

# What can you do?

Become part of Children First through simple, intentional actions or by becoming part of the Asset Champions Network.

- Be available to talk to your own kids, their friends, your grandkids, your babysitter or youth in the neighborhood. Show them that you care.
- Talk to your neighbors about including youth activities in your neighborhood association. If you don't have an association, form one.
- Encourage your congregation to look at its practices to ensure they are youth friendly.
- Look at your business policies and consider them in light of what will support families and their children. If you employ teens, consider ways you can support their positive development.
- Volunteer to help children at your local school, whether or not you are a parent.
- Provide leadership opportunities for youth through your place of worship, neighborhood, or Boy or Girl Scout troop.

# Become an Asset Champion

Children First has a wide network of people who have been trained and intentionally build assets in the places where they live, work, volunteer and go to school. Contact Children First to become an Asset Champion.

# Donate

Children First is funded through grants and the generosity of people like you. Consider supporting Children First with a donation.







For more information: Children First 6425 W. 33rd St. St. Louis Park, MN 55426 952-928-6075 www.children-first.org facebook.com/ChildrenFirstSLP

#### Special thank you to:

Japs-Olson Company (printing) Pernsteiner Creative Group (brochure design)



# Your kids. My kids. Our kids.

Individuals, families & organizations giving youth the care and support they need.





# How Children First started

The seed for Children First was planted in 1992 when the St. Louis Park school superintendent challenged the St. Louis Park Rotary Club to do something for kids. Two entrepreneurs took on the challenge, which resulted in the Children First initiative. Since then, Children First has spread community-wide focusing on the healthy development of all St. Louis Park young people.

# What is Children First?

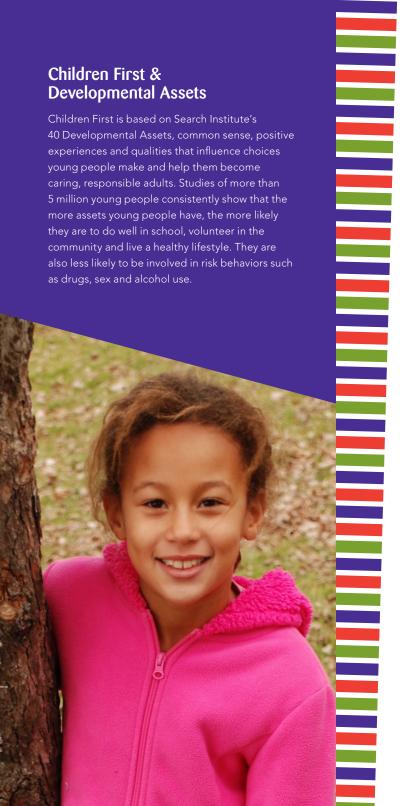
Children First is an initiative that encourages all adults in the community to establish intentional connections with young people to help them find their positive attributes and passions. Children First has a network of people that brings the community together to support children and teens.

# What makes Children First different...

- It's a philosophy rather than a program.
- It focuses on positive character building traits.
- It targets all St. Louis Park youth, birth through 18 years old.
- It was founded by a partnership between the business, city, education, health and faith communities.
- It calls everyone to provide support for youth.

### **Children First & Developmental Assets**

Children First is based on Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, common sense, positive experiences and qualities that influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. Studies of more than 5 million young people consistently show that the more assets young people have, the more likely they are to do well in school, volunteer in the community and live a healthy lifestyle. They are also less likely to be involved in risk behaviors such as drugs, sex and alcohol use.



# **40 Developmental Assets**

#### Support

- 1. Family support
- 2. Positive family communication
- 3. Other adult relationships
- 4. Caring neighborhood 5. Caring school climate
- 6. Parent involvement in schooling

### **Empowerment**

- 7. Community values youth
- 8 Youth as resources
- 9. Service to others
- 10. Safety

# **Boundaries & Expectations**

- 11. Family boundaries
- 12. School boundaries
- 13. Neighborhood boundaries
- 14. Adult role models
- 15. Positive peer influence
- 16. High expectations

# **Constructive Use of Time**

- 17. Creative activities
- 18. Youth programs
- 19. Religious community
- 20. Time at home

Assets developed by: Search Institute, 615 First Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413 www.search-institute.org

# **Commitment to Learning**

- 21. Achievement motivation
- 22. School engagement
- 23. Homework
- 24. Bonding to school
- 25. Reading for pleasure

### **Positive Values**

- 26. Caring 27. Equality and social justice 28. Integrity 29. Honesty 30. Responsibility
- 31. Restraint

# **Social Competencies**

- 32. Planning and decision-making 33. Interpersonal competence 34. Cultural competence 35. Resistance skills
- 36. Peaceful conflict resolution

# **Positive Identity**

- 37. Personal power
- 38. Self-esteem
- 39. Sense of purpose
- 40. Positive view of personal future

# How Children First Works

Children First relies on the ingenuity of individuals to make asset building come alive in St. Louis Park on a daily basis. In addition, Children First sponsors projects to keep the message front and center in the community.

- The Asset Champions Network is comprised of people who are trained on the developmental asset research and apply it to the places where they work, volunteer, live or go to school.
- The Children First Ice Cream Social in May is a pinnacle family event in St. Louis Park with free ice cream, entertainment and activities.
- The Champions Breakfast connects the community, celebrates what is being done to support our youth and raises funds for Children First.
- St. Louis Park is the only Minnesota community that has been recognized six times by America's Promise Alliance as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

