



Support Our Youth Month 2020

"PARTNERING FOR IMPACT WITH ASSETS"

www.supportingcaymanyouth.com



ABOUT CIYDC

The Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium is a non-government, non-profit organization, founded specifically to implement asset-building programmes for Cayman's youth.

OUR PURPOSE

It is our belief that the proactive youth development approach of helping all young people develop their assets (strengths), is the most effective way of preventing their involvement in risky behaviour.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium is to motivate all children and young people about their assets, which encompass the support of their peers, family, school and community.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to ensure that every young person has an awareness of their assets and have a drive for success in all areas. In this we hope to see them as:-

- 1) Be God-fearing and have a recognition of their purpose in life
- 2) Have value for themselves and others

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe that:

All the young people of the Cayman Islands have the potential to succeed and if given the opportunity, they can succeed at whatever they put their mind to.

Executive Summary

Stemming from the recommendations of the previous Support Our Youth Month reports, we amended the theme from “Combating Crime with Assets” to “Partnering for impact with Assets”.

All youth may face some risk factors that can lead to the problem behaviors of Substance Abuse, Delinquency, Teen Pregnancy, School failure/ dropping out of school, and Violence. While all youth face some risk factors, Hawkins & Catalano’s research found that youth that face multiple risk factors at home, in school and in the community, are more likely to exhibit more problem behaviors as adolescents. From this, and numerous research conducted in the Cayman Islands on the subject matter, we can conclude that the young people of the Cayman Islands are challenged on the path to healthy development by risk factors in their community, schools, family and among themselves.

However, based on the research conducted by Search Institute, there are 40 positive things that every young person need to lead healthy and successful lives. These assets include personal traits as well as support, empowerment and bonding to community, school and family. This framework encourages communities to come together and promote and foster assets in all youth. The more assets a child has the less likely they are to become involved in antisocial behaviors such as teen pregnancy, school drop out, violence and substance abuse.

At a time when there is great concern for crime prevention and the need to keep our young people occupied, it is important that our approach is not reactive and limited to specific challenging populations, but rather proactive and targeted to all youth. This way we are preventing problems and issues in the future, thus having a better chance for a thriving community. It is no longer acceptable for most attention and resources to go into apprehension, prosecution and punishment, rather than focusing on the personal experiences and factors which predispose persons to criminal behavior.

Although the plan for this year’s conference was to reinforce partnership among stakeholders, the limited response of community representatives and organizations meant that the second segment of the conference and Celebrate Our Youth Day had to be cancelled. Three police officers attended the asset building workshop and one hundred and eleven students from three public primary schools attended the conference.

Background Information

Overview:

In 2008 the Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium began exploring youth development models that would create a community-specific plan to develop the strengths/ assets of our youth. After reviewing several models for youth development and empowerment, it was decided that the Search Institute's Developmental Assets provided a framework which was simple and culturally sensitive. It was then adopted into the consortium's mission and vision as its proactive guide to providing positive alternative programmes and activities.

After reviewing data from various needs assessment and surveys and reports, and with holding focus group discussions at the consortium's Leadership & Prevention camps (2008 and 2009) and National Youth Development Symposium 2009, it was determined that the developmental assets approach was a good tool to use to further promote positive youth development and engage young people in positive alternative activities.

The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign was developed in 2010 to get the ball rolling on promoting asset-building in the Cayman Islands.

Developmental Assets Framework:

The Search Institute has developed a youth development model identifying 40 positive experiences, relationships, skills, and qualities that all young people need to promote positive development and reduce their involvement in risk taking behaviors. This framework includes the 40 Assets which are organized in eight categories including external and internal assets. The Developmental Asset model offers innovative strategies for building community capacity to ensure that the community, family, and individual build assets in youth.

There are three dimensions to this approach:

- Cultivate community readiness and commitment
- Create an infrastructure in the community
- Build capacity through five "Action Strategies"

Whilst most people in the Cayman Islands might not be familiar with asset building there is a sense of commitment to promote healthy lifestyles and choices for our youth. Cultivating the community readiness might take some time but once people are trained from each sector then they could promote the Asset Building concepts, thus we would be creating the community infrastructure as we promote the ideas and concepts of asset building.

