

## **News Release**

### **Eastern Upper Peninsula Youth Set Their Own Community Priorities**

September 25, 2008

**SAULT SAINTE MARIE** – Students from schools in Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties say they want to help area young people make better decisions and they are looking to adults around them help them understand what life is about and what their place is in the community.

Thirty-three young people gathered for a Youth Summit on September 24 in Sault Ste. Marie. The students met to review the results of “Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors” survey, which was conducted by the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development. The survey was taken by more than 1,400 students in the three-county area. Using the data to determine what they consider strengths and areas for concern, the students began a process of brainstorming ways to strengthen their communities by setting priorities for the next two years.

The survey is based on the 40 Developmental Assets™ framework was developed by Search Institute<sup>SM</sup>. Research has clearly shown the more assets a young person possesses, he or she is more likely to become caring competent adult and the less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Youth Summit participants identified three assets they felt were strengths of the eastern U.P. and were worthy of celebration. These were “Safety,” “School Boundaries” and “Personal Power.”

“What this means for the community is that young people in the eastern U.P. agree they feel loved and protected,” said Linda Remsburg, GLCYD youth development associate. “They also feel their schools are clear about what they expect from them and they have the power to shape their own futures. This is really good news.”

The three assets identified as areas of concern were “Community Values Youth,” “Restraint” and “Sense of Purpose.”

“The fact that the attendees chose these three assets as things they specifically want to improve shows that young people have an intense desire to learn more about how to be mature, capable citizens.” said Paul Olson, also a GLCYD youth development associate. “Their message couldn’t be clearer. They’re saying, ‘We want to learn to be more mature and we want adult help.’”

For more information about the 40 Developmental Assets in the Upper Peninsula, visit [www.soyreport.org](http://www.soyreport.org) or call GLCYD at 906-228-8919.

**Photo Cutline:** Thirty-three young people from Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties met for a Youth Summit to determine strengths and areas of concern for youth in the eastern U.P.



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