



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE REPORT



June 2025

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Participation was elective and targeted youth between the ages of 11 and 17, providing valuable insights into their perspectives on personal, social, family, school, and community assets.

INTRODUCTION

Imagine building a strong, sturdy house. The more bricks you have, the more solid and resilient the structure becomes. Developmental Assets work the same way in a young person's life. Each asset—whether it's a supportive relationship, a positive value, or a skill—acts as a brick, reinforcing their foundation for success. The more assets a young person has, the stronger their ability to make positive choices, overcome challenges, and thrive.

The Search Institute, a youth-focused research organization, has identified 40 Developmental Assets that contribute to a young person's well-being. These assets include external supports like caring relationships and safe environments, as well as internal strengths like self-esteem, responsibility, and a sense of purpose. Research shows that youth with a high number of assets are more likely to achieve academic success, build healthy relationships, and contribute positively to their communities, while those with fewer assets face a greater risk of negative outcomes.

In January 2025, the Town of Stony Plain administered the Search Institute's Developmental Assets Profile (DAP) to young people in the community. Participation was elective and targeted youth between the ages of 11 and 17, providing valuable insights into their perspectives on personal, social, family, school, and community assets. The findings offer a snapshot of the factors shaping young people's development and highlight opportunities for strengthening supports across the community.

This report highlights the strengths and supports that young people have identified in their lives. These assets guide the choices young people make, including their success in school, health, and how they contribute to their communities. By focusing on young people's perspectives, the report shows how their self-perception and their worldview influence where they turn for help and the decisions they make. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in supporting youth, recognizing their strengths and identifying areas where they may need more support from families, schools, and communities.

STUDY LIMITATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

While the survey provided valuable insights into youth perspectives in the Town of Stony Plain, it is important to acknowledge and understand the limitations that may affect the the findings.

1. ELECTIVE PARTICIPATION

Participation in the survey was voluntary and promoted through channels associated with the Town of Stony Plain and its partners. As a result, youth who are less engaged with these organizations or who are less active online may have been unintentionally excluded. This limitation may skew the data toward the views of more connected or engaged youth and does not necessarily reflect the perspectives of all youth in the community.

2. RESPONSE BIAS

Response bias is a common concern in voluntary surveys. Individuals who chose to participate may have done so because they have strong opinions or specific experiences, which can result in an overrepresentation of certain views. This self-selection may limit the ability to draw conclusions that apply broadly across the youth population.

3. LIMITED PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The survey also lacked demographic diversity among respondents, which further impacts the comprehensiveness of the findings. Without a wide range of voices—particularly from underrepresented groups—the results may not fully capture the nuances of youth needs, priorities, or challenges across the community.



IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THESE LIMITATIONS

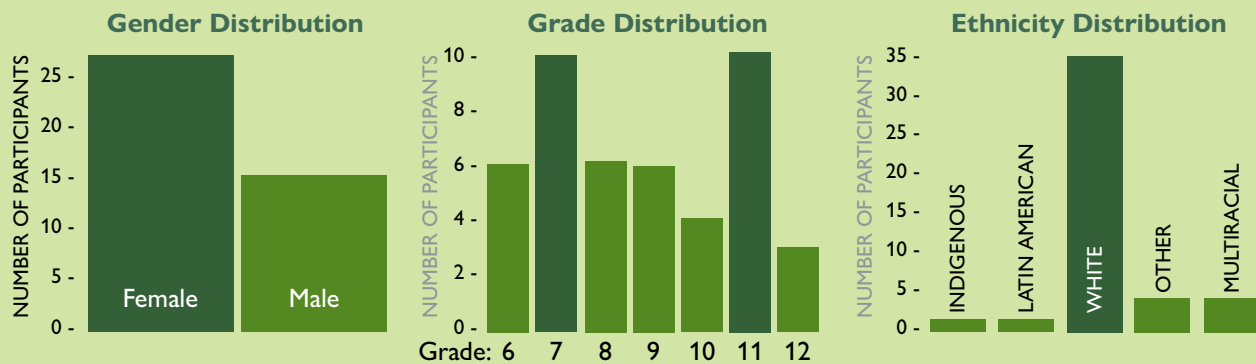
Recognizing these limitations is an important step in understanding the context of the survey findings. This survey represents just one component of a broader youth engagement strategy designed to capture a wide range of perspectives. While the results may not reflect the full diversity of the youth population, they offer meaningful insights that contribute to a larger, ongoing conversation. When considered alongside other engagement efforts—such as focus groups, interviews, and community events—this data helps build a more complete and inclusive picture of youth experiences and needs in Stony Plain.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

