

Asset-Based Community Development



abcd
INSTITUTE

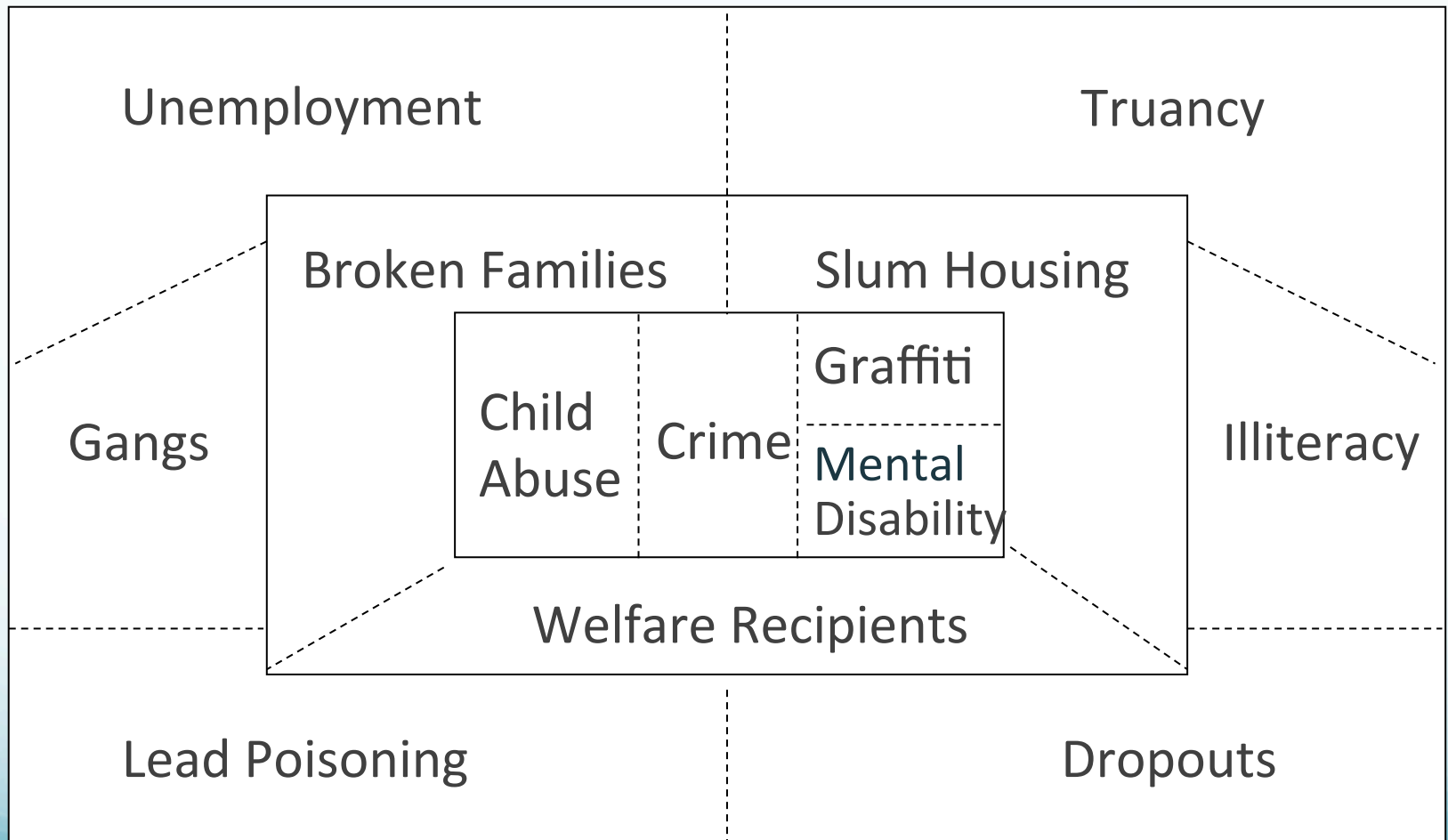
The Dilemma . . .



