like eBay or Craigslist, and then donate the proceeds.

Give your time

Time is the one thing almost any community organization, school or church can use. Can you read? Offer to read books to a visually impaired person, or help a struggling student with their homework. Volunteer at an animal shelter. Pick up trash while you walk your dog. Go have tea with someone who's lonely. Babysit for a young family. Lend a hand at a tournament or fundraiser. It won't cost you anything, but it will make your life much richer. It's also a great way to meet new people in your community.

Give life

Have you signed your organ donation card that came with your driver's license or given blood? Helping to save a life—not just improve it—is probably the best gift you could ever give. Visit www.bloodservices.ca or visit your local motor vehicle branch to find out more.

NDCU as an example

Doug Stoddart, CEO of Nelson & District Credit Union describes our community giving program. “The Community Investment Program was started in 2000 to demonstrate NDCU's commitment to the communities our members live in. Since then, NDCU has now given \$2,000,000 back to our communities through worthwhile local causes. We are extremely pleased with the support we have been able to give.”

“We emphasize our ‘first’ \$2 million”, Stoddart adds, “as long as people support us with their deposits and borrowing needs, we will be able to continue putting our profits back into community programs strengthening our social infrastructures.”

Nelson & District Credit Union has assisted many social & charitable organizations deliver their services to the community over the years; becoming a corner-stone of community funding.

Kim Adamson, past Regional Coordinator for Success By 6 explains, “For the past 5 years Nelson & District Credit Union has been a lead partner for West Kootenay Success By 6. Recognizing that investing in young children is important for our future; NDCU has supported our annual Books for Kids campaigns and Early Years conferences, the West Kootenay Family magazine and provided leadership on our Council of Partners. Their strong commitment to community on so many levels sets a standard that all community members and organizations should aspire to. With our sincere gratitude from the kids of the West Kootenay and Success By 6.”

“At Nelson & District Credit Union, we reinvest profits back into our community,” Stoddart remarks, “with innovative programs like the 100 mile mortgage, we work hard at keeping your *interest* local”.

Application for sponsorships can be picked up in the branches or completed from our NDCU website - nelsoncu.com or call 1.877.352.7207.