



Support Our Youth Month 2021

RESILIENCY

"Bouncing back with Assets"



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

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.

The theme of Support Our Youth Month 2021 Resiliency "Bouncing back with Assets". The main focus was on promoting the developmental assets as a means of helping our young people become resilient during the pandemic.

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. McKeeva 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

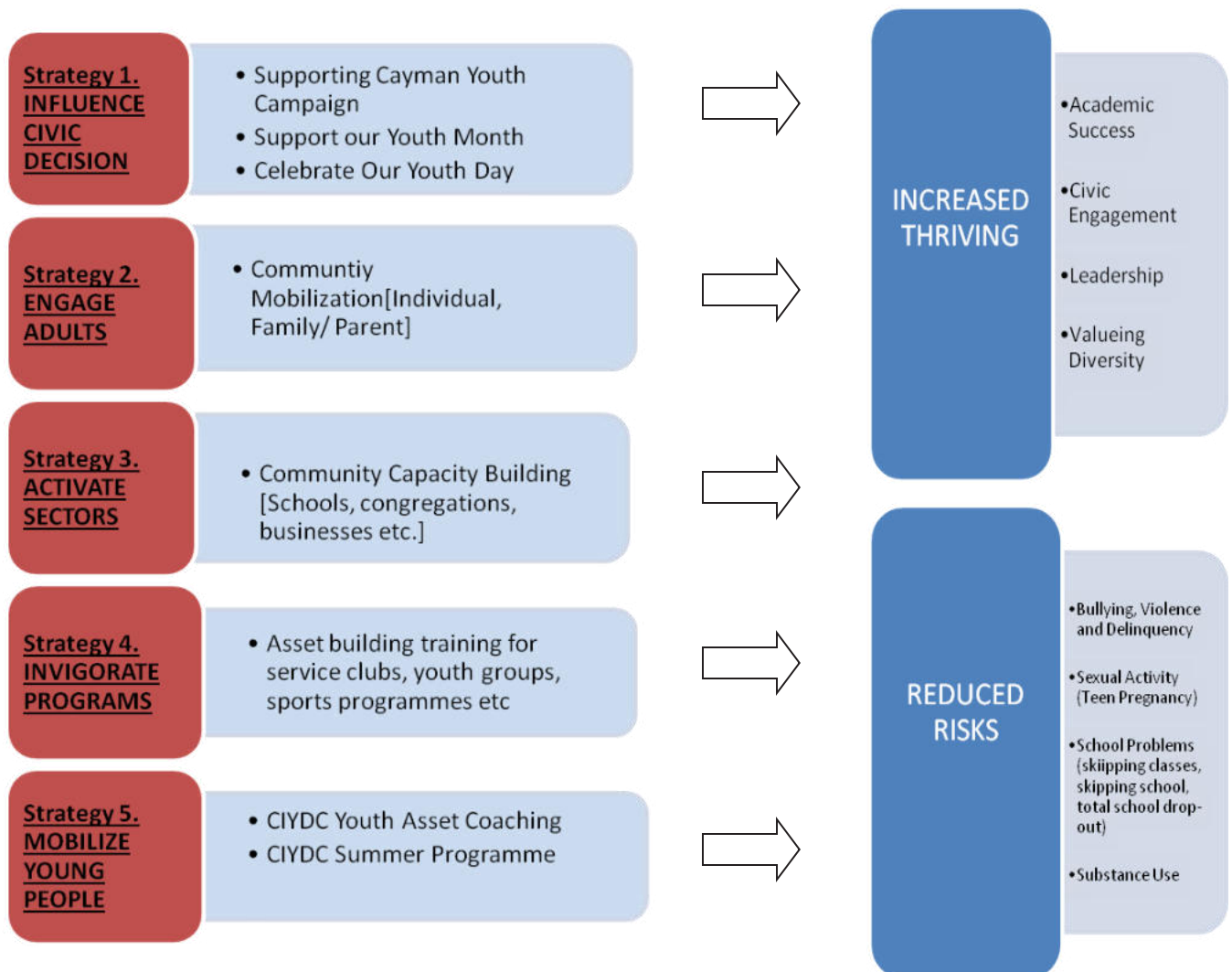
SUPPORT	EMPOWERMENT	BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS	CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME
1. Family Resource Centre 2. Big Brothers, Big Sisters	1. Save Our Youth Foundation 2. Youth Services Unit 3. Rotary/ Rotaract/ Rotaract Blue 4. Lion's Club/ Leo Club 5. Kiwanis/ Key Club 6. Cayman Aids Foundation 7. CI Red Cross 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 Programmes	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 Planning for Youth Success Conference 2021



