

## **ASSET-BUILDING IN OUR COMMUNITY (ABC)**

### **WHY ABC IS IMPORTANT - Personal Reflections**

(ABC is a grassroots organization, since 2001 - by Roger Nelson, Co-Chair 9/25/07)

**BECAUSE *who* we endeavor to serve.** A community's children & youth, and their families are of ***paramount importance*** to the ultimate well-being of all of us. For *our* society to ***survive & thrive*** at all levels (person, couple, family, organization, community), we must find ways to ***support our beleaguered families & marriages***, and to ***fully prepare our youth*** for their (our) future.

Examples: Offer family-friendly events, talent shows & hobby-connections.

**BECAUSE *what* we endeavor to do.** *ABC's aim is to support* (not duplicate) family, education & youth-oriented organizations, and their programs to offer opportunities, experiences, skills, & character-building. As young people explore & develop their ***personal & potential assets*** (talents, gifts, interests), *ABC* attempts to offer an array of ***opportunities & experiences*** that can ***augment or help promote*** new or existing community offerings.

**BECAUSE *community-role* also highlighted.** The *family, school, health-care & Church* are the essential providers in caring, teaching, guiding & support. But, "*It takes a village to raise a child.*" The broader ***community builds on those foundations***, by offering role-models, civic expectations & a range of opportunities. Local *businesses* offer jobs & socialization. Clubs like *Leo's & Cub-Scouts* offer adventure, skill mastery (self-esteem) & sense of belonging.

**BECAUSE we *promote both* community & youth assets.** Young people learn & thrive best in a ***fostering environment***. *ABC* is chartered to promote & develop, ***in tandem***, both youth and community *assets*. Board members get excited when individuals & groups in the community respond to (or initiate) opportunities to help ***"make a difference," for kids***. Be it expressions of friendliness, willingness to listen, sharing a hobby.. kids learn ***they matter!***

**BECAUSE we *promote 20 essential assets* (tools) for *successful living*.** We live in what is often a confusing, scary (threatening), fad-oriented and, an *anchorless* world. ***Principle-centered living***, self-evident truths & standards, get displaced by doing what's expedient, or offers immediate gratification. Damaging family conflict & neglect is no longer uncommon. ***ABC promotes:*** a *Commitment to Learning - Social Competencies - Positive Identity & Values*. All kids ***need an anchor & a compass*** to find their way, and adults to assist.

**BECAUSE we *promote 20 key community assets* to facilitate success for *all*.** It's an ever-changing, demanding & ***highly-competitive work world*** that young people now must face. The knowledge & skills required of them - *technical, transferable & self-management* - can boggle the mind! Our local schools, community colleges, private colleges & universities do a great job with well-prepared & receptive students. But, they too ***need an informed & supportive public***. To help kids become prepared, ***ABC advocates:*** *Support - Empowerment - Boundaries & Expectations - & Constructive Use of Time.*