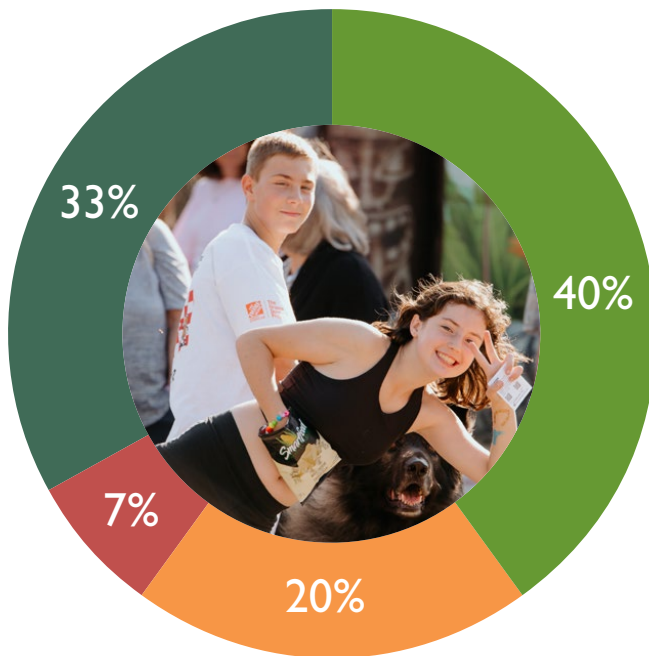
During the month of January 2025, 51 youth participated in the Developmental Assets Profile survey offered electronically. This survey was available on the Town of Stony Plain website, and promoted through social media, community partners, and poster distribution.

Although 51 youth completed the survey, only 45 surveys were used to compile the data. Six surveys were eliminated due to inconsistent responses, missing data on six or more items, or ages outside the intended audience.

Grades 7 and 11 had the highest participation, each representing 22% of respondents, offering insights from both younger and older youth.



OVERALL ASSETS SCORE



The Developmental Assets Profile survey gives composite assets scores that provide an overall sense of the how strong the foundation of developmental assets is for youth. There are four levels – Thriving, Adequate, Vulnerable or Challenged.

In the Stony Plain survey, 40% of the youth surveyed scored positively (Thriving and Adequate), and 20% scored in the lowest level of challenged, demonstrating that they are experiencing a fragile foundation of assets.

THRIVING

Youth who have 31-40 assets are at the highest level - Thriving. These individuals experience strong support systems, positive values, social competencies, and a commitment to learning. They are more likely to exhibit resilience, leadership, and a deep sense of purpose while engaging positively with their communities.

ADEQUATE

Youth with 21-30 Developmental Assets are at the Adequate level. This means they have a strong foundation of positive relationships, skills, and values that support their well-being and success. While they are generally making positive choices and engaging in healthy behaviors, they may still face some challenges or areas for growth.

VULNERABLE

Youth with 11-20 Developmental Assets are at the Vulnerable level. This means they have some positive supports and strengths but also face significant gaps that may put them at higher risk for negative outcomes. While they may demonstrate resilience in certain areas, they are more likely to struggle with challenges such as low motivation, unhealthy behaviors, or difficulty forming strong relationships.

CHALLENGED

Youth with 0 to 10 Developmental Assets are at the Challenged level. This means they lack many of the critical supports, skills, and opportunities needed to thrive, placing them at high risk for negative outcomes. These young people may struggle with low self-esteem, disengagement from school or community, and an increased likelihood of risky behaviors.

In addition to the overall asset score, participants' scores can be broken down into eight categories – four External Assets and four Internal Assets.



EXTERNAL & INTERNAL ASSETS

EXTERNAL ASSETS

Support

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.

