

# An Alliance for the Second Decade of Life

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### 1. What is Prepared by 20?

Prepared by 20 is a region-wide effort among an alliance of community leaders, educators, community organizations and residents to leverage resources and support for the optimal growth of young people in the second decade of life (10 to 20 years of age).

The short-term goal is that young people will have connections to mentors, resources and meaningful activities, and are progressing well in school.

The long-term goal is that all young people, by the time they are 20, will have graduated from high school, are gainfully employed or enrolled in post-secondary training or education, are making healthy life choices, and are maintaining healthy social connections.

Success for Prepared by 20 will be measured by an increase in graduation rates, literacy, community involvement, and post-secondary education; and a decrease in youth unemployment, gang activity, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

### 2. How does Prepared by 20 work?

Extensive research has shown that youth need 40 Developmental Assets<sup>®</sup> in their lives to help them avoid risk and thrive. These assets include support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and positive identity. To help them become caring, responsible caring adults, Prepared by 20 works to 1) equip youth with Developmental Assets; 2) leverage community resources; 3) engage students in learning; and 4) support families.

### 3. Is Prepared by 20 a new program?

It is not a new program. Through extensive community conversations, we found that our community has multiple sources for each of the 40 Developmental Assets. There is more of an urgency to create awareness and better connect people and resources rather than creating new programs.

### 4. Who is leading "Prepared by 20"?

Mark Griffin, Scout Executive, Blue Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America and the past President of Columbia Center Rotary, is the leader of a team of educators, citizens, and service providers behind Prepared by 20. Close to 40 community partners have pledged support for the initiative, and new ones are being added continually. As a natural extension to their commitment to the Community Solutions

planning and implementation process, United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties is also the facilitator of Prepared by 20, along with Our Babies Can't Wait.

5. What is the relationship between Community Solutions and "Prepared by 20"?  
Community Solutions, which started in October 2006, is a region-wide health and human services planning and implementation process for Benton and Franklin Counties involving over 200 community leaders. The Community Solutions Plan identifies four priority areas for the community to focus on to bring about improved community conditions and people's lives. They are: education, health, safety and self-sufficiency. Prepared by 20 is a Community Solutions initiative that addresses all four of the Community Solutions focus areas. Another Community Solutions Initiative is Our Babies Can't Wait, which focuses on the need to provide a caring and nurturing environment for children age 0 to 3.

6. Are there things that I, my business or my organization can do to help with the Prepared by 20 initiative?  
We all have the power to create changes in our community. By informing, educating and taking action, we can open up the communication lines between parents, youth, family members, schools, funders, local government, human service organizations, businesses, employers, churches, and volunteers. Here are some ways you can help: spread the word about Prepared by 20, put up posters around the community, include Prepared by 20 information in your company's publications, mobilize a neighborhood to support Prepared by 20, influence civic, faith-based or ethnic groups to become advocates, sponsor the printing of educational materials, influence government and funding organizations to enact new policies and allocated resources to support education reform, and volunteer with a Prepared by 20 group or agency. The level of involvement the residents of Benton and Franklin Counties has will determine the success of this initiative and the future of our community.