



# Building Blocks in the Community



## Are You a Block Builder? Asset-Building Affirmations

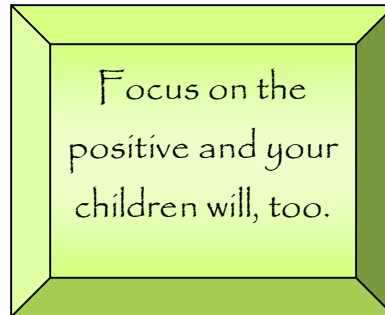
1. I'm a powerful asset/block builder in the lives of youth in my community.
2. I know and use young people's names regularly when I see them.
3. I focus daily on young people's gifts and talents.
4. I help youth use their strengths to overcome their deficits.
5. I regularly encourage other adults in my community to build assets with young people.
6. When young people are in trouble, I begin my interactions by focusing on their strengths.
7. Each day, I'm involved in spontaneous acts of asset building.
8. I'm expanding my positive influence by pursuing relationships with young people I don't know.
9. At least once a week, I do something for youth that goes beyond their normal expectations.
10. I work hard to maintain relationships with youth with whom I'm already connected.
11. I have high expectations for myself, my fellow community members, and young people in my community.
12. I take the time to listen when young people speak to me.
13. I take initiative in engaging young people positively.
14. I smile at and make eye contact with young people as I go about my day.
15. I believe that my power as an asset/block builder comes from the relationships I develop with youth.
16. I engage young people positively at school and in the community.

## The Asset-Building Difference

For healthy development to occur for all children and youth, we need to rebuild communities where people and organizations feel connected, engaged, responsible, and committed to young people. In order to do this, some essential shifts in thinking need to happen.

From:	To:
Problem focus	<b>Positive focus</b>
Youth as problems	<b>Youth as resources</b>
Reactive behavior	<b>Proactive behavior</b>
Blaming	<b>Claiming responsibility</b>
Professionals	<b>Everyone</b>
Crisis management	<b>Vision building</b>
Competition	<b>Cooperation</b>
Despair	<b>Hope</b>

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Block #7: Community val-

### Involvement Youth

**I**nvolve young people in decision-making and leadership opportunities. Whether it is at home, in the congregation, the neighborhood, at school,



## New Community Block Builders Recognized

- ❑ **Jessica Heavin**, Substance Abuse Specialist for Springfield Public Schools: Jessica is instrumental in sharing Building Blocks newsletters, lesson plans, and related materials with SPS principals, teachers and staff. She is an invaluable resource for Community Partnership. In addition she serves on multiple committees involving issues of young people.
- ❑ **Suzan Francis**, Bowerman Computer Teacher and Volunteer Girl Scout Troop Leader: Suzan finds time after her busy day to volunteer as a Girl Scout Troop Leader for young people at her school. She builds many blocks in each young girl through her efforts.
- ❑ **Mary Shepard**, Robberson Kindergarten Teacher and Volunteer Girl Scout Troop Leader: Mary volunteers as a Girl Scout Troop Leader at Robberson after her busy school day. Mary has had up to three troops at one time. She loves seeing the young people grow throughout the years.
- ❑ **Kurt Larson**, Lawson Law Firm: Kurt is coordinating Safe and Sober Prom Night 2008 to help reduce the incidences of drinking on this important night for local teens. He is presenting information and materials at local schools to involve youth in this special event.



For more information on the Building Blocks model, to get a brochure, posters, to schedule a short training on the Building Block model or skit, please call 417-888-2020.



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