Constructive Use of Time

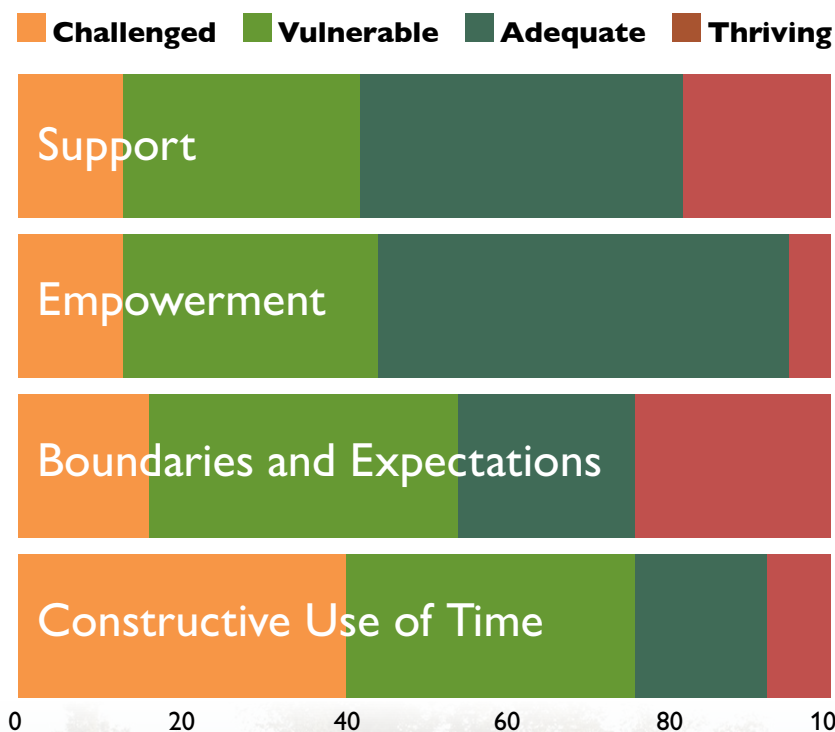
Young people need opportunities to learn and develop new skills and interests with other youth and adults outside of school.

Empowerment

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

Boundaries and Expectations

Young people need clear rules, consistent consequences for breaking rules, and encouragement to do their best.



0 20 40 60 80 100
*Typically, 5-15% of youth are expected to score in the lowest level (challenged) or the highest level (thriving). Most youth fall in the middle levels (vulnerable and adequate).



Support

58%

The Support category of assets was a strong area in this study with **58% of youth scoring positively in the Adequate and Thriving levels.**

To increase experiences of support:



- Create an environment of open, honest, and respectful communication.
- Intentionally express care to young people who may be more difficult to connect with.
- Adjust the focus of supportive relationships to respond to young people's interests, needs, priorities, and development.
- Learn about, reinforce, and supplement young people's other sources of support.

Empowerment

55%

The Empowerment category was also a stronger area for Stony Plain youth with **55% scoring in the Adequate and Thriving levels.**

To increase experiences of empowerment:



- Engage youth as active decision-makers and leaders, not just as voices in the conversation.
- Create opportunities that match young people's maturity, skills, interests, and experience.
- Prioritize young people's perceptions of safety—physical, emotional, and social—to help them feel valued and valuable.

Boundaries and Expectations

46% Boundaries and Expectations was a moderate category with **46% of youth scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

To establish, clarify or reinforce:



- Set appropriate boundaries that both limit harmful behaviors and challenge youth to grow, strive, and succeed.
- Establish boundaries by making them explicit, modeling them through your own actions, and consistently reinforcing them.
- Balance clear expectations with high levels of support and empowerment to avoid becoming authoritarian or counter-productive.
- Align expectations across family, school, and community to create consistent and effective guidance in young people's lives.

Constructive Use of Time

25% Constructive Use of Time was the weakest asset category for youth surveyed, with **25% scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

To increase asset development in this area:



- Offer a variety of opportunities that align with young people's need, interests, and backgrounds.
- Work with other programs, organizations, schools, and families to align efforts.
- Give young people opportunities to help make decisions and exert leadership.
- Provide supportive, caring, and respectful relationships with both adults and peers.

INTERNAL ASSETS

Commitment to Learning

Young people need a sense of the lasting importance of learning and a belief in their own abilities.

Positive Values

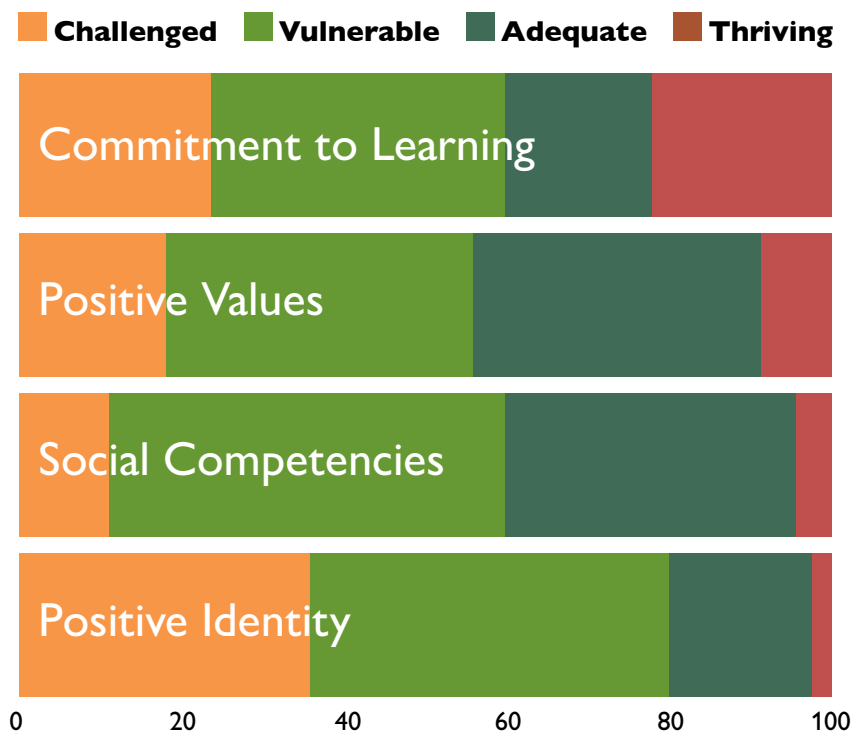
Young people need to develop strong guiding values or principles to help them make healthy life choices.

