



ASSET-BUILDING IDEAS FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY

**PROJECT
CORNERSTONE**
A YMCA of Silicon Valley Initiative

Congregations can encourage generational relationships and provide opportunities for youth to grow and understand themselves. Congregations also provide ways for young people to learn and develop leadership, advocacy and service roles. Here are some rewarding and easy tips to help your congregation get started:

- **Commit to at least one act of asset building every day.**
- **Integrate asset building into worship in ways that fit with the specifics of your faith tradition.** Create worship experiences for entire families. Think about how to include children and youth.
- **Learn the names of children and teenagers who are members of your congregation.** Greet them by name.
- **Provide opportunities for young people to volunteer in the community.**
- **Reinforce positive values and morals.** Talk with young people about why these are an important part of your faith tradition.
- **Plan ways for families and other intergenerational groups to spend time together,** such as having a monthly meal, picnics, dances, concerts, or game nights.
- **Recognize and publicize outstanding asset builders – adults and youth – in your congregation.** Consider giving a monthly or annual award.
- **Provide responsible, meaningful roles for youth.** These could include being teaching assistants for young children, as well as worship activities, such as serving as readers or being involved in music.
- **Build at least one informal, ongoing, caring relationship with a child or adolescent.**
- **Support local efforts to provide safe spaces for young people to meet and spend time together.**
- **Organize a drive for musical instruments, toys, or athletic equipment for a school or youth program.**
- **If you have international connections, use them as an opportunity to build cross-cultural connections and relationships with youth.**
- **Use your access to many sectors in the community to promote, inform, and support asset-building efforts.**
- **Take time to talk with young people** who live near you.

The developmental assets® are 40 opportunities, skills, relationships, values, and self-perceptions that all young people need to succeed. From *Pass It On! 150 Tip Sheets for Asset Builders*—copyright © 1999 by Search Institute®, 700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415; 612-376-8955; 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org. This handout may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.