

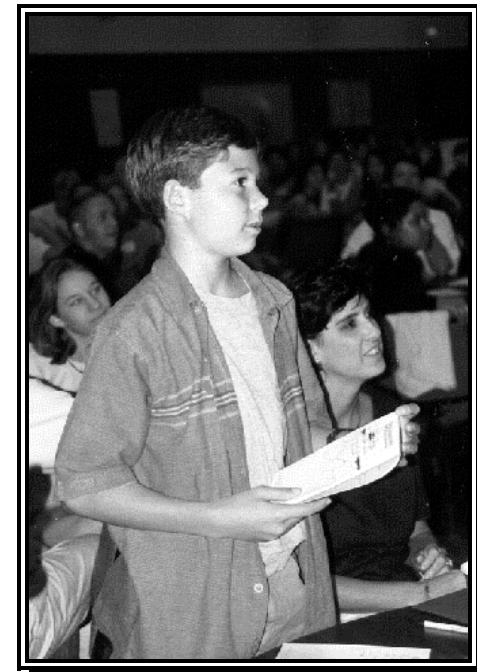
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

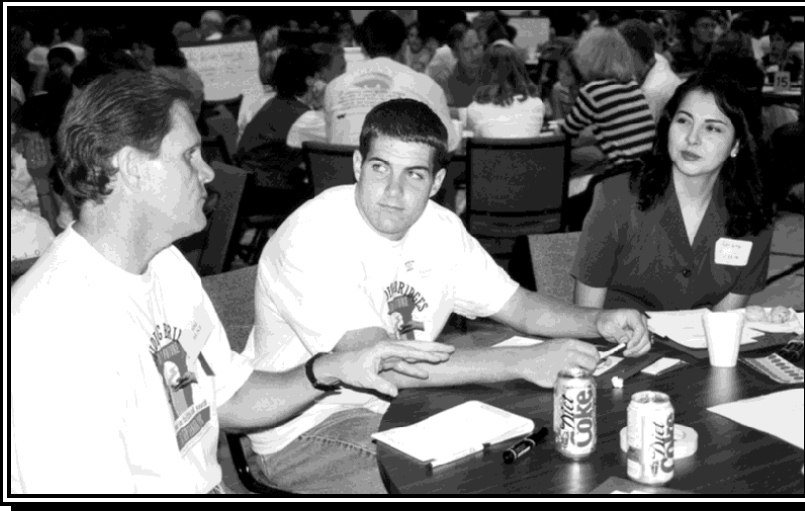
SUMMARY

Several things became apparent in the process of collecting the information for this document.

- **Information is not easily available.** Developing a more standardized method of collecting and reporting data is a critical element of good planning and allocation of community resources.
- **Information is Power.** Collecting accurate data and monitoring trends allows a community to focus on identifying needs and gaps; avoiding duplication of services; and supporting effective programs.
- **Every agency collects and reports data differently.** Most are not technologically compatible.
- **We must monitor developmental assets in Georgetown on a regular and ongoing basis.** This will assist us in evaluating asset-building efforts among all young people.
- **We must develop reliable information in many areas where currently there is a gap.** Some of these areas are early childhood; access to and availability of quality, affordable child care; healthcare accessibility; immunization rates; access to mental health services; parental involvement; volunteerism; involvement in religious activities; and youth involvement in creative and recreational activities outside of school.

A wide array of prevention, treatment, and support services is the first essential element of high quality, comprehensive service delivery in any community. Services should be sufficient in kind and number to meet the multiple needs of children, youth, and families, and to respond to the overlapping risk factors that lead to school failure, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, domestic violence, and other negative outcomes.