Positive Identity

Young people need to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over the things that happen to them.

Social Competencies

Young people need the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.



**Typically, 5-15% of youth are expected to score in the lowest level (challenged) or the highest level (thriving). Most youth fall in the middle levels (vulnerable and adequate).*

Commitment to Learning

40% This category of assets was a moderate area within the survey with **40% of youth scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

To strengthen development in this area:



- Focus on youth's motivations, goals, beliefs about themselves, values, habits, and skills for learning, both in and out of school.
- Show interest in the learning, offer encouragement, have expectations for success, and communicate in growth-enhancing ways. Caring adults play important roles in young people's commitment to learning.
- Reinforce the importance of education, as well as stimulate learning in areas that tap young people's interests and talents.

Positive Values

45% This category of assets is a moderate area within this study with **45% of youth scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

To increase asset development in this area:



- Offer a variety of opportunities that align with young people's need, interests, and backgrounds.
- Work with other programs, organizations, schools, and families to align efforts.
- Give young people opportunities to help make decisions and exert leadership.
- Provide supportive, caring, and respectful relationships with both adults and peers.

Social Competencies

40% This category of assets was a moderate area in the study, with **40% of surveyed youth scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

To strengthen development in this area:



- Provide opportunities to practice skills and attitudes through real-life experiences, role-playing, or simulations.
- Support development through opportunities to engage and interact with people from different backgrounds, cultures, worldviews, personalities, interests, age-groups, and other diversity.
- Build social and emotional competencies by providing nurturing, caring relationships and consistent support throughout childhood and adolescence.
- Support young people in developing healthy, constructive strategies as they navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

Positive Identity

20% Positive identity was a weaker asset area with only **20% of surveyed youth scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels.**

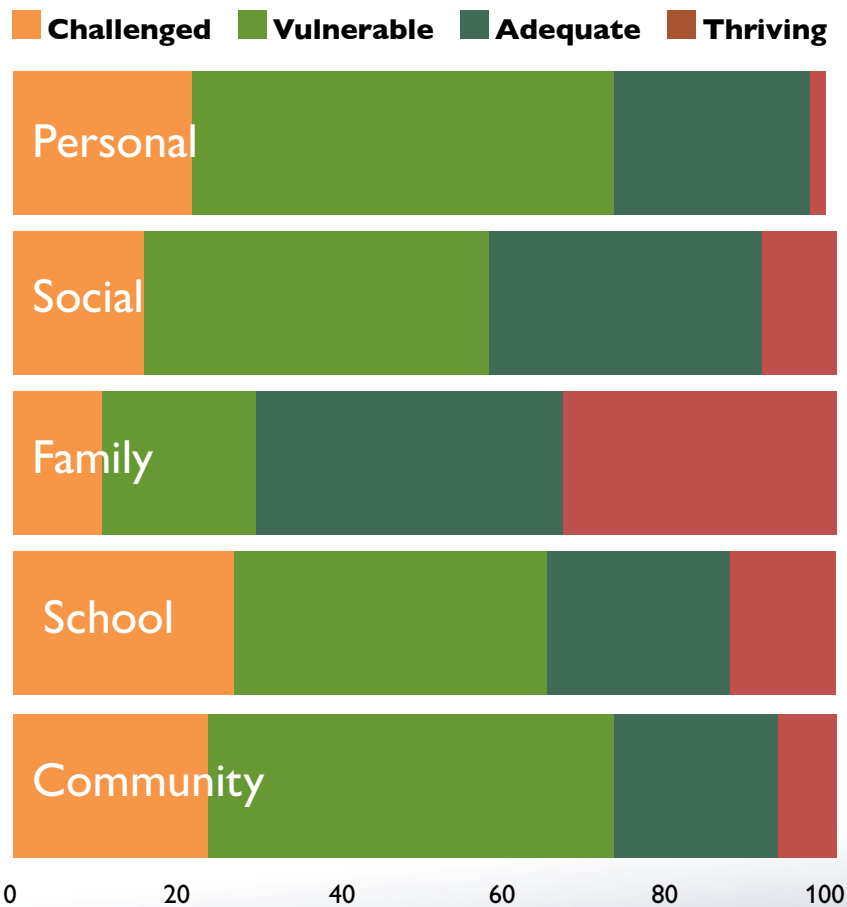
To increase asset development in this area:



