

40 Developmental Assets

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Bridge Builders appreciates the value in young people, seeing them as resources to themselves and in their communities. Therefore the organization dedicates a large percentage of its operation to empowering, educating, embracing, supporting, nurturing and developing skills in young people. The result is an unleashed, motivated and appreciated individual prepared for the world around them and a ready source to help build resilient communities. Reinforcing the foundations of Bridge Builders, the organization recognizes research by the Search Institute, identifying 40 positive experiences and qualities (both external & internal) that we all have the power to bring into the lives of young people. These are called 'Assets'. Research has shown that exposure to these assets make young people more likely to grow up healthy (on all levels), caring and responsible, and less 'at risk'. Bridge Builders has identified 22 of the 40 assets, as being the foundation of the work they carry out. Bridge Builders however, are committed to not only ensuring these 22 assets are incorporated into all areas of operation, but that all work and operations undertaken by Bridge Builders is done so with the intention of also incorporating the remaining 18 assets. Asset Development continues to be woven into the fabric of Bridge Builders. We are intentional and deliberate in the work we embark on, focusing to support and mend the broken, heal those troubled, celebrate one's talents. Above all, we aim to discover the gold nugget that lies beneath; sometimes it takes a lot of digging and other times a little dusting away the surface to highlight just how valuable we all are.