Why Asset-Building?

The Developmental Assets® are 40 building blocks which are critical to positive child and adolescent development. The Developmental Assets® are measurable, evidence-based and grounded in research on child and adolescent development, risk prevention and resiliency.

Studies of more than five million young people consistently show that the more assets young people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviours and the more likely they are to thrive.

Assets have power for all young people, regardless of their gender, economic status, family, or race/ethnicity.

Family Assets are key qualities that help all kinds of families be strong. When families have more of these research-based assets, the teens and adults in the family do better in life.

Developmental Relationships Framework identifies 5 key strategies and 20 actions for building strong relationships with and among children and youth.

Programs, coalitions and projects based on asset-building are employing best practices in child and youth development.

It’s not about:
A prescribed program
Being incidental
Problems
Troubled kids
Just the work of professionals
Being experimental
Project focus
Shifting messages
Competition
Quick fix

It is about:
Positive relationships
Being intentional
Strengths
All kids
Everyone’s job
Evidence and research
Comprehensive work
Consistency and repetition
Partnerships and cooperation
Ongoing work

Key messages
- Everyone can build assets
- All kids need assets
- Relationships are key
- Everyone has strengths
- We need to work together
- Repetition of messaging is important

Source: Search Institute® (www.search-institute.org)