- Foster strong, positive relationships.
- Provide opportunities for youth to engage in leadership, service, and other forms of expression.
- Offer clear, direct, and specific feedback, especially from trusted adults can help shape a young person's sense of self-worth. Provide opportunity for youth to complete tasks that they will genuinely be successful in.
- Recognize that some youth may need extra support.

ASSET CONTEXT SCORES

Each of these contexts plays a critical role in helping young people build a strong foundation of Developmental Assets, supporting their overall growth and success in life.



**Typically, 5-15% of youth are expected to score in the lowest level (challenged) or the highest level (thriving). Most youth fall in the middle levels (vulnerable and adequate).*



Young people need to experience strengths and supports across all parts of their lives—not just in one place like school or home. The more contexts in which they receive positive influences, the stronger their foundation for thriving. This survey explored young people’s perceptions of their supports and strengths across five key contexts.

FIVE CONTEXTS FOR BUILDING DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Personal Assets: These are internal strengths that shape the character of young people, such as their self-concept, values, attitudes, and capabilities. Examples include honesty, restraint, decision-making skills, and a sense of purpose.

Social Assets: These are developed through personal relationships, especially with friends. They include positive peer influence, peaceful conflict resolution, interpersonal competence, and relationships with other caring adults.

Family Assets: These strengths are experienced within the family setting and include support, positive communication, useful roles within the family, and clear family boundaries.

School Assets: These assets are formed in the school environment and include achievement motivation, school engagement, a caring school climate, and strong school boundaries.

Community Assets: These strengths come from the broader community, outside of school, such as community values that support youth, access to youth programs, and a caring neighbourhood.

ASSET CONTEXT SUMMARY

The findings from the survey highlight several encouraging strengths within the youth population of Stony Plain, particularly related to **Family Assets**. In this area, **71% of youth reported scoring in the Adequate to Thriving levels**, suggesting that many young people experience supportive family-related factors. Positive communication, emotional support, and clearly defined boundaries at home are helping to foster resilience, stability, and confidence in these young individuals.

Social Assets also show promise, with **42% of youth reporting Adequate to Thriving levels**. This reflects the presence of positive peer relationships and connections with caring adults—critical components of a young person’s sense of safety, belonging, and encouragement. These connections provide a glimpse into the network of support already taking root in the lives of many youth in Stony Plain.

At the same time, the data highlights opportunities for growth and collective action. In the area of **Personal Assets**, **73% of youth identified as being in the Vulnerable or Challenged levels**, suggesting that many are still in the process of developing their self-identity, personal values, and decision-making skills.

This stage of growth is a natural part of adolescence—and with the right supports, these areas can become key points of empowerment and development.

The results also underscore the potential to deepen **Community Assets**, where **73% of youth fell into the Vulnerable or Challenged levels**. This finding reflects an opportunity to enhance community-wide efforts to engage youth, expand access to inclusive programs, and cultivate a stronger sense of belonging and purpose. These results are a reminder that youth thrive not only in supportive homes and peer groups, but in communities that actively show up for them.

Overall, these findings provide direction for future efforts. They reinforce the critical role that families, peers, schools, organizations, and the broader community play in helping young people flourish. With continued collaboration, intentional outreach, and a shared commitment to youth well-being, Stony Plain is well-positioned to build on existing strengths and create even more opportunities for every young person to thrive.

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How Community Members Can Support YOUTH DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Young people thrive when they are surrounded by a network of consistent, caring relationships and opportunities that help them build strong personal values, social skills, family connections, academic engagement, and community belonging. Every community member—whether a parent, teacher, coach, business owner, neighbour, or volunteer—has a role to play in shaping these Developmental Assets.

The following recommendations align with developmental contexts and demonstrate the influence of everyday community engagement.

