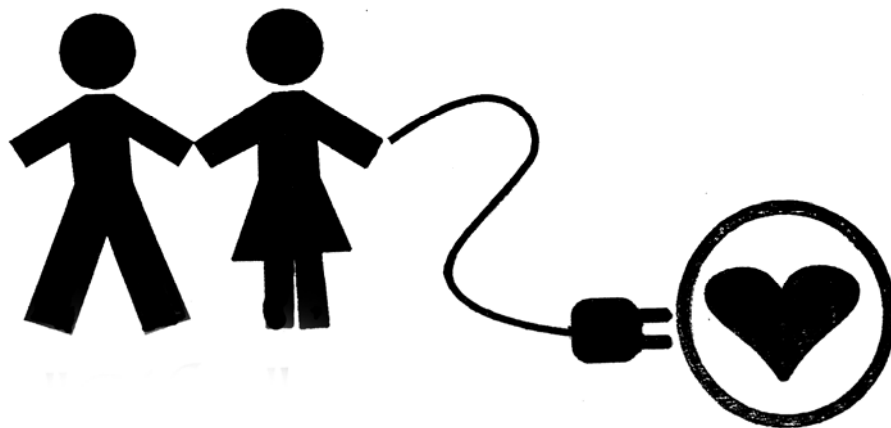


Contributed by Mike Green | ABCD Institute Faculty

"Young People Need to be Needed!"



"Gifts?"

"Plug in for
Contribution?"

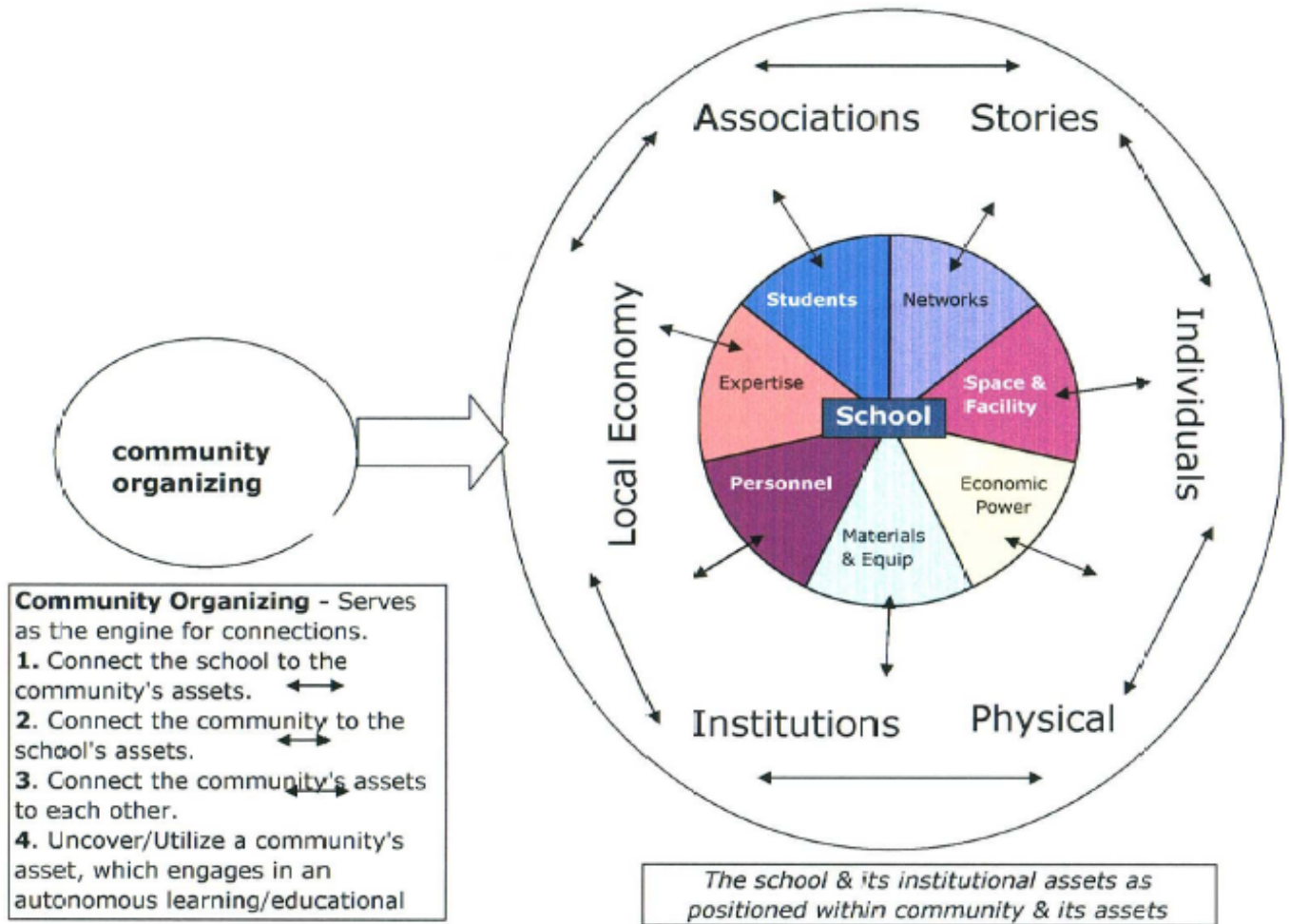
We Need Our Young
to Contribute.

