

## **Asset of the Month Project**

### **La Plata Children, Youth and Family Master Plan (CYFMP) Community Partners**

CYFMP will send out an asset each month with an essential question and tips to community partners to insert in their organization's newsletters. This top section in black is an introduction with the monthly piece being in blue below.

"The Developmental Assets are 40 research-based, positive qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults. Based in youth development, resiliency, and prevention research, the Developmental Assets framework has proven to be effective and has become the most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States and, increasingly, around the world." (<http://www.search-institute.org/>)

The Children, Youth and Family Master Plan (CYFMP) utilizes the Developmental Assets Survey as a periodic measure for how well our agencies and families are providing asset-rich supports, services and opportunities for La Plata County youth. The CYFMP also teaches our community about the assets and how to utilize them in program development, parenting and in our daily lives.

Please join our community partners in promoting the Assets framework, by placing the following "Asset of the Month" in your newsletters, communications and interactions with youth and families. For a full list of the 40 Assets go to: <http://www.search-institute.org/what-we-study/developmental-assets>

#### **Developmental Asset of the Month:**

**Asset #10. Safety – Young person feels safe at home, school and in the neighborhood.**

**Essential Question:** *Are homes, schools and neighborhoods safe for all La Plata County youth?*

#### **Tips to ensure youth learn and grow in safe environments:**

##### ***For families***

- Does everyone understand the rules about answering the phone, opening the door to strangers, spending time at home alone? Work together on rules that everyone can agree upon and follow.
- Together, identify at least three neighbors to whom your children can go in case of an emergency at home.
- Talk to your children about bullying, including what to do if they or their peers are being bullied. Bullying is a form of intimidation, and directly impacts young people's sense of personal safety and comfort.

##### ***For all adults***

- Make your home a safe place for all children in the neighborhood to go if they're threatened, hurt, or lost.

##### ***At school or in youth programs***

- Create and communicate clearly defined rules for physical behaviors as well as interpersonal behaviors. It's important that youth know that bullying is not acceptable. Discuss and role-play ways that youth can stand up for themselves and their peers if they're being bullied. Make sure that youth

understand the importance of reporting bullying incidents and the difference between reporting and “telling.”

- Involve parents and caretakers in safety discussions to ensure message consistency and reinforcement.

Source: Project Cornerstone <http://www.projectcornerstone.org/>

#### Resources:

- Get involved with Durango High School’s ***No Place For Hate*** annual campaign to address healthy, respectful school environments. For more information, contact Maria Gonzales at [mgonzales@durango.k12.co.us](mailto:mgonzales@durango.k12.co.us).
- Electronic bullying online or through mobile phones, known as “cyberbullying,” is a growing phenomenon, especially with the relative anonymity for bullies. A good resource to help youth understand the issues is <http://www.stopcyberbullying.org>. For adults, <http://www.cyberbullying.us> serves as a clearinghouse for the latest research and information about cyberbullying.
- Take 25 (<http://www.take25.org>) is a program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children encouraging parents to take 25 minutes to discuss safety issues with their children. Their list of conversation starters under Resources at <http://www.take25.org> covers online and offline personal safety topics for young children, tweens, and teenagers.

For more information about the CYFMP, contact Susan Hakanson, 382-6212 or [susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us).