

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 46% report that they experience the asset Youth as Resources.

Asset #8: Youth as resources—Young people are given useful roles in the community.

Consider this . . .

This asset is about young people having opportunities to make meaningful contributions in their families, towns or cities, and schools. It is one of the assets that young people are least likely to experience. Part of the reason for this low percentage may be that for young people to take on responsibilities, adults need to let go of some things. That's not always easy, but it is important.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Think beyond formal leadership opportunities or mere assistance roles when you consider ways to engage young people.
- Look for places in the community where youth are stakeholders (such as congregations, schools, or neighborhood groups). Assess whether youth have a real voice in these settings (one great way to give them a voice is to ask for their opinions).
- Make sure that young people have appropriate, important roles and responsibilities within the family.

Youth:

- Once you are old enough, get a part-time job and pay for some of your own expenses.

- If you see something you don't like happening in your school, congregation, or community, find respectful ways to speak up about it.

From *Get the Word Out: Communication Tools and Ideas for Asset Builders Everywhere*.

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