The Action Strategies are five domains within the community which have the potential to transform the lives of young people. They provide the framework for long-term action that must be consistent, intentional, and ongoing.

Influence Civic Decisions – influence decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of positive transformation of community and society.

Engaging Adults – promotes adults from all walks of life to develop sustained strength building relationships with children and adolescents, both within families and in neighborhoods.

Activate Sectors – Activate all sectors of the community – such as schools, congregations, youth, businesses, human services, and health-care organizations – to create an asset building culture and to contribute fully to young people's healthy development.

Invigorate Programs – invigorate, expand, and enhance programs to become more asset rich and to be available to and accessed by all children and youth.

Mobilizing Young People – mobilize young people to use their power as asset builders and change agents.

Overview of Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign

There are partnerships and opportunities that help our young people to succeed. These include programmes that provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences for our youth, as well as programmes that engage families, schools, churches, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults and thus building stronger communities.

The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign is a national celebration of partnerships and opportunities to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of our young people.

The aim is to encourage everyone in the Cayman Islands to engage in or support innovative youth programs and asset-building activities that ensure the holistic development and well-being of our youth.

Endorsed by government officials, community leaders and young people, the campaign is acknowledged every year during the month of January, as Support Our Youth Month.

2010 Proclamation

WHEREAS, The well-being of all our young people is of paramount importance to the future of these islands.

WHEREAS, the people of the **Cayman Islands** have clearly shown that they value partnerships and opportunities for our youth which

- Support or generate programmes that provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences for our youth.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Engage families, schools, churches, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults, and so building stronger communities.

and

WHEREAS, **The Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium** has done significant work in the area of the development and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that supporting our youth in asset-building is key to helping them become successful adults.

and

WHEREAS, **The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign**, is planned to be a national celebration of partnerships and opportunities, starting in January 2010, to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of our young people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Honourable W. McKeever Bush, Premier of the Cayman Islands**, do hereby proclaim January, as "*Support Our Youth Month*"; AND I DO FURTHER DECLARE that as Premier, I enthusiastically endorse *the Supporting Cayman's Youth Campaign*, and encourage everyone in our islands to engage in or support innovative youth programs and asset-building activities that ensure the holistic development and well being of our youth.

Goal/ Objectives

Influence civic decisions - by influencing decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of this positive transformation of communities and society.

SUPPORTING CAYMAN YOUTH CAMPAIGN

Goal: Implement Support Our Youth Month Events and Activities

A planned national celebration of partnerships and opportunities to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of Cayman's young people.

- **Planning for Youth Success Conference**
- **Celebrate Our Youth Day**

Developmental Assets and Key Stakeholders

External Assets

Parents/ Family
 Community/ Businesses etc.
 Schools
 Youth

Support

1. Family support	Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. Positive family communication	Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. Other adult relationships	Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. Caring neighborhood	Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. Caring school climate	School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. Parent involvement in schooling	Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

Empowerment

7. Community values youth	Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. Youth as resources	Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. Service to others	Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. Safety	Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

Boundaries & Expectations

11. Family boundaries	Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. School Boundaries	School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. Neighborhood boundaries	Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. Adult role models	Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. Positive peer influence	Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. High expectations	Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Constructive Use of Time

17. Creative activities	Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. Youth programs	Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. Religious community	Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. Time at home	Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week

Developmental Assets and Key Stakeholders

Internal Assets

 Youth

Commitment to Learning

21. Achievement motivation	Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. School engagement	Young person actively engaged in learning.
23. Homework	Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. Bonding to school	Young person cares about her or his school.
25. Reading for pleasure	Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

Positive Values

26. Caring	Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. Equality and social justice	Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. Integrity	Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. Honesty	Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
30. Responsibility	Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. Restraint	Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

Social Competencies

32. Planning and decision-making	Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. Interpersonal competence	Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. Cultural competence	Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/ racial/ ethnic backgrounds.
35. Resistance skills	Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. Peaceful conflict resolution	Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Positive Identity

