

The Ken-Ton Friends of Youth Foundation, Inc. Support the 40 Developmental Assets.

It takes all of us, parents, neighbors, youth, teachers, congregations, businesses, and schools; to encourage and support the healthy development of all our young people.

In 1998 the Town of Tonawanda, Village of Kenmore, Ken-Ton School district and local agencies joined together to form a partnership called “Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth. The focus of this partnership is to build assets in youth, therefore helping to prevent violence and the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Our mission is to create a community in which everyone helps build positive, life-enhancing skills, attitudes, and behaviors in youth. We are working to reach this mission through the promotion of the 40 Developmental Assets. These assets are positive experiences, opportunities and personal qualities that all children need to be responsible, successful and caring.

SUPPORT

1. **Family support** – Family Life provides high levels of love and support
2. **Positive family communication** – Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parent(s).
3. **Other adult relationships** – Young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.
4. **Caring neighborhood** – Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring school climate** – School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent involvement in schooling** – Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

EMPOWERMENT

7. **Community values youth** – Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. **Youth as resources** – Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to others** – Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety** - Young person feels safe at home, school and in the neighborhood.

BOUNDARIES & EXPECTATIONS

11. **Family boundaries** – Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person’s whereabouts.
12. **School boundaries** – School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighborhood boundaries**- Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior.
14. **Adult role models** – Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. **Positive peer influence** – Young person’s best friend’s model responsive behavior.
16. **High expectations** – Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

17. **Creative activities** – Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or the arts.
18. **Youth programs** – Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in community organizations.
19. **Religious community** – Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. **Time at home** – Young person is out with friends “with nothing special to do” two or fewer nights per week.

COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

21. **Achievement motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school
22. **School engagement** – Young person is actively engaged in learning.
23. **Homework** – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. **Bonding to school** – Young person cares about her or his school.
25. **Reading for pleasure** – Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

POSITIVE VALUES

26. **Caring** – Young person places high value on helping others.
27. **Equality and social justice** – Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. **Integrity** – Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. **Honesty** – Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
30. **Responsibility** – Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. **Restraint** – Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

32. **Planning and decision-making** – Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. **Interpersonal competence** – Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. **Cultural competence** – Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/ethnic backgrounds.
35. **Resistance skills** – Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. **Peaceful conflict resolution** – Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

POSITIVE IDENTITY

37. **Personal power** – Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
38. **Self-esteem** – Young person reports having high self-esteem.
39. **Sense of purpose** – Young person reports “my life has a purpose.”
40. **Positive view of personal future** – Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

YOU CAN HELP US BUILD ASSETS IN YOUTH!

EVERYONE can build assets in our youth. Through this public awareness and education campaign, we will help people know and understand the 40 assets and how to build them.

THINGS PARENTS CAN DO:

- Sign-up for the Town’s Family events with your children
 - Read to, or with, your children.
 - Share at least one meal a day with your children.
- Serve others in the community together with your children.
- Model competent, caring and healthy assets for your children.

THINGS YOUTH CAN DO:

- Form a relationship with a caring adult in your community or in a youth program.
 - Find chances to build relationships with younger children.
- Take advantage of interesting and challenging opportunities through youth programs, and congregational programs.
 - Volunteer in your community

BECOME A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSET AMBASSADOR

As an asset ambassador, you will be responsible for distributing asset-building information to all the people in your neighborhood once a month. The asset building information you distribute will be copied and ready for you to pick up at the Town of Tonawanda Youth Park & Recreation Office, 2440 Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150. For more information call Bruce Ruark at 831-1001.

We invite everyone in our community to join together in the critical mission of ensuring success for all young people in our community. **YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!**