

# January Asset of the Month

## EMPOWERMENT

Young people need to feel valued and valuable.  
This happens when youth feel safe and respected.

1. Community Values Youth – Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
2. Youth as Resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community.
3. Service to Others – Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
4. Safety – Young person feels safe at home, at school and in the neighborhood.

### **PRACTICAL TIPS TO EMPOWER YOUR CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN AROUND YOU**

- ◆ Organize a “crime watch” program in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Teach your child basic safety tips (i.e. how to handle phone calls when he or she is home alone, how to answer the door safely.)
- ◆ Make sure your child has emergency phone numbers where he or she can reach you.
- ◆ Create a fire evacuation plan for your home and practice the safe evacuation of your home with your child.
- ◆ Teach your child not to touch guns without the proper adult supervision and to leave a location if that situation arises.
- ◆ Demonstrate your charity and help your child learn how he or she can donate to charities using his or her time and expertise.
- ◆ Teach your child to budget his or her money.
- ◆ Teach older children how to use a credit card and manage credit responsibly.
- ◆ Teach your children how to use a check book. Allow them to manage a fictitious budget and check book that you create.
- ◆ Allow your child to assume responsibility by managing his or her chores or taking care of a family pet.
- ◆ Assign your child responsible roles in the family and in the neighborhood so that he or she can become valued contributors to family and community life.
- ◆ Offer your child an opportunity to make decisions in his or her personal life and in the family.
- ◆ Read biographies, autobiographies and newspaper articles as a family and discuss the contributions others have made to society.