



# 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.

## MOVING FROM...

Talking about problems

Focusing on troubled and troubling youth

Focusing primarily on ages birth to 5

Age segregation

Viewing young people as problems

Reacting to problems

Blaming others

Treating youth as objects of programs

Relying on professionals

Competing priorities

Conflicting signals about values and priorities

Managing crises

Despair

## TO...

Talking about positives and possibilities

Focusing on all children and adolescents

Focusing on all young people, ages birth to 18

Intergenerational community

Seeing youth as resources

Being proactive about building strengths

Claiming personal responsibility

Respecting youth as actors in their own development

Involving everyone in the lives of young people

Cooperative efforts

Consistent messages about what is important

Building a shared vision

Hope