

Blair Wright DCP/SAFE Presentation

Assets do not just naturally happen. They are built through caring relationships at home and in the community. Relatives, teachers, coaches, neighbors, bosses, and mentors all have the opportunity to help youth grow stronger. Conversations are the foundation to these much needed relationships. Some tips for adults are to:

- Be bold and introduce yourself to the young people around you
- Tell parents when you see their child doing something responsible or generous
- Share values and beliefs with youth then ask about their values and beliefs
- Commend people who work with kids, like teachers, day care workers, or mentors
- Attend a game, play or other events that includes young people you know
- Help celebrate important events like birthdays or graduation
- Work to build relationships with your child's friends
- Ask about schoolwork and show interest in activities
- Participate in activities like block parties where young and old can mingle. If your community doesn't have these, start them.
- Volunteer to help an organization or individual and ask a few young people to join you
- At work, lobby for job shadowing, mentoring, or other programs to provide positive role models for youth

By being here today, all of you adults are helping to improve our assets, so thank you. The responsibility to build relationships with adults is also up to us as youth. We can:

- Talk about adults who have positively influenced us and find a way to thank them by either the spoken or written word or by actions
- If you don't know how to address an adult (Mr./Mrs., first name) ask. Also tell the adults your name.
- Ask your parents to invite your friend and their family to a meal or outing
- Make a point to be around when your parents are with friends
- Choose to get to know adults with similar values. If you ever feel uncomfortable, end the friendship immediately
- Participate in "adult" activities. If they see you working beside them, adults may be more inclined to get to know you
- Ask an adult for their opinion and really listen
- Speak up when you see adults not paying attention to youth or to our needs.

If we can work together to build strong relationships, we can all build assets and learn to become better, stronger people. Thank you

I'd like to give credit to Mary Hess for the different bulleted ideas. She is also the one who organized the whole KEYS speech.

Thank you!
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