



## **Developmental Assets**

### **There are 40... How many does your child have?**

#### **Asset #3 – Other Adult Relationships**

Asset building is creating a web of support for each child. Each string of the web is one of the 40 developmental assets and the more strings on the web, the less likely a child is to fall through their web of support and engage in substance use, early sexual activity or violent behaviors.

In building this asset there is the power of 5 – connecting each of our children with five healthy adults, besides parents who will provide love and support. In choosing those adults we should ask (our children) the following questions:

- **Who are the adults who truly care about you?**
- **Who are the adults who expect more of you than you expect of yourself?**
- **Who are the adults who believe in you more than you believe in yourself?**

Interestingly, when children have been asked these questions in surveys, in addition to family, they report receiving love and support from school staff, their church community and volunteer youth program leaders.

Here are some ideas for involving healthy caring adults in your child's life and providing "other adult" love and support to a child. Remember: You don't have to be a Super-Hero...just being a hero to a child is super!

- **Promote extended family interaction; in person, by phone, e-mail or letter**
- **Get children involved in community agencies that are family oriented like 4-H, Scouts, recreation programs, library programs, etc.**
- **Look children in the eye when you meet them; use their name and share a big smile**
- **Send children you know a birthday card or sing them Happy Birthday on their answering machine**
- **Attend a child's sporting event, play, concert or other activity; go out of your way to congratulate the child and let them know you were there;**
- **Build things together; find out about their interests and send them articles, news clippings or things that would amuse them.**