

## Article #23

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 73% report that they experience the asset *Religious community*.

### **Asset #19: Religious community—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.**

*Consider this . . .*

Religious involvement is more than just attending services. It can include worship, education, social activities, and service to others. Congregations are unique in that they bring together people of all ages who share at least some core values and ideals.

*Try this . . .*

Adults:

- Make participation in congregational or other spiritual activities (such as prayer) a part of family routine.
- Spend time with young people exploring your community and talking about the spiritual or religious aspects of your surroundings.
- Involve youth in decisions about family spiritual activities.
- Involve youth in leadership within congregations.
- Offer youth-focused and intergenerational activities within congregations.
- Encourage young people to think and talk about what gives life meaning and how congregations can help them explore that question.

Youth:

- If you're involved in a religious community, talk with your family about your experiences, positive and negative. Brainstorm ways that it might be better.

- Find out more about the different types of religious communities in your area by visiting or talking with congregational leaders.

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