

## Social connectedness

### Overall

More than 4 out of 5 homeowners (84%) reported that they feel “very connected” or “somewhat connected” to their community.

*I feel more confident, more relaxed and much more connected to the society.*

*The way the community pulled together to help us was amazing, and [they were] supportive of us getting a Habitat home. It gave us a stronger connection to our community.*

More than half of homeowners (56%) feel they participate more in groups and activities in the community since moving into their Habitat home, while a third report no change in their participation, and 11 percent report less participation than before they moved in.

*They give us the strength, the money, the wisdom, and the courage to become a better person and have a better life such as getting involved with the community and being a good citizen.*

Two-thirds of the homeowners (64%) feel that their children spend more time with friends and classmates than they did before moving in, while one-fourth (27%) feel that no change occurred and 9 percent reported a decline.

*Our children feel better when they invite friends to come over and we can invite friends from church and we have a lot of space, a good kitchen, space for our children to do homework. We feel comfortable in our home- it's a beautiful home.*

### Regional

The greater Minnesota respondents reported a higher percentage (90%) than the Twin Cities respondents (78%) of feeling “very connected” or “somewhat connected” to their community (Figure 11).

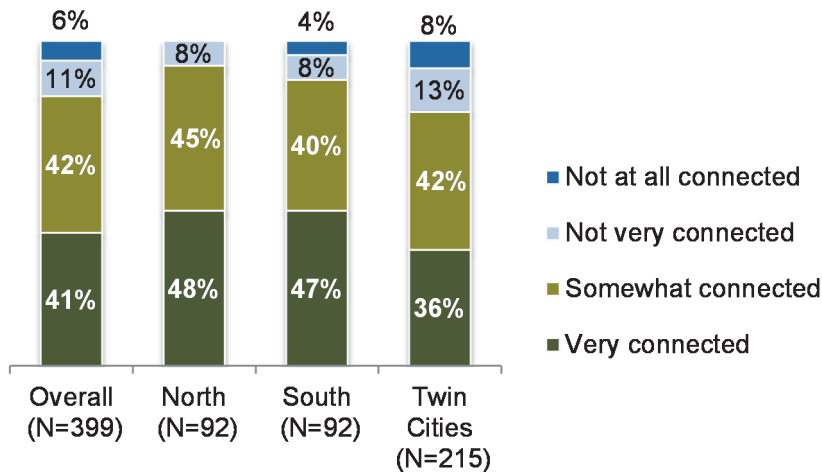
Regarding increase in participation in groups and activities in their community, the percentages across regions are relatively consistent. However, only 5 percent of greater Minnesota respondents said they participate less in activities, and 15 percent of Twin Cities families said they participate less.

The North reported a higher proportion of children spending more time with friends and classmates (74%) compared to the South (64%) and the Twin Cities (61%).

Spending less time on being concerned about living or conditions on where we're living so we're able to spend more time on fitting into community activities or church activities because we have more time to do it and we feel mentally and socially better about those situations too.

My children are more involved in activities such as Girl Scouts, sports, lacrosse. They enjoy it more and my daughter is in band and loves it. My youngest daughter has sleep overs now, and my neighbors helped me when the snow was bad this year.

## 11. Community connectedness (N=399)



### *Length of homeownership*

Analysis revealed no differences between longer- and shorter-term homeowners regarding feeling connected to the community. However, 61 percent of longer-term homeowners say they participate more in community groups or activities compared to 51 percent of shorter-term homeowners. Regarding children spending time with friends and classmates, percentages were relatively similar across time.

Truthfully, it's just made me a better person than what I could have been. [I have] a better understanding of other people, kind of looking at the bigger picture. There's more than just me and my family, there's other people out there that need help. It's made me more involved with Habitat and the community. I am actually on one of the boards for Habitat and I'm also involved in a lot more community events and fundraisers in the community. There's tons of stuff to do in the community. It changed my family's life. Before we moved into our house, we were living in a pretty rough neighborhood, drugs and cops being called. There was actually a death in that neighborhood--a suicide. I didn't really want my family in that situation.