STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

“There’s nobody we don’t need”

Tom Mosgaller
Needs Vs. Assets

Neighborhood Needs Map
- Slum housing
- Crime
- Mental illness
- Drug abuse
- Rat bites
- Domestic violence
- Welfare dependency
- Illiteracy
- Alcoholism
- AIDS
- Pollution
- Unemployment
- Boarded-up buildings
- Child abuse
- Homelessness
- Abandonment

Neighborhood Assets Map
- Public Information
- Libraries
- Fire Depts.
- Public Schools
- Cultural Organizations
- Individual Businesses
- Religious Organizations
- Citizens Associations
- Home-Based Enterprise
- Gifts of Labeled People
- Associations of Business
- Individual Capacities
- Capital Improvement Expenditures
- Vacant Bldgs., Land, Etc.
- Social Service Agencies
- Higher Education Institutions
- Energy/Waste Resources
- Welfare Expenditures
Why an asset based approach

1. When people discover what they have, they find power
2. When people join together in new connections and relationships, they build power
3. When people become more productive together, they exercise their power to address problems and realize dreams.
The Geometry Lesson

In the beginning
Then...
Two Paths

- Make a lot of the same thing
- Hierarchy
- Predictability
- Procedures
- Risk mitigation
- Needs/services
- Consumers
- Rugged individuals

- Value uniqueness
- Relationships
- Surprise
- Story
- Try things
- Assets
- Citizens
- Associations
4 Principles

- Inside Out
- Bottom Up
- Citizen Led
- Asset-based
5 Asset Domains

- Individuals
- Associations
- Institutions
- Local Economy
- Physical World
6th Domain

The Gift of Story

People

Places

Events

Culture
Universals of relational organizing

• Intentional
• Mutual
• Require care
• Grounded in trust and forged in action
• Built before they are needed
The essential role of leaders is to connect the assets in a community (catalyst, connector, capacity builder)
Key Responsibility
3 Questions

What can you do for yourself?
What can you do with a little help?
What do you need someone else to do?
"Thus in all ways, I will transmit my community greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to me."

-from the Athenian Oath

Pericles, Mayor of Athens, Greece over 2000 years ago