37. Personal power	Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
38. Self-esteem	Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. Sense of purpose	Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
40. Positive view of personal future	Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

Assets and Organizations

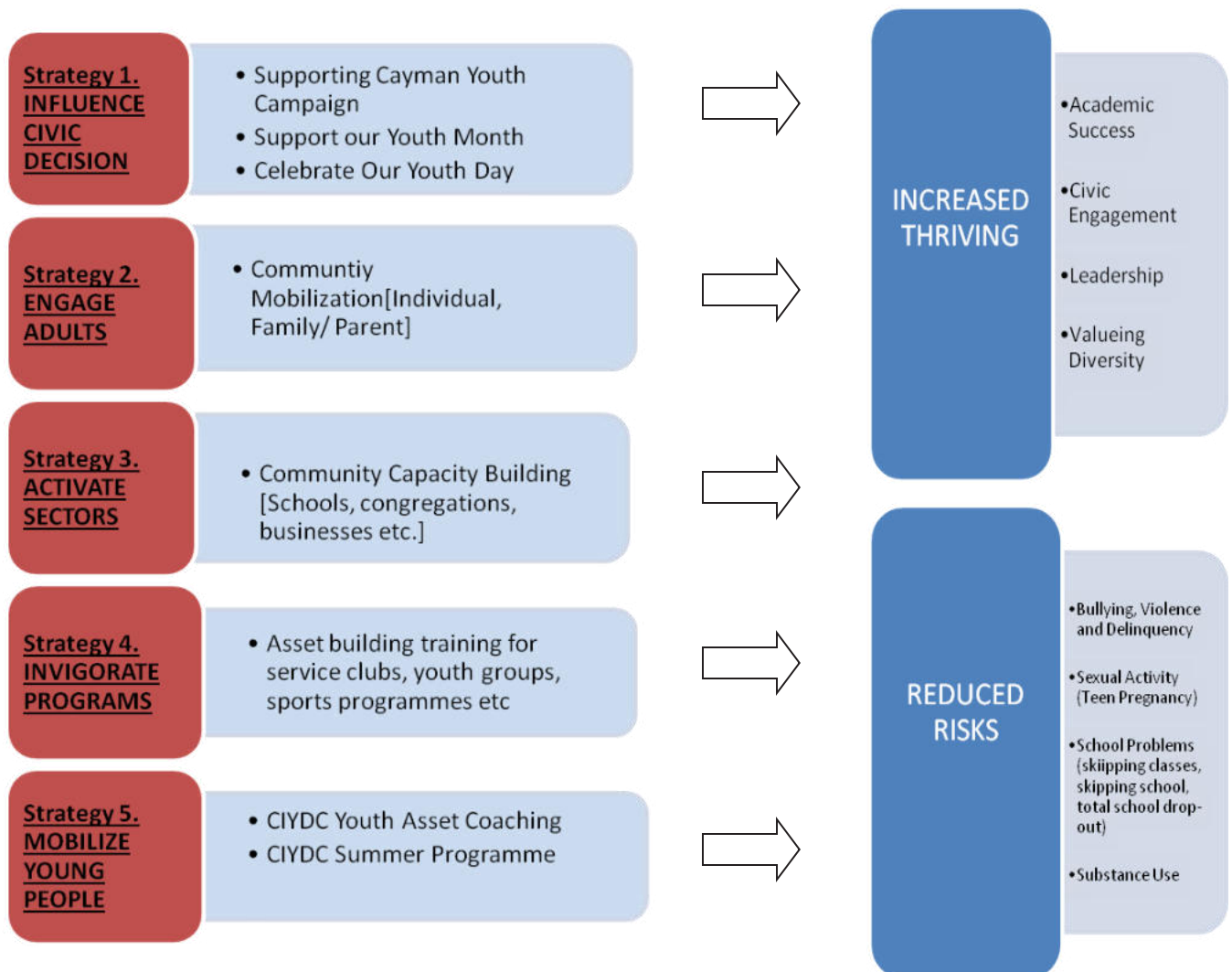
SUPPORT	EMPOWERMENT	BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS	CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME
1. Family Resource Centre 2. Big Brothers, Big Sisters	1. Save Our Youth Foundation 2. Youth Services Unit 3. Rotary/ Rotaract/ Rotaract Blue 4. Lion's Club/ Leo Club 5. Kiwanis/ Key Club 6. Cayman Aids Foundation 7. CI Red Cross 8. Optimist Club 9. Toastmasters Club 10. Feed Our Future 11. National Workforce Development Agency	1. Neighborhood Policing 2. Royal Cayman Islands Police Service 3. Her Majesty Prison Service 4. Community Rehabilitation Department 5. Neighborhood Policing 6. Royal Cayman Islands Police Service 7. Her Majesty Prison Service	1. Girl Guides 2. Scouts 3. Duke of Edinburgh 4. Cadet Corps 5. Junior Achievement 6. Church Youth Groups 7. Child Evangelism Fellowship 8. CNCF Young at Art 9. Sports Associations/ Clubs 10. Cayman Drama Society 11. National Gallery 12. National Trust 13. Cayman Youth Choir 14. Music Schools 15. Positive Intervention Now 16. Tutoring Programmes 17. YMCA
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING	POSITIVE VALUES	SOCIAL COMPETENCIES	POSITIVE IDENTITY
1. Schools 2. Libraries 3. After-school Programmes 4. Tutoring/ Educational Support Services 5. Colleges 6. Scholarship Pro-	1. National Drug Council 2. Cayman Aids Foundation 3. Public Health 4. CI Red Cross	1. Youth ACT	1. Church Youth Groups 2. Alex Panton Foundation

