

Article #48

The 40 Developmental Assets were assessed in June 2005 using the survey *Me and My World*. Of the children surveyed in our community, 65% report that they experience the asset *Positive view of personal future*.

Asset #40: Positive view of personal future—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

Consider this . . .

This is the asset most commonly experienced by the young people surveyed (74%). It requires being able to dream, to see possibilities. To have this asset, young people must believe that a positive future is possible and that they deserve it.

Try this . . .

Adults:

- Ask young people about their hopes and dreams for the future. Really listen when they open up and talk.
- Expose young people—through mentoring relationships, books, movies, friendships, or other means—to adults who have made their dreams come true.
- When you suspect young people are having a hard time imagining a positive future, do your best to believe for them. Let them know what you think they can do and be.

Youth:

- Tell somebody about your dreams for the future (or write them in a journal or diary).
- Take advantage of volunteer or work opportunities that are related to your hopes for the future.

- Try to imagine several possibilities for your future. Look for the positive in each of them and think about the steps you can take to make your dream true.

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

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