

## **Selecting Youth Service Projects with Asset Building in Mind**

Engaging young people in service can be an important strategy for building Developmental Assets™ for the young people in your congregation. Here are some project ideas for young people that relate to each category of Developmental Assets.

### **Support**

- Deliver meals to people who are shut in and spend time talking with them while they eat.
- Form a welcoming committee that reaches out to children and youth who move into your neighborhood.

### **Empowerment**

- Compile a listing of service opportunities for young people in your community. Make it available to other organizations that are interested in youth serving projects.
- Work with youth who have gifts in public speaking to prepare them for speaking at public forums on issues that affect children and youth.

### **Boundaries and Expectations**

- Develop a code of conduct for youth activities and plan ways to communicate it with all adults and young people who participate.
- Pair adults and youth with similar interests and help them find a project in the community that they both want to work on.

### **Constructive Use of Time**

- Start a theater troupe that goes to other classes or groups in the congregation to raise awareness about the importance of building assets or issues such as world hunger or conflict resolution.
- Collect slightly used musical instruments and donate them to a local school.

### **Commitment to Learning**

- Offer classes, tutoring, or fun activities/parties for English language learners in your community.
- Collect books for a juvenile detention center.

### **Positive Values**

- Send e-mail messages or letters to congregation and government leaders to advocate for human rights and justice concerns.
- Learn about the issues behind world hunger and share this information with people as you collect funds for an agency that works to alleviate hunger.

### **Social Competencies**

- Hold a talent show focused on cultural diversity. Include poetry readings, music, skits, food, dance, and other expressions of one's own culture or the beauty inherent in a multicultural society.
- Start a peer helping/peer ministry program in your congregation. Train young people to be supporters and champions of one another.

### **Positive Identity**

- Create prayer notebooks or calendars that highlight the work of missionaries, relief organizations, and local organizations that serve those in need. Distribute these to congregation members.

- Organize a career fair for other young people in your organization or community. Invite adults from the community to talk about why they do the jobs they do, and how their faith connects with their daily work. Ask them to tell about the paths that led them to their current positions.
- Regularly send notes to friends and other young people telling them what's great about them.

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