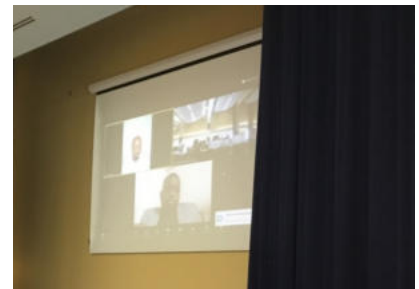
Objective of Planning for Youth Success Conference

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 "Resiliency—Bounce back with Assets".

Preliminary Activities

Welcome - Mr. Michael Wilks, CIYDC Chairperson (Zoom)

Welcomed all students and guests. The young people were encouraged that this year's theme on resiliency was timely because we have all experienced a pandemic that has affected all of our lives. Their ability to bounce back is a result of their internal qualities, that stem from their confidence, passion and purpose and external supports from people and institutions in their lives. The more of these internal and external assets they have, the more likely they are to succeed and bounce back from life challenges.



Prayer - Rev. Ricardo Henry, CIYDC Board Member (Zoom)

National Song - Jhanelle Colquhoun, Clifton Hunter High School Student

Opening Remarks - Mrs. Julianna O'Connor Connolly, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands (Pre-recorded Video) The pre-recorded opening remarks by Minister O'Connor Connolly made reference to the importance of the National Youth Policy and the involvement of public and private partners to help our young people succeed. She mentioned that schools and parents provided young people with assets that help them develop resiliency against the many societal ills that manifests themselves. She pointed out that with these assets young people would eventually contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of their nation.



Ice-breaker Activity - Asset Building Grand Mixer

After the preliminary activities of the conference attendees participated in an ice breaker activity and You are (positive statement about the other person) activity to promote cultural and interpersonal competence. It also gave them an opportunity to get acquainted with their peers.

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.

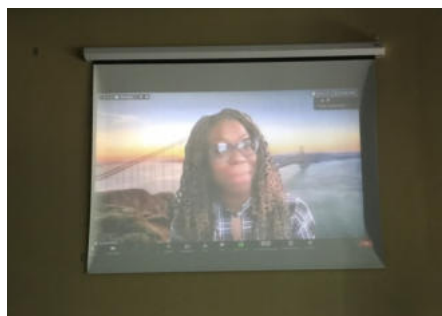


Ice-breaker Activity - Asset Building Grand Mixer

#3 Greatest lessons learnt in life thus far • focus/ do good in school • Knowledge is power • Not everybody like you • Don't go near a bee • Don't get caught • Life is not fair • Trust no one	#4 Advice would give to own children about life and growing up • Responsibility • To take up books and study • Get goals • Don't do it, don't grow up • Don't choose bad company • Keep your head up and don't give up
#5 People you admire • Family - always there • Jesus - because he gave me life • Parents and friends • Grandma - she is strong and motivational • Jesus Christ	#6 Some goals for the future • Become successful and get rich • Family and business • Become successful in life • Become a customs officer • To make all flights on airplanes free • Be in the NBA • Be richest person • Get married, start a family and dream job
#11 Hardest thing about growing up • School • Schoolwork • To know if you are making a proper future	• Going to new schools • Passing all classes in school • Self-consciousness, pain • Working • Trust others



Virtual Guest Speech on Zoom - Dr. John Lee, OBE Chief Medical Officer of Cayman Islands Government shared about his life growing up and about his current experience as Chief Medical Officer. He encouraged the students to use all the different aspects of their lives to grow, including turning to family and friends for support during times of great difficulty. He challenged them to be intentionally plan to shoot their arrows to their goals.



Virtual Keynote Speech on Zoom - Ms. Claudine Bailey, Attorney-at-Law, Legal Officer, Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade From a bouncing ball with scratches to diamond in the rough, Ms. Bailey made reference to her childhood experience and being in foster care. She encouraged the young people to bounce back from failure and loss. She challenged them to choose climbing higher rather than sinking lower.