Planning for Youth Success Initiative

Raising successful kids takes more than just a single family or school; it takes an entire community. An engaged community requires many people—educators, faith community leaders, parents, governmental figures, and others—to come together to support youth.

CIYDC's mission includes providing communities with the resources and information they need to organize and mobilize individuals and groups on behalf of youth. The planning for youth success initiative is the intentional approach of CIYDC to coordinate communities across the Cayman Islands as they engage and mobilize to develop the assets of their young people. Community initiatives based on the developmental assets, work thoughtfully to determine how people in all spheres of life can be involved.

Adopting the five action strategies of the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change, CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 and its programmes covers strategies 4-5. Held during Support Our Youth Month the community presentations, planning for youth success conference and celebrate our youth day are key events for the implementation of the strategies outlined. The end result of this approach is increased thriving of our youth and reduced risks.



Implementation of Community Presentation 2020



Objective of Community Presentations

Of the five action strategies identified by the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change. CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 which includes influencing civic decisions, engaging adults and activating sectors. The community workshop held during Support Our Youth Month has the intention to cover strategy 2, which is to **engage adults** from all walks of life to develop sustained, strength-building relationships with children and adolescents, both within families and in neighborhoods. The objectives of the community presentations:-

- Introduce basic information about the eight categories of the developmental assets
- Help participants examine their personal responsibilities, ability, and opportunities to build assets
- Help participants develop new skills to help them develop ways to be effective in building assets
- Help participants commit to specific ways to build assets for young people in their family, school, neighborhood, organization or community

This year, based on the recommendations of the Youth Services Unit, we decided to offer the full Asset-Building training for community members of each electoral area. Information was sent to politicians/representatives and key government departments such as the Department of Children and Family Services and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. Four police officers represented the RCIPS.

