

40 Developmental Assets

- The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. The assets are grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention. They represent the relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Today, the 40 Developmental Assets is the most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States.
- The 40 Developmental Assets represent everyday wisdom and positive experiences and characteristics for youth. Studies have shown that the more assets a youth has, the less likely they are to engage in risky behavior, specifically these pattern areas are problem alcohol use, violence, illicit drug use, and sexual activity.
- The positive power of the assets is evident across all cultural and socioeconomic groups of youth. Furthermore, levels of assets are better predictors of high risk involvement and thriving than poverty or being from a single-parent family. The average young person experiences fewer than half of the 40 assets, and boys experience an average of three fewer assets than girls.
- There are many ways you can start building assets for the children and youth around you. Whether they are in your family, school or community, the Youth Service Bureau has resources and trainers that can help you create a better world for kids.

Contact Information: Yvonne Duff
Email: Yvonne@ysbjc.com
Phone: 260-726-8520
Fax: 260-726-8535

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