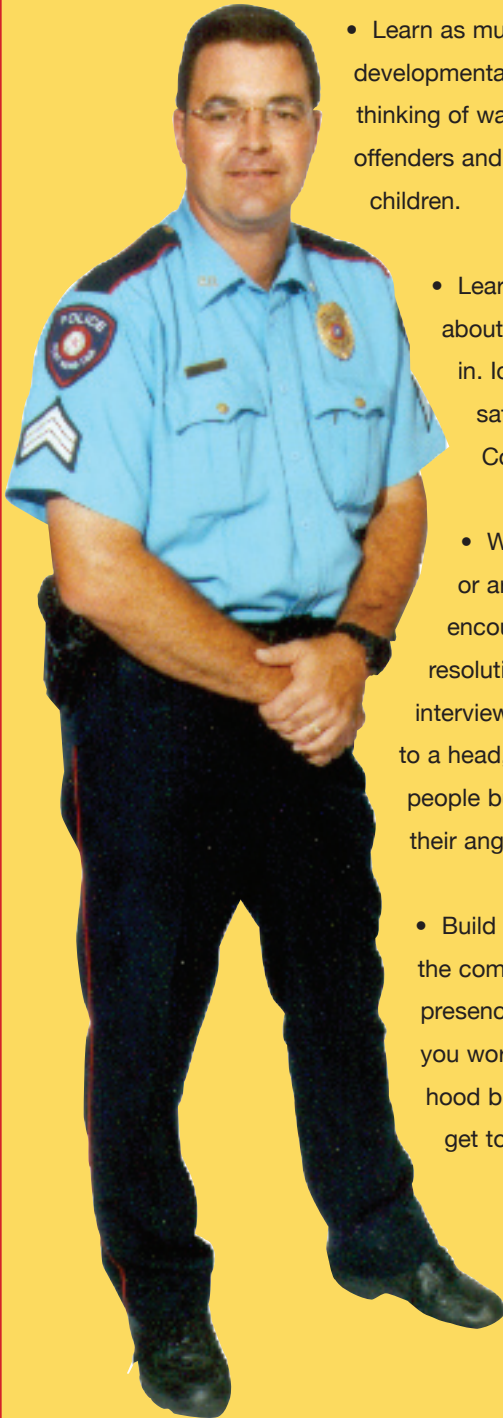


# ASSET-BUILDING IDEAS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Police officers play a unique role in our society because they're entrusted with considerable power to uphold the law while also creating a presence of safety. Becoming an asset-building police officer can add a new dimension to the job, a dimension that often is overlooked. Here are ideas on how to start building assets:



- Learn as much as you can about the 40 developmental assets. Use the list in thinking of ways to deal with juvenile offenders and also criminals who have children.
- Learn as much as you can about the community you work in. Identify areas of strength and safety besides areas of crime. Consider doing asset analysis.
- When handling family disputes or arguments between people, encourage peaceful conflict resolution. In addition to interviewing when conflicts come to a head, think of ways to help people build the skills to deal with their anger prevent violence.
- Build relationships with people in the community. Become a visible presence in the neighborhood where you work. Attend annual neighborhood block parties or events and get to know the people.
- Target high-crime areas to build assets. Find others within the area to partner with to build assets.
- Volunteer to visit a school to talk about safety. Emphasize how safe the community is instead of how dangerous it is. Talk about the type of calls you get the most. Young people often think that police officers are constantly having high speed chases and arresting murderers. Let them know about the other roles you play in the community.
- Work with families with teenagers to create "safe houses" (houses that will host teenage parties where liquor won't be available). Bring parents together to discuss ways to stop alcohol from being served at teen parties and how to create parties that teenagers will enjoy.
- With other officers, eat lunch at a local school on a monthly basis with the students. Get to know them and talk with them about what it's like to be police officer.