Feedback from Participants

Most valuable part of workshop: Learning about internal/ external assets, team building and all information passed on by the presenter and how it was presented

Plans to use knowledge and ideas gained: mold and encourage young people, in the community, empower youth within communities

Workshop improvement: all stakeholders that work with youth need to be present, invite parents and some children

Significant Successes

Success	Factors That Supported Success
Venue • Access to T.E McField Centre Attendees • Attendance of Police Officers Meeting Objectives • All objectives of the workshop met	• Pastor Beulah McField offered in-kind sponsorship • Collaboration with Royal Cayman Islands Police Service Community Policing Department. • Presentation of Everyone's an Asset Builder Workshop

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
• Attendance of community supporters low	• Partner with media to promote Support Our Youth Month. • Liaise with key government officials and community groups

Implementation of Planning for Youth Success Conference 2020



Objective of Planning for Youth Success Conference

Of the five action strategies identified by the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change, CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 which includes influencing civic decisions, engaging adults and activating sectors. The Planning for Youth Success conference, held during Support Our Youth Month, has the intention to cover strategy 1, which is to **influence civic decisions** – influence decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of positive transformation of community and society. The objective of the Planning for Youth Success Conference is to bring together key adult leaders and young people to talk about what is needed to help young people grow and become successful adults, utilizing the developmental assets framework. The theme of the conference was "Partnering for Impact with Assets".

Asset Building Grand Mixer

After a brief opening the conference attendees participated in an ice breaker activity that gave them an opportunity to get acquainted with their peers. Following a set of ground rules the attendees were asked to pair up with several persons they didn't know well to answer specific questions on their paper. Questions included advice they would give their country leader, hardest thing about growing up and goals for the future. After completing the question participants wrote positive messages to each other. The activity mainly covered asset #34, cultural competence, but also addressed asset #15, positive peer influence; asset #33, interpersonal competence; and asset #39, sense of purpose.

Keynote Speech by Ms. Kaysia Kerr, CEO Jamaica National Parenting Support Commission

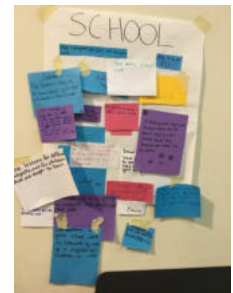
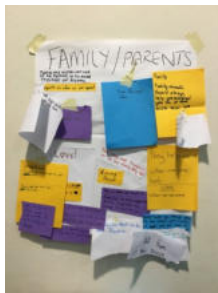
The keynote speaker highlight some negative problem behaviors that young people engage in and spoke about the difficulties experienced in communities when persons make bad choices. She then challenged them to be intentional and make wise choices.





What I Need to Succeed Session

The conference participants were introduced to the internal and external developmental assets. Focusing on their internal assets they were given an opportunity to rate each from 1 (lowest score) -10 (highest score) . They were also asked to rate the constructive use of time asset category of the external assets. Stemming from the results of their ratings, the students then went through a session on how to develop an asset building plan. On three different levels asset building needs were discussed, the actions needed to build those assets, the frequency needed and the progress to be achieved. For example to improve asset#23 Homework score of 4, the student would join an afterschool program or homework club for one hour daily after school.



Redesigning your Community with Assets

Family/ Parents: Family and friends can help us by pushing us to reach our dreams, family should always help us understand life at school and show love, loving parents, help and support us in everyday life, teach us to be disciplined, guide us through our life and respect choices or path want to take.

Community: Never judge you for how you look, give advice on keeping community safe, keep us safe.

Peers/ Friends: Help you get good grades, help motivate you, help you through bullying, help us improve by encouraging us to be a better person, have a positive and supportive attitude.

Church: help us to believe in Christ, learn about him and what he did on the earth, help spiritual life, people can pray for you maybe when you are arguing with your parents.

School: Teachers can help us learn about stuff that we need for future jobs, more after school clubs, teachers can help us know how we are doing in class and help us get better in our class work,. more lessons from different subjects for children that are eager to learn, give us homework with details on adulthood, allow more time for children to get more knowledge, promote reading by hosting reading competitions.



Redesigning your Community with Assets

Government/ Politicians: Should always treat everyone fairly and make it easier for you to get a job, helpful people, provide tools that help us learn and give us a healthy lifestyle, keep us safe and make sure we have everything for school, positive advice

Youth Programs: Help us practice for what we love and make us more confident, start at exact time they are supposed to, fun, programs to help you get better at school, teach us how to be better people when we approach adulthood.

