

Asset Building Ideas

Youth:

- Learn the names of your neighbors (both adults and children). Go out of your way to greet them.
- Write a note to (or call) one of the main asset builders in your life, thanking him or her for making a difference in your life.
- Talk about the 40 assets with members of your family. Which assets do family members think are the strongest in your family?
- Post the 40 assets in your room or in your locker. Choose a different asset each day and focus on building it for your friends.
- Replace put-down with affirmations
- Volunteer in your community

Parents:

- Regularly do things with your children
- Post the list of the 40 assets on your fridge door
- Talk about values and priorities with your children
- Negotiate family rules and consequences
- Develop a family mission statement
- Pay attention whenever you see a young person

Schools:

- Make it a priority to provide caring environments for all students and encourage their commitment to learning.
- Train support staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, maintenance workers, and other school staff in the possibilities and responsibilities of their role in asset building.
- Involve youths in leadership roles and activities
- Expand, diversify, and strengthen co-curricular activities and service opportunities for all youth
- Use the 40 assets as a tool for performance planning and evaluation
- Include information on asset building in each school newsletter
- Use assignments, class discussion, and projects to promote asset building.

Congregations:

- Listen to what youth say and want
- Regularly offer parent education as part of the congregation's educational programs
- Make community service a central component of youth programming
- Intentionally foster intergenerational relationships by providing activities for all ages within the congregation
- If our community has an asset building initiative, get involved.

Businesses:

- ❑ Develop family-friendly policies that allow parents to be active in their children's lives
- ❑ Provide opportunities for employees to build relationships with youth through mentoring and other volunteer programs, flexible scheduling, and internships for youth.
- ❑ Become partners in and advocates for initiatives designed to create healthy communities for children and youth.
- ❑ Provide donations, in-kind contributions to youth development programs and to community-wide efforts on behalf of youth.
- ❑ Print asset building messages on your store bags
- ❑ If you advertise, consider using part of your advertising space to celebrate children, youth, and asset building.

Government:

- ❑ Become a champion for asset building throughout your city, town etc
- ❑ Through policy making, training etc., make asset development a priority in your city
- ❑ Support and expand neighborhood-building initiatives

Health-Care Providers:

- ❑ Turn your eating room into an asset building room (have toys and books available etc.)
- ❑ Collaborate with schools and youth-serving organizations to provide health care and healthy lifestyle information to lung people.
- ❑ Share information about asset building with parents
- ❑ Be respectful of patients' time and other commitments.
- ❑ Consider how you can be an asset builder not only in the office but also after hours.
- ❑ Have your organization be youth and family friendly; signs etc.

Police Officers:

- ❑ Learn as much as you can about the 40 assets
- ❑ Keep the assets in mind when making arrests
- ❑ Give "positive tickets: to children who are wearing a helmet etc..
- ❑ Target high crime areas to build assets
- ❑ Volunteer to visit a school to talk about safety