

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 #8. Youth as Resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community.

Essential Question: *How do I include youth in decision-making in my family and in my community?*

Tips to ensure youth are seen as resources versus service recipients:

For families

- Hold family meetings. For example, one meeting can focus on discussing which kinds of tasks each household member is best at and enjoys the most. Then, review everyone's current chores and make changes based on each other's skills and interests.

For all adults

- Ask a young person to teach you something new —a game, a hobby, a computer skill, etc. — or to share their favorite music or YouTube videos with you. It's empowering to be able to introduce adults something that they don't already know.
- Ask a young person for advice on solving a challenge or completing a task.
- Help a young person find age-appropriate opportunities to serve as resources in their community. For example, many cities and towns have a youth advisory committee or other group of young people who provide input regarding issues affecting youth.

For adults who work directly with youth

- Does your organization allow young people to sit on boards and committees that affect its mission and programs? Including youth input at the highest levels not only creates valuable opportunities for young people but also helps your organization ensure that it's in touch with the needs and desires of youth.

- Encourage young people to write letters to the editor, to companies, or elected officials to share ideas or express opinions. Help them develop and share constructive suggestions to address their concerns.

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.