Media: Publishing information that children need for their coming future, help us with study to find out new things, show more educational program, utilize mediums such as Google, YouTube, Tik Tok Twitter and Snapchat

Police: Tell us when we're doing things wrong, keep us safe in the environment come on keep us safe

Businesses: Can help us with our education more and know more about business, give us money for the hard work we have done.

Significant Successes

Success	Factors That Supported Success
Venue UCCI was a good venue	The discount offered was beneficial, the space was adequate for conference activities
Attendees Attendance of young people good	Corresponding with schools

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
Attendees Attendance of community supporters and stakeholders low	- Partner with media to promote Support Our Youth Month. - Liaise with community groups eg. Churches - Stakeholder meetings and information updates

Implementation of Celebrate Our Youth Day 2020

Background

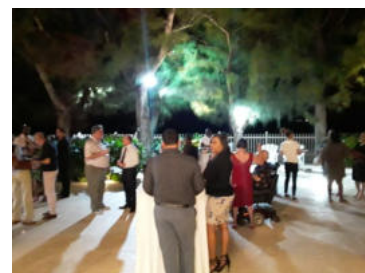
Celebrate Our Youth Day is planned as the event of Support Our Youth Month that would bring together young people and their supporters together to promote the assets that help them succeed.

Young people would showcase their talents, organizations and schools promote their programs and services and the general public is engaged in activities that build their awareness of the developmental assets. This year's Celebrate Our Youth Day was scheduled the day following the conference, but was cancelled due to limited representation.

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
No representation of organizations	Individual Stakeholder meetings/ workshops
No representation/ participation of schools and churches	Select Support Our Youth Month liaisons as promoters
No Attendance of community supporters and young people	Partnership with media to promote Support Our Youth Month

Reception at Governor's Residence



Conclusions, Implications & Recommendations

Conclusions

Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign has the potential to become an impactful national initiative however, limited funds and resources results in limited outreach and participation. Despite this fact, this year's events again yielded some important and key information that can inform the way forward.

The lack of responses from the politicians, community representatives and other organizations for the workshop indicate that further ground work is needed. At the conference the keynote speech was engaging and motivational for the youth attendees, however it would have been good for stakeholders to be present to engage in discussion about partnership, especially with parents. Making adjustments to the time and conference agenda improved the participation of the conference attendees. The overarching theme from the young people surrounded preparation for the future.

From all the activities of this year's Support Our Youth month, it is apparent that there is a need for an intentional plan for the mobilization, action and continuity for asset building in the Cayman Islands.

Implications

Being intentional about the success of our young people is too crucial a matter not to be taken seriously by all stakeholders. Furthermore, not only is it to be considered a serious cause and satisfaction sought in isolated work, but serious enough for a combined effort. The risk factors that are causative to youth problem behaviors are multiple and from different domains. So it is with the developmental assets. The more a young person has, the less likely he/ she is to gravitate to negative adolescent behavior, and the more likely they are to succeed. However, no one individual or entity can provide all of the assets of one young person or all of our youth. Considering this, it would be prudent that all stakeholders agree and actively participate in Support Our Youth month.

Recommendations

Similar to that which was recommended in previous reports, in order for the Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign to be fully realized the following factors are needed:-

- **Funding to establish a fully functional secretariat with full national support to implement all action strategies**
- Purchase of Search Institute Survey prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations to be presented at the conference
- Organizations and schools complete and submit organizational assessment prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations
- District groups set up to complete asset building community mobilization grid prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations
- Two day conference instead of one to facilitate completion of National Asset Building Plan and include a component for young people to create their own asset building plan
- **Stakeholder commitment and participation**
- **Partnership with national agencies such as National Youth Commission and Youth Services Unit**
- Add research component to Planning for Youth Conference to allow opportunity for local researchers, including young people to submit research papers and make presentations at the conference
- **Selection of district committees that will liaise with schools and churches within their districts to plan a special activities and/ or event during Support Our Youth Month**
- **Development of an action plan at the end of the conference with specific action items for each district to accomplish and report on at the following conference**
- Partnership with marketing companies to help promote Support Our Youth Month

Acknowledgements

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