Fostering Personal Development

These actions support youth in developing self-awareness, decision-making skills, and a strong sense of identity. Encouragement from positive role models helps youth build confidence, take responsibility for their actions, and consider their future with purpose and intention.

- Encourage open discussions about values, beliefs, and life goals.
- Provide safe environments where youth feel empowered to express themselves and make decisions.
- Celebrate honesty and integrity, especially when it is difficult.
- Offer positive reinforcement when youth make healthy choices or demonstrate self-discipline.
- Model and talk about emotional resilience and how to handle setbacks.
- Provide books, reading opportunities, and conversations about purpose and self-worth.
- Share your own stories of planning, growth, and perseverance.
- Help youth see mistakes as learning opportunities.

Strengthening Social Connections

These actions help youth build strong peer and adult connections, emotional resilience, and sound judgment. Supportive relationships provide a sense of belonging and offer the guidance youth need to navigate social dynamics with confidence and care.

- Foster inclusive environments where youth can build supportive friendships.
- Model healthy conflict resolution and emotional expression.
- Encourage empathy, kindness, and community service.
- Support peer mentorship programs and positive group activities.
- Regularly acknowledge and affirm youth contributions and efforts.
- Be a reliable, trustworthy adult presence—listen, guide, and show up consistently.
- Reinforce positive behavior and recognize when youth make strong, healthy choices.

Supporting Family Foundations

These actions promote safe, supportive, and structured family environments. By encouraging strong communication, shared experiences, and inclusive support systems, families are better equipped to nurture youth development and build lasting, resilient relationships.

- Support parents and caregivers through community resources and parenting programs.
- Encourage family involvement in events, volunteering, and decision-making activities.
- Respect and uplift diverse family structures and parenting styles.
- Provide environments where families feel welcome, safe, and connected.
- Celebrate and share stories that reflect strong family relationships.
- Advocate for family-friendly policies and programs.

Enhancing School Engagement

These actions foster positive attitudes toward education by promoting emotional safety, intellectual curiosity, and school connectedness. When youth feel supported and encouraged in their learning environments, they are more likely to stay engaged, take academic risks, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

- Volunteer, mentor, or support extracurricular programs that enrich learning.
- Celebrate academic success and personal growth, not just grades.
- Encourage youth to explore learning beyond the classroom—through art, science, tech, or trade programs.

Fostering Community Connection

These actions help young people feel valued, safe, and engaged in the broader community. By creating inclusive spaces, offering meaningful roles, and recognizing youth contributions, communities empower young people to build purpose, empathy, and a lasting sense of connection.

- Create inclusive spaces where youth feel welcomed and seen—at businesses, events, places of worship, and public spaces.
- Invite youth to participate in local decision-making or volunteer roles.
- Promote diverse youth programs in sports, arts, and service.
- Acknowledge and respect cultural, racial, and personal differences.
- Be a visible neighbor—offer help, encouragement, and a sense of security.
- Encourage youth to take part in solving community challenges and recognize their contributions.



How Youth Can Build Their DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Youth have an active role to play in shaping their own development. While community, family, and institutional supports are critical, young people also contribute to building their own strengths by engaging in meaningful relationships, participating in activities, setting personal goals, and navigating challenges. Encouraging and supporting youth to take initiative, access resources, and explore opportunities helps reinforce the developmental assets that contribute to long-term well-being and success.

During focus groups held in 2025, local young people shared meaningful ways they can actively contribute to their own development. Their insights reflect lived experiences and highlight the importance of personal initiative, supportive relationships, and community involvement in fostering positive growth. Organized by key developmental contexts, these contributions emphasize building a sense of belonging, advancing equity, and promoting leadership among their peers. Rooted in real-world perspectives, the recommendations offer a powerful reminder that youth are not just participants—but leaders—in shaping their own futures.

Discover Strengths

(Personal Context)

Personal development is about discovering strengths, building confidence, and learning how to navigate life's challenges. Youth have identified that setting goals, taking care of their mental health, and staying open to new experiences are all important ways they can grow and shape their own path forward.

- **Set Goals and Keep Growing**

Identify personal, academic, or career goals and take small steps to achieve them. For some, this might mean building a resume through work experience or volunteer programs, joining educational clubs, or participating in programming. Others find a sense of accomplishment in sports, activities, or school, using those successes as motivation to keep moving forward.

- **Take Care of Mental Health**

Use positive coping strategies such as journaling, physical activity, or speaking to a trusted friend or mentor. Journaling, spending time with a stuffy or a pet, or finding moments of confidence can all help manage mental and emotional stress. Feeling inferior or dealing with overlapping struggles is common, but trusting relationships and confidentiality are key to seeking help and building resilience.

