

Asset-Building Ideas for All Adults

All adults can help young people thrive by increasing their experience with the 40 Developmental Assets™. It doesn't necessarily take a lot of time or energy to get started:

- Learn more about asset building. You can do this by attending a training session, reading about asset building, talking with others who know about the assets, and surrounding yourself with reminders about the importance of assets, such as the list of 40 Developmental Assets and photos of young people in your life.
- Learn the names of children and teenagers who live near you or who work in shops or community centers you frequent. Greet them by name.
- Learn the names of young people at church. Seek out young people before worship or during fellowship times and greet them, asking about things that are happening in their lives.
- Include young people in your prayers.
- Model a positive, healthy lifestyle. This includes finding peaceful ways to resolve conflicts (asset #36); being motivated to achieve (asset #21); and advocating and working for equality and social justice (asset #27).
- Support local efforts to provide safe spaces for young people to meet and spend time together.
- Expect young people to behave responsibly. Let them know what you expect from them, before there is trouble.
- Take time to play or talk with young people who live near you or work with you.
- Commit to at least one act of asset building every day
- Support efforts to create or expand opportunities for children and youth to participate in church youth groups, teams, clubs, and youth organizations, including fundraisers or scholarship programs.
- Build at least one informal, ongoing, caring relationship with a child or adolescent who is not related to you.
- Examine your attitudes about children and youth. See young people as resources rather than as problems.
- Thank people who work with children and youth (teachers, youth group leaders, social service providers, clergy; and others).
- Organize a musical instrument drive to encourage people to donate used, but working, musical instruments to a school or youth program.

- Look out for the children and youth around you. Help keep them safe. Report dangerous and inappropriate behavior to parents, school officials, or law enforcement officers.
- Get involved in volunteer efforts with children and youth. You can find these through local schools, youth-serving organizations, congregations, parks and recreation programs, and other community-based organizations.
- Take time to nurture your own assets by spending time with supportive people, using your time constructively; and reflecting on your own values.

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