“10 Commandments” for Involving Young People in Our Communities

1. Always start with the gifts, talents, knowledge and skills of young people. Find out what they like to do and are good at doing.
2. Always look for the positive in the unique individual. For example, it should be, “Maria with the lovely voice,” not, “Maria the pregnant teen.”
3. Every community is filled with useful work and service opportunities for young people. The corollary of this is that there is no community, institution or organization that cannot find a useful role for a young person.
4. Always distinguish between real work and games or simulations, because young people can.
5. Fight age segregation. Youth today are the most age-isolated generation in our history, to everyone’s detriment.
6. Avoid aggregating people, especially young people, by what they don’t have. Too often, we group people by their deficiencies instead of letting those who *can* help those who *can’t*.
7. Move as quickly as possible beyond “youth advisory boards” or committees with only one youth on them.
8. Constantly cultivate opportunities for young people to teach and lead.
9. Constantly reward and celebrate creativity, energy and effort – loudly and with spirit. Whenever possible, let young people take the lead on the form the celebration will take.
10. Amplify continuously “we need you.” Young people are not a problem, they are our solution.

Dr. John (Jody) Kretzmann is Co-Director of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute at Northwestern University, which works with community-building leaders across North America to solve local problems by rediscovering local capacities and mobilizing community members’ resources.

ABCD: School and Community Organizing



Developed by Kretzmann & McKnight, ABCD Institute 2004

School Asset Categories & Examples

Personnel

Expertise in/outside of job
 Ability to teach (ex):
 Art
 Music
 Athletics

Individual abilities (ex):
 Finances
 Write community histories
 Health Care

Individual Traits (ex):
 Ideas
 Energy
 Enthusiasm

Technical Training (ex):
 Computers
 Communications
 Vehicle Operation & Repair
 Self Defense
 Investigation and Research
 Child care and prevention

Networks of Connections
 Knowledge of Community
 Leadership Development

Expertise

Class (ex):
 Arts
 Wood Craft
 Athletics
 Music
 Drama
 GED
 Literacy
 Language

Educational Workshop (ex):
 Immigration
 Crime Prevention
 Computer Literacy
 Teacher
 Ethnic Dancing
 Exercise
 Storytelling
 Family writing seminars

Education and Training Courses
 Knowledge of Community

Students

Individual Abilities
 Interests
 Individual Traits

Networks of connections

Private Institutions
 Public Institutions
 Associations
 Individuals

Materials and Equipment

Computers
 Fax and Xerox machines
 Audiovisual equipment
 Science equipment
 Athletic equipment
 Shop and car-repair equipment
 Printing equipment
 Dark Room and other photo equipment
 Woodcraft Materials
 Tools
 Music Equipment & Instruments
 Games
 Toys and stuffed animals
 Kitchen utensils
 Furniture
 Telephones for hearing impaired

Artwork
 Books, Videos, Audiotapes

Culture Kits
 Literacy and GED materials
 Community history files
 Information on community
 Organizations and events
 Social Service Resources
 Financial info for business owners



Economic Power

Job Training
 Sponsor fundraisers
 Hire local people
 Assist in Writing and Submitting
 Grants for community projects
 Purchasing power
 Power to generate and receive
 special funds through bond issues,
 gov, corps and foundations.

Space and Facilities

Meeting rooms
 Auditoriums (some with stages)
 Cafeterias
 Gyms
 Art Studio
 Glass Display Cases
 Kitchens
 Basketball Courts
 Baseball Diamonds
 Sandboxes
 Open Space
 Playgrounds
 Drinking Fountains
 Duck ponds
 Gardens
 Bulletin boards
 Classrooms
 Lobbies
 Parking Lots
 Host site (ex):
 Community activities
 Neighborhood Festivals

Social Services Programs

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