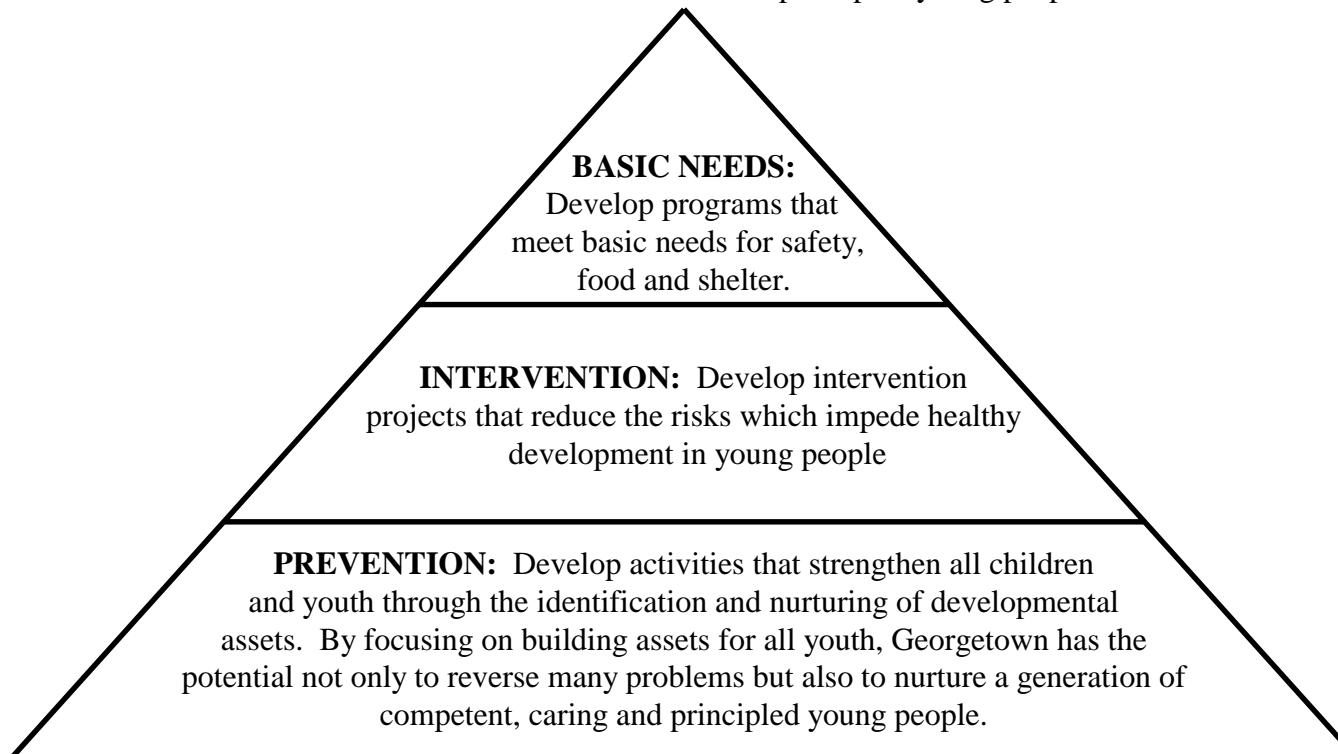




The Georgetown Project proposes three levels of action to ensure that a wide array of services exist for children, youth, and families:

- Programs that meet the needs for basic safety, food, and shelter.
- Activities that build the strengths of all children and youth through the identification and nurturing of developmental assets.

By focusing on building these assets for all youth, communities have the potential not only to reverse many problems but to nurture a generation of competent, caring, and principled young people.



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NEXT STEPS FOR THE GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY

We know that the great majority of children and families in Georgetown are not in crisis. However, all families face more complex problems today than they did in the past. Many young people in Georgetown do not experience sufficient asset development to ensure healthy development. Dr. Peter Benson, President of the Search Institute, suggests that ours is the most age-segregated generation in the history of the world. He says, "My concern is that in the past, the wisdom of the community was shared intergenerationally, especially in terms of sharing positive values. How do we share values with the young without having them hang around principled adults?"

The Georgetown Project recognizes the need for a more standardized and coordinated system for monitoring and reporting reliable data from a variety of community sources. To determine trends and identify major issues requires resources as well as a commitment from a cross section of organizations and agencies willing to participate. Building our community's capacity to assess the needs of children, youth, and families to ensure a safety net of programs and services is an important part of the mission of The Georgetown Project.

Our success in building a healthier environment in Georgetown ultimately depends upon how well we bring together our community--families, neighborhoods, government, education, business, religious, healthcare and nonprofit sectors--in a long-term commitment to be intentional about valuing children, youth and families. Once people have a commitment to creating a healthy community for children and adolescents, many other issues come into focus and the entire community will be transformed and renewed.

*Kasserian ingera...*and how are the children?

A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried on depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. The fate of humanity is in his hands.

-Abraham Lincoln