



THE GEORGETOWN PROJECT

Leaders In Youth Development Since 1997

Vision:

A community where no child is hungry, hurt, alone or rejected and where all children and youth believe they are loved, respected and treated with dignity.

Background:

The Georgetown Project (TGP) is a unique organization with a big, bold vision for a healthy community, and direct programming that seeks to increase positive connections between adults and youth. For the past 20 years, TGP has worked to inspire a shared belief and commitment that Georgetown can become a community where every single child is important, feels loved and respected, and has the opportunity to thrive. Continuing to mobilize adults to action around this philosophy might possibly be the most important work of The Georgetown Project. Visionary leaders came together in the mid-90's to proactively address concerns about increases in high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse, juvenile crime, gang graffiti, and early sexual activity among local youth. A task force of concerned leaders representing the city, county, education, law enforcement, healthcare, nonprofit, and faith communities dreamed and planned for 18 months to carefully lay the foundation for The Georgetown Project. The original planning group became excited about the unique opportunity to bring people together around a common vision for children and youth, and in January of 1997, The Georgetown Project began its work. The research-based 40 Developmental Assets framework of positive youth development, which builds upon the promise in every child, was selected as the foundation for change. Long-term success for TGP would be for all residents in the Georgetown community to embrace the Asset Approach, which is a critical shift in thinking from fixing young people's problems to promoting young people's strengths.

Mission:

The Georgetown Project identifies needs and develops resources, relationships and services so that our youth become caring, capable and resilient individuals.

Background:

The Georgetown Project fosters connectivity and relationship building among organizations serving children, youth and families so that true collaboration is possible. The 35-plus agencies and organizations involved with The Georgetown Project Collaborative for Children and Youth represent a strong, interconnected service community that maps local resources, identifies needs and gaps in services, and networks to fill the gaps for families. The Georgetown Project and partners identified the need and served as the initial catalyst for important services in our community today, including the Georgetown Community Resource Center, the Boys & Girls Club, the City of Georgetown's Teen Center, and a host of services for homeless families including The NEST drop-in center and overnight shelter. The Georgetown Project also produces the Snapshot of Georgetown Children and Youth, a point-in-time snapshot spotlighting key indicators and resources affecting the healthy development of Georgetown children and youth, used by many for data-driven decision making. TGP is recognized nationally as a successful model in community mobilization around the 40 Developmental Assets, mentoring communities across the globe, is a designated National Promise Place by America's Promise, and provided leadership to secure Georgetown's Best Intergenerational Community award designation in

2012. Youth development collaborations are also in place with Search Institute (Developmental Assets) and the Forum for Youth Investment (Ready by 21) at the national level. We have empowered youth, engaged parents, and mobilized our community to come together in new and creative ways around child and youth issues for the past 20 years.

The direct services of TGP are models in community collaboration and were created to fill identified gaps in local services along the stages of child and adolescent development. Asset-rich programs are offered through collaborative partnerships, mostly with Georgetown ISD, The City of Georgetown and Southwestern University, and align resources around shared goals for increasing positive social, emotional and educational outcomes for children and youth.

Direct program services include: After School Action Program (ASAP), Assets In Action, Bridges To Growth Parent Center, Community Interaction Partnership (CIP), Kid City and The NEST Empowerment Center & Host Home.

Collective Impact initiatives include: Assets Afterschool Alliance, Early Childhood Alliance, Youth Employment Alliance, and The Georgetown Project Collaborative for Children & Youth.

Core Values & Beliefs: We believe that.....

- Children and youth flourish when they feel that they are loved, respected, and treated with dignity in relationship with adults
- Adult contact with children and youth shapes the formation of beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors
- Family experiences shape the future of our children and youth
- One who is willing to intervene in the life of another helps to shape the life of that individual
- A child flourishes when he or she feels physically, emotionally, socially, economically and spiritually safe and secure
- The spiritual life of an individual brings meaning and unity to our community

Key Strategies:

- 1. Collaborate with existing organizations to map resources, identify gaps and create solutions to issues affecting children and youth.**
 - We partner with other non-profits and community leaders across multiple sectors to address child and youth issues in the community and provide a leadership role in encouraging a collaborative approach to understanding and filling gaps in services. Examples are The Georgetown Project Collaborative for Children & Youth and our collective impact Alliances focusing on youth employment, quality out-of-school time programming and early childhood.
 - We provide essential programs and services that support and empower Georgetown youth, from cradle to career, to become caring, capable and resilient individuals.
 - We are a local, community-based organization, and 100% of our programs and services benefit Georgetown children and youth.
- 2. Collect, analyze and publish data to help our community work smarter together with regards to community issues affecting children and youth.**

- We use data to spotlight emerging issues and gaps in youth development services and to create a culture that makes kids a priority in Georgetown. One example is the Snapshot of Georgetown Children & Youth.
- Over the past 20 years, important youth and family services have been created in Georgetown to fill the gaps for kids as a result of our collaborative leadership. A few examples are: Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown, Georgetown Community Resource Center, Georgetown Teen/Senior Center and The NEST Host Home and Empowerment Center.
- Every direct service program offered by The Georgetown Project was data-driven and created to fill identified gaps in child and youth development, from birth into young adulthood, and to intentionally build Developmental Assets in youth.

3. Utilize an inclusive planning process encouraging community participation and consensus building around a common vision for youth success.

- We promote coordination and alignment of child and youth services to improve outcomes and reduce duplication through The Georgetown Project Collaborative for Children & Youth.
- We are working with partners to develop common community wide goals for successful youth and provide leadership for measuring progress across community settings to determine if youth outcomes are improving.
- We currently provide backbone support and leadership of several collective impact initiatives to address specific gaps in local youth development, and/or to deepen collaborations and partnerships for greater impact. Examples are our Early Childhood Alliance, Afterschool Alliance and Youth Employment Alliance. Each are at different stages but all focus on developing common goals and measurement for continuous improvement in youth outcomes.

4. Encourage opportunities for youth voices to be heard.

- We give youth a voice on the most critical issues they are facing through Youth Summits, Service Learning Events and Leadership Training to provide youth from all walks of life with opportunities to lead, grow and serve.
- We provide leadership of The NEST Youth Action Council and support for The City of Georgetown Youth Advisory Board. We also engage young adults attending Southwestern University in leadership roles with our organization through strategic work-study partnerships and internships.
- We lead the movement for giving youth opportunities to serve on local boards and advisory groups. We were the first nonprofit to give young people a seat at the Board table and encouraged others to follow. Today, many organizations and agencies incorporate the youth voice in meaningful ways in Georgetown.

5. Apply the Developmental Asset model as a framework and philosophy.

- We promote best practices to support young people along a path to success. Examples are Developmental Assets, Developmental Relationships & Sparks. All focus on building positive interactions between youth and adults and are incorporated strategies in our programming. At our Bridges To Growth Parent Center we offer a full schedule of research-based training opportunities for parents and childcare workers, including Developmental Assets, Nurturing Parenting, Love & Logic, Active Parenting, Keep Connected and many others that support and build skills in parents with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- We provide training for schools, communities and organizations in the Developmental Assets framework of positive youth development.
- We are a national leader in mobilizing around the Developmental Assets and mentor schools, communities and organizations across the US and beyond seeking to replicate what we are doing in Georgetown.
- Developmental Assets framework provides the foundation for our community initiatives and partnerships and all direct service programming. And we measure the number of Developmental Assets in the lives of young people in our programs to gain insight about the supports, opportunities, experiences and relationships present—or lacking—at home, at school and in our community.