

Community Asset Mapping

Updated 3.12.09

Asset Mapping Date is Wednesday, April 8, 2009

2 Sessions on the same day

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative (E.H.E.C.C.) is prepared to enter the initial phase of early childhood community planning. We hope to have a diverse community group sit together and organize a cohesive plan that would benefit young children and their families to be healthy and better prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Asset Mapping is a way to look at a community by what it has to offer its citizens. In other words, looking at a community's strengths. What better way to find out about a community than by asking its citizens what they know works in their community. By engaging in this process the EHECC can improve its connections within the community; can help strengthen the community by having citizens invest in the community's assets and help strengthen current and future community based projects, activities and proposals such as an early childhood community plan. Going through this activity together can help citizens realize how much their community has to offer. It can also help people make new connections within their community.

Community assets are defined by five categories:

Local Residents – skills, experiences, passions, capacities and willingness to contribute to the project. Special attention is paid to residents who are sometimes “marginalized”.

Local Voluntary Organizations – associations, clubs and networks e.g., all of the athletic, cultural, social, faith-based, etc. groups powered by volunteer members which might contribute to the project.

Local Institutions – public institutions such as schools, libraries, parks, police stations, etc. which might contribute to the project.

Physical Assets – the land, the buildings, the infrastructure, transportation, etc. which might contribute to the project.

Economic Assets – what people produce and consume, businesses, informal economic exchanges, barter relationships, etc.

What can be gained from this activity is the emergence of a more complete picture of East Haven that will better inform its residents of what East Haven has to offer individuals and families.

The EHECC will be starting a one-on-one campaign, by telephone or face to face to ask citizens to participate in the asset mapping process that typically lasts about 3 hours. An asset mapping session will ask participants to examine their community in terms of the five categories above. It is basically a data collection meeting with citizens based upon their experiences in and knowledge of the community.

The EHECC would like to have interested citizen's contact information in order to inform people of the asset meeting date. We plan to hold a 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and a 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. session on the same day with food.