What I Need to Succeed Session

The conference participants were introduced to the internal and external developmental assets. Focusing on their assets they were given an opportunity to rate each from 1 (lowest score) -10 (highest score). 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. The first level is the asset star who is working on one more of their assets, the second level is the asset champion who seeks to help another person develop their assets and the third level is the asset leader that gathers more than one person to work on or promote the assets.



Asset Star Plan

WHAT Asset Building Needs	HOW Actions to build assets	WHEN Frequency e.g. hours per week	RESULTS Progress to be achieved
Asset 25 Reading for pleasure = 1	Find interesting books either online or in a library that I would be interested in	Start reading at least 2 times a week	Increase reading for pleasure score
Asset 3 Other adult relationship = 1	Talk to my other relatives	2 times a week	Score should increase to 4
Asset 38 Self-esteem = 4	Go to therapy	Attend 4 times a week	
Asset 9 Service to others	Join a community service programme		
Asset 24 Bonding to school	Assist in cleaning campus or help teachers organize class		
Asset 36 Peaceful conflict resolution = 1 (I deal with conflict aggressively)	Tell or ask people about my way of dealing with conflict	During school break times	Will be able to deal with conflict non-violently

Asset Champion Plan

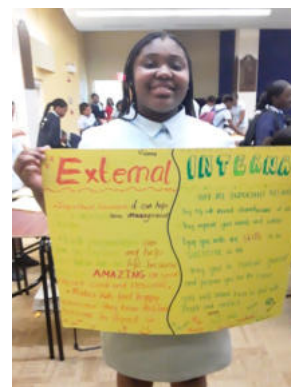
WHAT Asset Building Needs	HOW Actions to build assets	WHEN Frequency e.g. hours per week	RESULTS Progress to be achieved
Asset 39 Sense of Purpose = 1	Invite classmate to therapy	Every Saturday	Classmate find their purpose
Asset 8 Service to others = 1	Invite classmate to a club that gives community service	Attend once or twice a week	Will be more helpful to others
Asset 36 Peaceful conflict resolution	Invite classmate to counseling	3 times a week	Help their anger issue

Asset Leader Plan

WHAT Asset Building Needs	HOW Actions to build assets	WHEN Frequency e.g. hours per week	RESULTS Progress to be achieved
Asset 2 Positive family communication = 5	Ask students that score low to sign up. - Put posters and ads on social media - Have family game nights	Weekly	Help people communicate better with family
Asset 13 Neighborhood boundaries = 1	Start a program that allow students to walk around their neighborhood to talk to community members about monitoring young people	At least on Saturdays or Wednesdays after school	Progress in neighborhood boundaries
Asset 24 Bonding to school	Start a club where students and teachers can get to know each other better	Every Monday at lunch time in the library	To make the students have a better bond with school and teacher

Designing the Community for Youth Success

The young people worked on posters to highlight the importance of promoting the internal and external assets young people need in their communities.



Significant Successes

Success	Factors That Supported Success
Venue Clifton Hunter High School Attendees Attendance of young people excellent (planned for 80, 100+ attended)	- The receptiveness and professionalism of the principal and faculty that assisted with the project - The assistance of the student council

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 Virtual Celebrate Our Youth Day 2021

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 and implemented as a virtual version of the Planning For Youth Success Conference.

Through pre-recorded videos Clifton Hunter students featured various ways the school develop young people's assets that they need to succeed. They focused on Asset#5 Caring school climate, Asset#9 Service to others and the assets pertaining to commitment to learning.

Several organizations joined via Zoom as well YMCA, Cadets Corps, Family Resource Centre.

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

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

Conclusions, Implications & Recommendations

Conclusions and Implications

As reported before 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 hope of hosting the Planning for Youth Success conference at Clifton Hunter High School was to pilot the conference as an event other schools with adopt during Support Our Youth month. The intentionality and drive of the principal and the faculty that assisted on this project are key factors for the success of its implementation. The participation of the student council also contributed to the success of the conference.

The virtual celebrate our youth day was a good attempt but needed more timely responses and purposeful involvement of the asset stakeholders. A future project of CIYDC would be to include a virtual video showcase of organizations that help our young people succeed. However, instead of replacing the initial Celebrate Our Youth day event, the video showcase could be used to promote the event on social media.

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. Support Our Youth month need to be taken more seriously and seen as an opportunity to highlight their services.**
- **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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