



NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CHALLENGE COALITION COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSET INITIATIVE



Asset Building Ideas for Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement officers play a unique role in our society because they're entrusted with considerable power to uphold the law while also creating a presence of safety. Becoming an asset building law enforcement officer can add a new dimension to the job, a dimension that is often overlooked. Here are ideas on how to start building assets:

- Learn as much as you can about the 40 Developmental Assets. Use the list in thinking of ways to deal with juvenile offenders and also criminals who have children.
- When handling family disputes or arguments between people, encourage peaceful conflict resolution. In addition to intervening when conflicts come to a head, think of ways to help people build the skills to deal with their anger and prevent violence.
- Volunteer to visit a school to talk about safety and alcohol and drug prevention.
- Promote and support clear boundaries, positive values, high expectations and healthy behaviors for all children and youth.
- Work with juvenile offenders and their parents to develop the assets that promote positive youth development
- Keep the assets in mind when making arrests. Recognize that many offenders have few assets and have not had many experiences interacting with asset builders.
- Build relationships with children, youth and adults in the community. Become a visible presence in the neighborhoods where you work.
- Support the NECC policy panel recommendations. For example, consider working with families of teenagers to create "safe houses" (houses that will host teenage parties where liquor will not be available).
- Assess if your organization can involve children and youth as volunteers. Service is an important component of asset building and young people need high quality volunteer opportunities.

Permission given by Search Institute to use Search Institute's materials to develop the Northeast Community Challenge Coalition Community-Wide Asset Initiative.