

## **Qualities of Asset-Building Congregations**

### **Building Developmental Assets™ is an explicit priority for the church.**

- The vision of asset building is connected to the theology, identity, heritage, and mission of the church.
- The congregation's commitment to asset building is communicated regularly to all members. New members are quickly brought on board.
- The congregation celebrates asset-building actions of youth and adults within the congregation and in the community.
- People who work with children and youth are held in high regard by congregation members.

### **The congregation's policies and processes support asset building.**

- Congregation leaders and governing board members endorse and actively support asset building.
- Young people are active participants in the congregation's decision-making process.
- Congregation-wide policies and activities are developed with a clear understanding of their impact on young people.

### **The congregation's climate and culture reinforce asset building.**

- The congregation is perceived as welcoming, warm, and accepting by all children, youth, and adults.
- The congregation's climate challenges young people to think and grow as they mature in faith.
- Young people are celebrated as God's valuable gifts to the congregation and community.
- The congregation articulates and reinforces clear values, norms, boundaries, and expectations.
- People trust each other. The congregation is free of destructive conflict.

### **Congregation-wide programs and activities are shaped to be asset-building opportunities.**

- Young people are intentionally included in congregation-wide activities and events, including worship services, fellowship activities, and service projects.
- Communication from the congregation (bulletins, newsletters, bulletin boards, web site) regularly includes items of interest to young people.
- The congregation provides activities that intentionally build relationships among the generations.
- Adults and young people work side-by-side on projects that serve others.
- Adults and young people have conversations about their faith, and pray with one another.
- Adults have opportunities to learn skills for asset building.

### **Programming for children and youth intentionally builds Developmental Assets.**

- Religious education classes, youth groups, service projects, and special events regularly address the Developmental Assets in a deliberate manner.
- All youth activities nurture positive, caring relationships among youth.
- Young people play key roles in planning, organizing, and leading youth activities.
- There are clear ground rules that promote a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all young people.
- Youth activities and programs consistently address the real-life issues that young people face.

- Adult leaders (professionals and volunteers) understand their role as asset builders.
- Adult leaders include people of all ages within the congregation, not just parents or young adults.

**The congregation supports parents in their role as asset builders.**

- Parents have access to educational events that equip them to build assets.
- Parents have opportunities to receive support from peers and congregation leaders in addressing parenting issues.

**The congregation integrates asset building into its outreach.**

- Service and advocacy projects for children, youth, and families emphasize building on strengths and nurturing assets.
- The congregation cooperates with other congregations for learning, mutual support, serving, and advocacy.
- The congregation partners with others in shaping a positive environment for children and youth in the community.

**Adults in the congregation take personal responsibility for building assets.**

- All congregation members understand the assets and how they can build them.
- Adults model and articulate their values and appropriate boundaries.
- Members know young people by name. They build caring relationships with youth in the church, neighborhood, and other places they spend time.
- Children, youth, and adults regularly spend time together at church.
- Adults advocate and serve on behalf of young people in the community, nation, and world.

**Parents are supported and guided to build assets.**

- Parents see themselves as the primary asset builders for their own children.
- Parents receive support and guidance from others in the congregation for asset building.

**Young people see themselves as asset builders for themselves, their peers, and younger children.**

- Older children and teenagers know the 40 Developmental Assets and their importance.
- Most youth take action to promote assets for themselves and for their peers.
- Youth feel comfortable and encouraged in forming positive relationships with younger children at church.