

CHARACTERISTICS OF ASSET-BUILDING ADULTS

“BEING” Characteristics: Adults demonstrate these characteristics in their daily lives.

Attitudes Toward Youth

- Values young people for who they are - not just who they will become.
- Has sense of hope and optimism for young people and their future.
- Recognizes her or his responsibility for youth in the community.
- Celebrates the commitments and zeal of the adolescent years.

Character and Competencies

- Has a personal foundation for healthy growth and development.
- Personally experiences assets (e.g., support, appropriate boundaries, self-restraint, self esteem)
- Has relational skills (conversation skills, skills for dealing with conflict, etc.)
- Is trusting and trustworthy.

“DOING” Characteristics: Adults daily model these behaviors.

Relationships with Children and Adolescents

- Takes the initiative in building relationships with young people.
- Respects and affirms young people; seeks to understand them.
- Spends time with young people; is actively engaged.
- Builds long-term relationships with young people.
- Balances protecting the young person with need for independence in ways that are appropriate to the young person’s age and development.
- Models healthy attitudes and choices, including service, life-long learning, civic involvement, and self-restraint.
- Never violates or takes advantage of a young person’s trust.

Other Actions

- Makes caring for children and adolescents a life-long priority.
- Looks out for the best interests of children and adolescents in the community and the nation through advocacy, civic engagement, and political action.

❖ *Material adapted from Search Institute, 40 developmental assets, 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org*