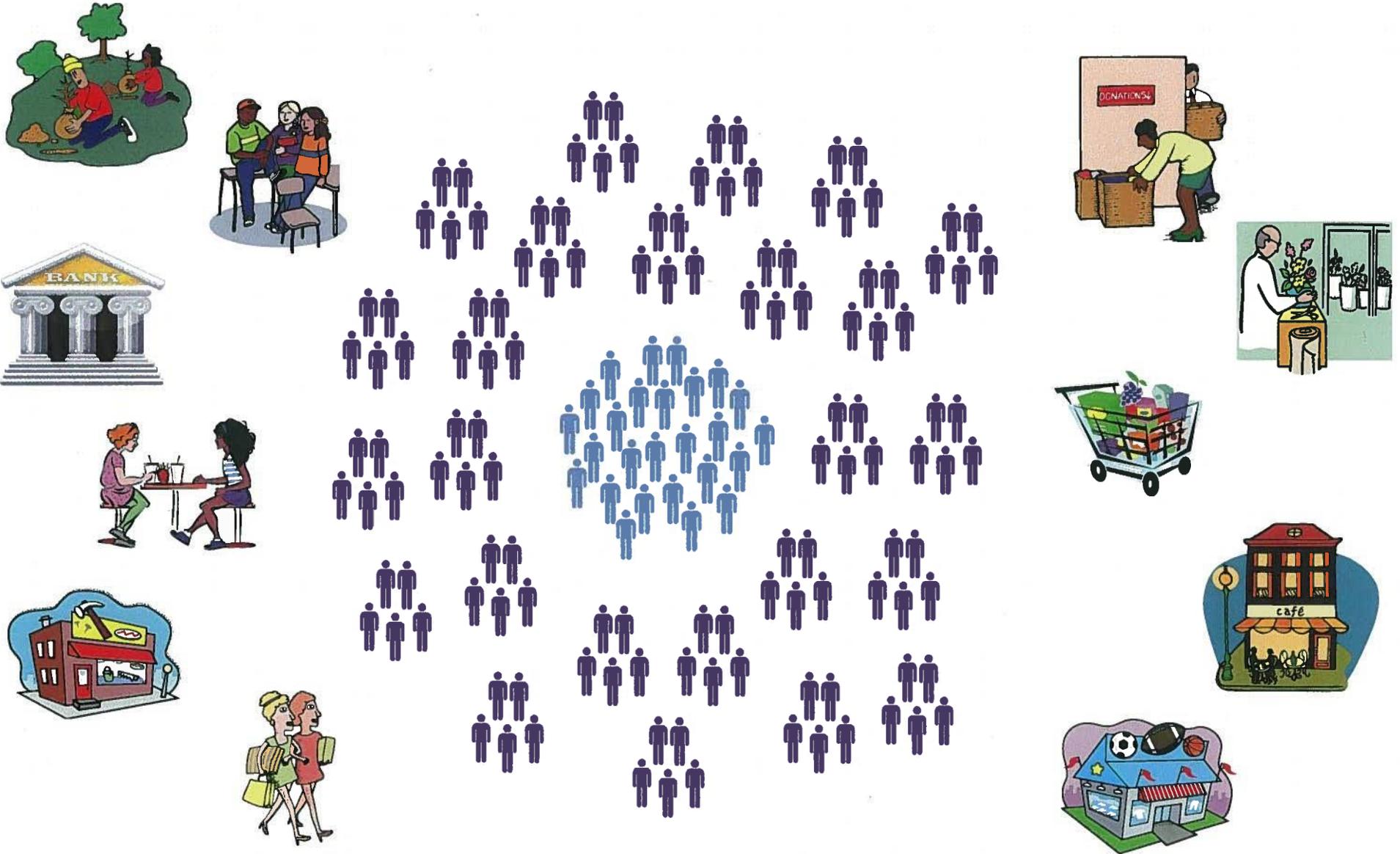


Impact of a Full-time Independent Facilitator



Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario - September 2013

Developed by Michelle Friesen, Co-chair, IFCO and Melodie Cook, Operations Director, Community Living Windsor

Impact of a Full-time Independent Facilitator

The graphic on page one of this document was developed to visually demonstrate the impact realized when a full-time independent facilitator works with people, their families and/or networks over a period of time. It illustrates the building of capacity, connections, relationships and involvement in community.

The light blue 'persons' in the centre of the page represent 25 people who would be receiving ongoing independent facilitation as needed. The dark purple 'persons' represent the networks of support in people's lives: their family, trusted friends, etc. Through independent facilitation relationships would be nurtured, change and grow. The colourful clip-art pictures represent the relationships and places in neighbourhoods and community that one may be involved with beyond support networks.

In supporting 25 citizens who are living with a disability, it is assumed that each would have different numbers of people in their network/lives and be at different stages on their journey. This could mean a network of two for some and for others it could mean fifteen. After speaking with people, families and independent facilitators we have used the figure 'five' for the average number in a support network (family and/or friends).

With five as an average, multiplied by 25, that means at least 125 individuals (people, families, friends and others) would be potentially strengthened, more informed and more engaged as a result of involvement with an independent facilitator. It would also mean other relationships through community contribution and participation would evolve depending on the community development work and connections being made – most likely taking the total beyond 125.

Investing in one person (or equivalent) to provide full-time ongoing independent facilitation and planning would result in capacity building with 125 individuals, as well as others from community-at-large over time. It would also realize a variety of goals including but not limited to the following:

- Citizenship
- More choice and control
- Self-determination
- Person-directed planning
- Community involvement and contribution
- Enhancement of natural relationships
- Self-confidence; and a Sense of Purpose

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