

# 40 Developmental Assets® for Adolescents (ages 12-18)

Search Institute® has identified the following building blocks of healthy development—known as Developmental Assets®—that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

## Support

- **1. Family support**—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
- 2. Positive family communication—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
- 3. Other adult relationships—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
- **4. Caring neighborhood**—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
- **5. Caring school climate**—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
- **6. Parent involvement in schooling**—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

- Empowerment 7. Community values youth—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
  - **8. Youth as resources**—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
  - **9. Service to others**—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
  - **10. Safety**—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

# **Boundaries & Expectations**

- 11. Family boundaries—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
- **12. School Boundaries**—School provides clear rules and consequences.
- 13. Neighborhood boundaries—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
- **14. Adult role models**—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
- **15. Positive peer influence**—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
- **16. High expectations**—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

# Constructive **Use of Time**

- 17. Creative activities—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
- 18. Youth programs—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
- **19. Religious community**—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
- **20. Time at home**—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

# to Learning

- **Commitment** 21. Achievement Motivation—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
  - **22. School Engagement**—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
  - 23. Homework—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
  - **24. Bonding to school**—Young person cares about her or his school.
  - **25. Reading for Pleasure**—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

# **Positive Values**

- **26. Caring**—Young person places high value on helping other people.
- 27. Equality and social justice—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
- 28. Integrity—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
- **29. Honesty**—Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."
- **30. Responsibility**—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
- **31. Restraint**—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

# Social **Competencies**

Internal Assets

- **32. Planning and decision making**—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
- **33.** Interpersonal Competence—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
- 34. Cultural Competence—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- **35. Resistance skills**—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
- **36. Peaceful conflict resolution**—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

# **Positive** Identity

- **37. Personal power**—Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me."
- **38. Self-esteem**—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
- **39. Sense of purpose**—Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."
- **40. Positive view of personal future**—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

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# **External Assets**