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# Cornerstone Connections

February 2007

## Register for the 4th Annual Asset Champions Breakfast on March 1, 2007

Please plan to join us at Project Cornerstone's Asset Champions Breakfast on March 1, 2007! This event gathers 800 local civic leaders, parents, youth, and school leaders to recognize the contributions of organizations and individuals who have supported the healthy development of children and youth in Santa Clara County.

Your attendance will honor asset building at its finest and celebrate the progress of our Santa Clara County-wide movement to ensure that all our children and youth have the assets they need to thrive.

This event **will** sell out, so be sure to register by February 15, 2007 at [our Web site](http://www.projectcornerstone.org) (visit <http://www.projectcornerstone.org> and click the link for the Asset Champions Breakfast). For more information, contact Myrna Pettengill at (408) 351-6482 or by e-mail at [mpettengill@scvymca.org](mailto:mpettengill@scvymca.org).

**NOTE:** If you plan to attend, remember the time is 7:00 a.m., the location is the San Jose Fairmont Hotel, and be sure to leave extra time to park your car!

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### Building Asset #40—Positive View of Personal Future



#### Instilling Hope Even During Difficult Times

People who have hope and a positive outlook are willing to tackle new challenges, and keep moving forward because they expect good things to happen even if their current situation is not ideal. When working with a young person to address a difficult issue or challenge, focus on identifying possible solutions instead of complaining about the problem. Help the child identify areas of hope. Be creative, flexible, and willing to adjust your viewpoint as you work together to create new strategies for addressing obstacles. The young person will develop competence and confidence to find positive ways to handle difficult situations in the future.

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### Quick Links...

[Register for the Fourth Annual Breakfast](#)

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### Join our mailing list!

## Santa Clara Unified School District and Project Cornerstone Host a City-Wide Kick-Off

Project Cornerstone continues to spread the message that children and youth in our community need more assets. On January 29, 2007, the Santa Clara Unified School District hosted a Project Cornerstone Kick-Off for local business, government, and non-profit and faith-based leaders. Superintendent Rod Adams and Principal Julie Topliff led the meeting, which was held at National Semiconductor. Project Cornerstone Executive Director Mary Patterson delivered an overview of the developmental assets model and reviewed local survey results. Students from Briarwood Elementary, Cabrillo Middle School, and Wilcox High School presented additional data and shared stories illustrating the challenges they face growing up in the City of Santa Clara. Participants worked in small groups, with a student assigned in each workgroup, to create an action plan for promoting developmental assets in their own organization. The results of these action plans will be reviewed at a follow-up meeting on June 13. Project Cornerstone extends our sincere thanks to the Santa Clara Unified School District and National Semiconductor for hosting the event.

## Project Cornerstone School Partnerships News

We're proud to announce the remarkable results of our School Partnerships program, which includes the popular *ABC*, *Los Dichos*, and *Expect Respect* programs:



- Project Cornerstone is actively involved with 104 schools throughout the county, serving K-12 students in 17 school districts.
- More than 950 trained volunteers are in the classroom every month as part of Project Cornerstone's *ABC* and *Los Dichos* programs. These volunteers read asset-building stories and lead activities with more than 30,000 students.
- 2700 students who have already attended our *Expect Respect* workshops this year are developing and implementing action plans to improve their school climate, resulting in the potential to positively impact nearly 50,000 students.

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