

## *Different Way of Seeing & Leading- Asset Building in Complex Systems*

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### **Strange Attractor**

Strange attractor patterns emerge when a system is bounded but leaves infinite possibilities within it. Movements of individual parts are unpredictable but patterned.

#### **Observe Strange Attractors:**

Some examples of strange attractors:

- Laws and regulations tell you what you cannot do, but they don't tell you how you must behave within the acceptable boundaries.
- We 'know' what love is, but there are infinite ways to express love.
- The Developmental Assets Framework tells you what research and common sense say that young people need, but it does not tell you exactly how you must build any one of those assets in any particular young person.

#### **Decide When To Think About Strange Attractors:**

- When you have one message to share with a variety of audiences.

- When you want others to open their creativity and see other solutions.

#### **Act:**

- Acknowledge the boundaries.
- Look for creative responses to the challenge.
- Recognize which of the constraints or limits are your own and think about how you can 'move' within the reality of the boundary.
- Prepare to be surprised.

#### **Examples from Asset Building Settings:**

Whenever you invite individuals or groups to explore the framework of Developmental Assets, bringing to it their own experiences as young people, their own mental list of the young people in their lives and their own interests and talents, they come up with ways of building assets and contexts for building assets that you cannot predict at the time you are sharing the basic framework with them. Within all that creative variety, however, you can see a pattern that is grounded in the concept of the Developmental Assets.