- **Be Open to Learning**

Explore new interests or skills through workshops, jobs, or creative activities.

Opportunities like playing Dungeons and Dragons, arts programs, or resume-building workshops provide space to grow in both confidence and ability.

- **Listen and Learn with Curiosity**

Show genuine interest in others by listening without judgment and being mindful of nonverbal communication. Learn about diverse cultures, traditions, and viewpoints by attending cultural gatherings and festivals. These experiences deepen empathy, broaden perspectives, and help young people connect meaningfully with their communities.



Build Connections

(Social Context)

Social development is about building positive relationships, practicing empathy, and creating a sense of belonging. Youth shared that kindness, inclusion, and connection are essential—not only for their own well-being, but for helping others feel seen, supported, and accepted.

- **Build Healthy Relationships**
Practice respect, empathy, and effective communication in all relationships. Strong social connections with friends, teachers, and youth workers help create a foundation of trust and support. Being near trusted individuals can make it easier to open up and feel safe.
- **Practice Connection and Kindness**
Acknowledge others with simple acts like smiling, greeting, or saying hello. Positive interactions in everyday places like coffee shops, parks, the pool, mall, or thrift stores help build a sense of community. Youth emphasized the importance of being respected and included no matter what differences you have.
- **Engage and Include Others**
Create opportunities for others to join conversations or groups and offer support to those who may feel excluded. Contributing to inclusive environments can involve fostering welcoming spaces such as open gyms, music areas, or drop-in programs. Young people also express interest in participating in activities and decisions that relate to them, including through sports teams, clubs, or other shared experiences.

Strengthen Family Bonds

(Family Context)

Strong family connections offer stability, trust, and support. Youth identified the value of open communication with caregivers and spending quality time with family as important ways to feel grounded, understood, and encouraged in their growth.

- **Reach Out for Support**
Talk with trusted adults or family members, such as parents, when guidance or support is needed. Having someone who offers a sense of safety and trust can make it easier to share personal thoughts and experiences. Confidence in their honesty and ability to keep conversations private can support a sense of security when discussing challenges.
- **Strengthen Family Bonds**
Share regular check-ins, meals, and activities that promote connection and trust. Simple routines like eating together or spending time as a family help reinforce care and support. For many young people, food represents both a fundamental need and a reflection of family connection and care within the home.

Engage in School Life

(School Context)

School is more than academics—it's a place to build confidence, explore interests, and feel part of something. Youth emphasized the importance of being involved, having access to help when needed, and working with schools and community partners to create supportive, inclusive environments.

- **Get Involved at School**

Join clubs, teams, or student-led initiatives to connect with others and build leadership. Educational clubs, art programs, and festivals offer meaningful ways to explore interests and create a sense of accomplishment. Supportive school-based programming—like resume building or volunteering—also helps students grow skills for the future.

- **Ask for Help When Needed**

Seek support from teachers or school staff with schoolwork or stress. Many youth see school as a place they can go in tough times and rely on trusted adults like teachers for guidance and encouragement.

- **Collaborate for Prevention and Support**

Participate in school and community initiatives aimed at promoting mental health, early intervention, and inclusive environments. Youth emphasized the importance of fostering a supportive and informed community within schools as well as increasing public awareness.

Shape Community

(Community Context)

Feeling connected to the community helps youth know they matter and that they belong. Youth identified that volunteering, participating in local events, and advocating for equity are powerful ways to contribute, make change, and shape a more inclusive community for all.

- **Be Active in Community**

Volunteer, attend events, or take part in local projects to build a stronger sense of connection and responsibility to your community. Third spaces—informal social environments outside of home (first place) and school or work (second place)—play a key role in fostering relationships, belonging, and community. These spaces are valued for their accessibility and welcoming atmosphere. In Stony Plain, third spaces may include places like the Stony Plain Public Library and the Youth Centre. Community events such as Farmers Days, festivals, and cultural gatherings, along with open gyms, sports training, and games, offer meaningful opportunities to connect, participate, and feel a sense of pride in where you live. Youth have also emphasized the importance of accessible or free programs, flexible volunteer and job opportunities, and having more youth-friendly spaces that reflect their needs and voices.

- **Use Available Supports**

Learn where and how to access mental health, employment, and social services—and help others find them too. Youth centres were frequently mentioned as essential for inclusion, safety, and support. More supportive, youth-aware communities—and more youth-friendly spaces—can help bridge gaps in access and offer resources when they are most needed.

