



Assets in Action

The Power of US! Ways to show we care...

The secret to helping children and youth grow into happy, healthy, and responsible adults isn't really a secret at all. Simply making a point to connect with young people and **show** that you care about them can make a difference in their lives.

Here are the facts. Research from the Search Institute, a leader in child development research and creator of the 40 Developmental Asset Framework, identifies 40 essential developmental "nutrients" (or Assets) that have a powerful, positive impact on young people. Children and teens who possess many Assets are involved in fewer risky behaviors. Even better, they are much more likely to exhibit positive values, leadership, good health, and success in school. Unfortunately, many young people don't have enough Assets. According to national surveys conducted by Search Institute, about 59 percent of young people have 20 or fewer of the 40 Developmental Assets. The good news? We can change this because we **all** have the power to build Assets in young people's lives.

Search Institute leader Peter Benson once said, "When it comes to raising healthy and whole kids, every community member matters. Even the smallest of actions matter... The web of family, school and community support is critical and essential."

Looking for easy ways to show kids they matter and that you care about them? The Search Institute has gathered 150 different ways for adults to build Assets in our youth, which can be found at www.tritowncouncil.org. Asset building happens in many wonderful ways around the Tri-Town, such as pictured here, with adults, teens and young children learning together at TTC-sponsored Camp Invention!

This is the first of many great examples of Asset building photos we will be sharing on this page – we would love to include your submissions too! Have a great example of Asset building in your home, neighborhood, school, workplace?? Then send it to us at mshaw@tritowncouncil.org.



#65 Have FUN together! Summer Camp Invention students and staffers get a little silly for the camera!