

## **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 tip of the day 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 #7. Community Values Youth – Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.**

**Essential Question:** *Have I directly expressed appreciation to a young person for their contributions to our community?*

#### **Tips to ensure young people feel valued:**

- Treat all young people with respect, and take their ideas and suggestions seriously.
- Train your staff to treat young people respectfully. Make sure that your policies are youth-friendly.
- If your business serves adults who may have children with them, make sure the space is inviting and provides age-appropriate activities.
- Ask businesses in the community to show support for your program. In addition to financial donations and sponsorships, they can display artwork, host tours of their facility, or find other ways to show that they care about the youth in the community.
- Attend and contribute to local government meetings to make sure that the needs of young people are being addressed.

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

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).