- **Advocate for Equity and Inclusion**

Recognize and speak up against non-inclusive behaviour. Focus on equity over equality and be open to unlearning biases. Youth are expressing a desire for policies, programs, and representation that reflect the diversity of their community and help ensure everyone feels safe, seen, and supported.



How Stony Plain Can HELP YOUTH THRIVE

Recognizing youth as valued members of the community requires more than good intentions—it calls for visible, intentional action. A clear understanding of what helps young people thrive enables the development of strategies that genuinely empower and support them.

In Stony Plain, this means fostering positive youth development by creating opportunities for leadership, encouraging meaningful participation, and building a strong sense of belonging. These efforts not only promote individual growth but also contribute to the development of key assets that help youth succeed in all areas of life.

Creating space for youth voice and perspective, and intentionally fostering asset development, is essential to building a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready community. Grounded in evidence-based frameworks such as the Developmental Assets, these actions provide a practical and strategic roadmap for ensuring that young people are equipped, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

The following key actions outline how municipalities and communities can work together to create the conditions where youth feel empowered, engaged, and valued.

Strengthening Personal Assets

(Positive Identity, Empowerment, Commitment to Learning)

Supporting youth in their personal development means more than providing opportunities—it requires creating intentional pathways that build internal strengths. By nurturing a strong sense of identity, empowering decision-making, and fostering a lasting commitment to learning, youth are equipped with the confidence and capability to shape their futures.

Young people thrive when they are encouraged to explore their strengths, set meaningful goals, and apply their skills in real-world settings. These experiences not only promote self-assurance and resilience but also lay the foundation for long-term success—personally, academically, and within the broader community.

- **Support Job Readiness and Skill Development**
Provide hands-on learning experiences, mentorship, and volunteer opportunities that build confidence, workplace skills, and a sense of purpose.
- **Empower Youth Leadership and Voice**
Involve youth in shaping programs, initiatives, and decision-making. Supporting youth-led efforts builds ownership, leadership skills, and confidence in their ability to influence change.
- **Promote Mental Wellness and Resilience**
Offer accessible supports and programs that foster emotional well-being, teach coping strategies, and encourage help-seeking behavior—key to long-term personal success.

Strengthening Social Assets

(Support, Social Competencies, Constructive Use of Time)

Youth thrive when they have access to safe, welcoming spaces that encourage connection and belonging. In these environments, young people can develop essential social skills—like communication, empathy, and collaboration—through positive interactions with peers and trusted adults. Structured and informal opportunities to engage in group activities, mentorship, and community programs not only build confidence and competence but also promote responsible use of free time. These social experiences lay the groundwork for healthy relationships and long-term success in both personal and professional spheres.

- **Foster Social Connection and Belonging**
Offer inclusive drop-in and structured programs that support peer connection, social interactions, and a sense of belonging.
- **Provide Positive, Trained Mentorship**
Equip adult mentors and program staff with the tools and training needed to build strong, trusting relationships that support youth development.
- **Support Healthy Relationships**
Provide education and tools to help youth develop communication skills, emotional awareness, and the ability to maintain respectful relationships.

Advancing Community Assets

(Empowerment, Boundaries & Expectations, Support)

Communities that prioritize support for young people can influence their development in various ways. When adults provide clear expectations, encouragement, and opportunities for youth involvement, it can contribute to a sense of recognition and participation. Access to both formal and informal supports may assist youth in managing challenges and strengthening their sense of connection and capability. Promoting an inclusive environment that includes youth perspectives and offers steady guidance can help create conditions that support their engagement and growth.

- **Ensure Accessible Information and Resources**

Make it easy for youth to find and use the supports they need—when and where they need them.

- **Promote Community Understanding of Youth Development**

Share tools, resources, and training that help parents, educators, service providers, and community members understand how to support youth and contribute to positive outcomes.







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Town of Stony Plain would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the youth participants who generously shared their time and insights by completing the Developmental Assets Profile survey. Their voices are invaluable in shaping the future of Stony Plain. In addition, the Town would like to thank and recognize the youth, adults, and community partners who contributed to the conversations and discussions that helped shape the development of the key actions and steps outlined in this report. Thank you to the Search Institute for their continued support and for providing the framework that made this survey possible. The Town is also deeply grateful to the community partners, schools, and families who helped promote and support the survey implementation. Their collective efforts are essential in ensuring that youth voices continue to guide and inspire meaningful change. The information gathered will play a crucial role in strengthening the work of Stony Plain Community and Social Development moving forward to collectively create a nurturing and empowering environment for all youth.

Thank you for your dedication to supporting
the growth and success of our future leaders.

strengthen.



Community & Social Development

Direct: 780-963-8583

connect@stonyplain.com

stonyplain.com