



# Asset of the Month

July Asset Category: Support (External Asset)

## **July Asset: #4. Caring Neighborhood**

In a healthy community a young person experiences caring neighbors.

(37% of youth surveyed believe that they have this asset in their lives.)

**What youth say about Support:** “Never give up on me.” “Try to understand me.”

### **Caring Neighborhood**

Being a good neighbor is more than simply lending someone a cup of sugar (or a ladder or jumper cables), but it can start there. Part of being a healthy community is being interdependent, and part of being a healthy community is lending a hand where you can and asking for help when you need it.

*Try this...*

- Make a map of your neighborhood and include a list of resources – shops in the area, people with particular skills or expertise, parks or other shared spaces, and anything else that makes your community unique and rich.
- Make a map of the people in your neighborhood. Make an effort to get to know your neighbors better.
- Hang out in places where you are likely to see neighbors, and make a point of greeting people as they pass. If they seem friendly, start a casual conversation.
- Organize a block party.
- Start or join a neighborhood watch.
- Go out of your way to talk to the children and young people who live near you.

### **Parenting Tips & How-to-live the Asset of the Month: Caring Neighborhood**

#### **Ages Birth – 7**

- Say “yes” to children more often than you say “no.”
- Get down to children’s eye level whenever you interact with them.
- Take walks in the neighborhood to get to know other neighbors, and so that they get to know you and your children.

#### **Ages 8 – 18**

- Be available to listen.
- Vow to say at least one encouraging thing to someone in your household and neighborhood every day.
- Encourage your child / teen to invite friends and neighbors to your house. Spend time talking to and getting to know your son/daughter’s friends.
- Affirm independence and interdependence. People need each other.
- Find out what youth care about and advocate for their causes.

### **Family Discussion Topic/Activity:**

- 1) With markers or crayons have your kids draw a picture of their neighborhood, including the homes of their neighbors. Encourage them to be creative. After they finish drawing the layout of their neighborhood, have them write the names of people and pets who live at each house. If they are not sure of the names have them describe what they know about the occupants – occupation, hobbies. If unsure try to guess and then make a point to try to meet them and learn about their occupation.
- 2) *Trustworthy Adults* – On a sheet of paper or on a white board that family view often – number 1 – 5. After some discussion about who to talk to when help is needed, or who to trust write the names of 5 adults that you trust: family members, neighbors, relatives, employers, etc. Keep this list so that the next time you need an adult to turn to, you will know where to go.

\* Visit <http://www.familyresourcesheboygan.org>. Learn more about Caring Neighborhoods and the other 39 assets. This website also lists other great websites for parents, youth group leaders, teachers, etc. with tools, handouts, etc.

## July HCHY Events/Announcements

- July is National Family Reunion month and National Recreation and Parks month – maybe you can combine the 2 on one weekend. Summer is a great time to take advantage of the many opportunities and resources in and around Sheboygan County.
- HCHY / United Way is working with the PGA to coordinate a United Way Day on August 10<sup>th</sup> – the week of the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. Watch for information on how you can get involved.
- Summer Teen Anger Management Group – for middle & high school youth. Free – at the Project Youth House Mondays, June 14<sup>th</sup> – through July 19<sup>th</sup> 2 – 2:45pm.
- We are lining up trainings and presentations for August and for the fall – please contact Erik Wagner (892-6706) or Mike Burns (451-8000) to reserve a training or presentation for your youth group, parent group, service club, students, staff, etc.

**\*Please forward this information to co-workers, clients, families, and other contacts.**

\*Please respond with feedback, ideas for upcoming assets of the month, etc., or if your organization would like to be listed as a resource to: [ysports@sheboygancountymca.org](mailto:ysports@sheboygancountymca.org) or [erikfrc@excel.net](mailto:erikfrc@excel.net). Also contact us if your organization would like a 40-asset presentation or training – **trainings/presentations do not cost you anything but a little time.**

**\*Next Month's (August) Asset of the Month:** Category: Constructive Use of Time: #20 *Time at Home*

Sponsors: Kohler Credit Union, Van Horn Automotive Group

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