

Message to People from Faith Communities

For many faith communities, giving young people a sense of right and wrong and helping them to care about others are important challenges. You can point to the Positive Values assets-Caring, Equality and Social Justice, Integrity, Honesty, Responsibility, and Restraint (Assets 26-31)-as being consistent with these challenges. In addition, you can emphasize that central to helping young people build assets is developing caring relationships with them, and that developing these relationships with young people can increase spiritual growth as well as help build as- sets. Finally, a faith community comprises people from all generations, providing opportunities for young people to interact with others from various backgrounds and cultures.

Messages specific to this audience:

- Promoting Developmental Assets is consistent with many of the values promoted by most faith communities, and modeling these values for young people is important.
- Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with young people helps nurture spiritual growth
- Faith communities provide many opportunities for young people to interact with others, particularly with those from other generations.
- Faith communities can be important asset-building resources for youth in the community- both in their programs and activities as well as in their influence on many members who live and work in the community.

Ways that members of this audience might help build assets:

- Plan ways for families and other intergenerational groups to participate in service projects together; follow up these service activities with reflection about what people learned about themselves, each other, and their faith.
- Provide responsible, meaningful roles for young people alongside adults, e.g., as active members of a governing board, or as hands-on participants in the congregation's activities.
- Create a book study group that gives young people and adults opportunities to read and reflect on books with asset-building themes.
- Highlight the ways the faith community can be a resource for young people who don't participate in congregational programs. Identify physical resources (such as a gym or computer room) that could be helpful for asset building. Or encourage people in the congregation to be asset builders in all areas of their lives.