

ASSET MAPPING - Resources

"Asset Mapping" is *the process of identifying the gifts, resources, abilities, strengths, and problem-solving skills of any given community*. The identification of a community's rich resources begins, and is sustained, by *intentional and broad-based connections*, or what Paul Born calls, "Community Conversations" (Paul Born, Community Conversations, Second Edition, 2012, BPS Books, Toronto & New York).

Conversations begin with *intentional connections*. John McKnight and Peter Block insist, "...we know that *the power of what we have grows from creating new connections and relationships among us and between us and between what we have...*we know that these connections are no accident. They happen when we individually and collectively act to make the connections - they just don't happen by themselves." (John McKnight and Peter Block, The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods, 2010, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., San Francisco). A classic volume that explains and applies the concepts and practices of 'Asset-Based Community Development' is

Building Community from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets (John McKnight and John P. Kretzmann, ACTA Publications, Chicago, 1993)

The application of "ABCD" (Asset-based Community Development) has obvious and immediate application to the local congregation whose members have been gifted by the Holy Spirit of their Baptism with *abundant and varied gifts to create and sustain an "Abundant Community" of evangelizing disciples* (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-26). A training process that assesses the interests, challenges and gifts of a local congregation's neighborhood, "Planting Gospel Seeds While Serving Human Needs" utilizes some of the concepts of ABCD and can be designed to address a particular congregation's community outreach needs. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, 314-956-2005,

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