



Since 2002 the Healthy Communities that Care coalition has utilized the 40 Developmental Assets framework to engage adults and youth in promoting a healthy community for youth and families. Each week HCTC will provide you with *Assets Weekly* as a resource to further engage and

educate community members in building assets with all Livingston County youth. We hope you enjoy this information and feel free to pass it on!

Pass it On!

Our hope is that you'll use these e-mails to send regular and consistent messages to anyone you think may benefit. Here are a few ideas for distribution:

- Include a printed copy with your monthly statements, newsletters, or bulletins.
- Post a printed copy of each week's message on your bulletin board.
- Leave copies in high-traffic locations, such as break rooms, waiting rooms, or reception areas.
- Post the current message on your Web site and keep an online archive of previous messages.

Subject: Asset 13: Neighborhood Boundaries

Make time to be a good neighbor

When people don't take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior in their neighborhood, sometimes it's due to fear. But often it's due to peoples' busy and somewhat solitary lives. Young people fare better when they have adults in their lives who expect them to do their best. To achieve the most positive effects, parents and guardians, schools, youth organizations, and, yes, neighbors all need to be involved in providing rules, monitoring behavior, and setting high expectations. Remember: everyone is someone's neighbor. Young people benefit from knowing their neighbors are looking out for their safety, as well as monitoring their behavior. Don't become paralyzed by fear, apathy, or the pure busyness of life. **Neighborhood Boundaries** is Asset 13 of Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, the qualities, experiences, and relationships that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people will focus more of their energy on positive activities than on negative ones if they live in a neighborhood in which neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior. About 47 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they have neighbors who take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior, according to Search Institute surveys. Creating and enforcing neighborhood boundaries helps promote leadership, fairness, and success among young people.

Tips for building this asset

You don't have to be a community organizer to help create a community where neighbors monitor young people's behavior. All you need to do is get to know the people who live near you—children *and* their parents. Talk with parents about the boundaries they would like for their children in the neighborhood.

Also try this

In your home and family: Talk with your child about the importance of following rules in your neighborhood and community: What are the boundaries of our neighborhood? How do you know? Which neighbors seem to notice what you do? How do you feel about that?

In your neighborhood and community: Get together with other adult neighbors—parents and nonparents. Discuss neighborhood boundaries. Identify three boundaries everyone agrees on, such as no alcohol at teen parties. Agree to help enforce the boundaries. And when you see young people making a positive contribution and setting a good example, be sure to thank them.

In your school or youth program: Talk to the young people in your class or group about their neighborhoods. Do they know what the boundaries are? Do they feel safe in their neighborhood? Do they care about their neighborhood and how other young people behave there? If they feel they don't know their neighbors or their neighborhood boundaries, brainstorm ways they could make positive changes in their neighborhood

Want to know more about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them? Visit www.search-institute.org/assets.

Developmental Assets® are positive factors within young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that research has found to be important in promoting the healthy development of young people. From *Instant Assets: 52 Short and Simple E-Mails for Sharing the Asset Message*. Copyright © 2007 by Search Institute®, 877-240-7251; www.search-institute.org. This message may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.