



What are The 40 Developmental Assets?

Do you ever wonder why some kids seem to grow up independently while others struggle?

Are you surprised that some kids thrive in spite of difficult circumstances?

Search Institute, a non-profit organization in Minneapolis, MN, has been researching these same questions since 1958. Through studies involving hundreds of thousands of youth across the country, they've identified 40 factors that are essential to young people's success. Search calls these character building factors **The 40 Developmental Assets**. These factors or assets are not financial. Instead, they are opportunities, skills, relationships, values and self-perceptions that all young people need in their lives (Search Institute, 1999).

Parma City School District and the surrounding communities continue to encourage building positive relationships and provide opportunities for youth to promote their success. It takes a whole community, especially parents/guardians, to support this effort to reduce the at-risk behaviors of the young people in our communities and schools.

Parma Area Family Collaborative would like to encourage schools, businesses, faith communities, and most importantly, our families to build upon the **40 Developmental Assets** in their lives. Simply put, we want to create a community wherein our youth feel a sense of **support, empowerment**, have an awareness of **boundaries and expectations**, **use time constructively**, have a **commitment to learning**, develop **positive values, social competencies** and a **positive identity**, in a **safe and secure environment**.

Assets are 40 key building blocks or factors that help youth grow up healthy. The more assets youth have, the more likely they are to avoid at-risk behaviors and succeed in life.

Organized into eight categories, these character building assets are the values, experiences, and qualities that all young people need. But they are also commonsense things that most adults see as good for them.

1. **Support** – Loving, caring families, friends, and community.
2. **Empowerment** – Feeling valued and valuable, safe and respected.
3. **Boundaries and Expectations** – High yet realistic expectations, and clear limits and consequences for negative behaviors.
4. **Constructive Use of Time** – A balance of school, work, other activities, and time at home.
5. **Commitment to Learning** – A sense of the lasting importance and value of learning.
6. **Positive Values** – Strong guiding principles that lead to healthy life choices.
7. **Social Competencies** – Skills for interacting effectively with others, making difficult decisions, and coping with new situations.
8. **Positive Identity** – Feelings of self-worth, personal power, and hope.

For more information on the 40 Developmental Assets refer to: