



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

# YOUTH AS RESOURCES

## February Asset of the Month

**“Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.” – Kofi Annan**

### Definition

Young people are given useful roles in the community.

### The Importance of Youth as Resources

People of all ages want to feel that they make a contribution and play a meaningful role in their community, whether at home, at school, or in the neighborhood. Research shows that youth who feel valued and useful have higher self-esteem, a greater sense of personal control, reduced delinquency, greater social and personal responsibility, reduced substance abuse, and better social skills.

### What You Can Do

- Involve youth in planning events.
- Ask for their opinion about community issues.
- Get youth involved in action plans.
- Ask a young person for advice on solving a challenge or completing a task. You'd be surprised at the quality of suggestions you receive.
- Be sure to notice young people's contributions and talents in every aspect of their lives.

To learn more about Project Cornerstone, visit us at  
[www.projectcornerstone.org](http://www.projectcornerstone.org)