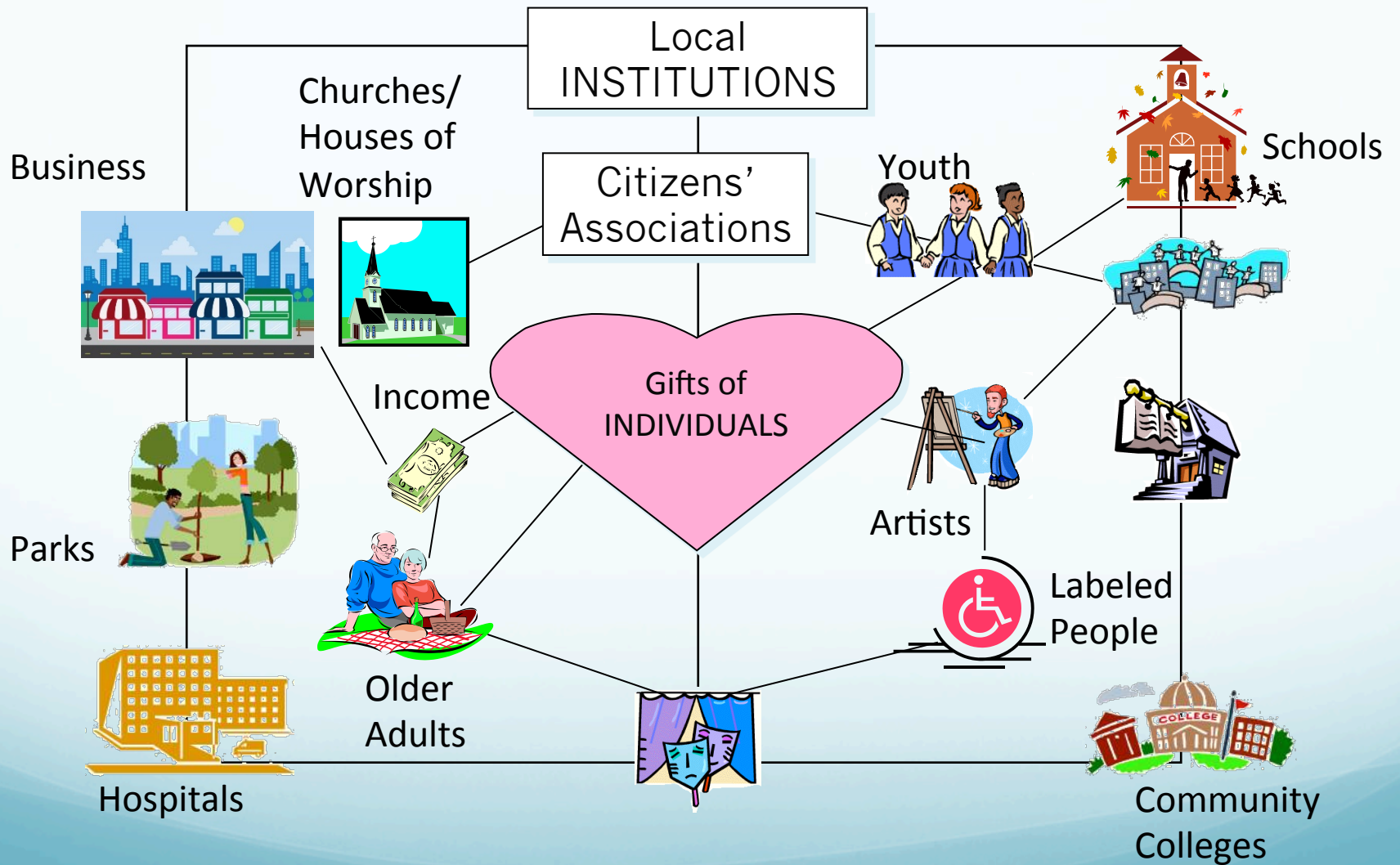
People and Communities
have *deficiencies & needs*

Individuals and Communities
have *assets and capacities*

Neighborhoods Needs Map



Community Assets Map



Consequences of the Needs Map for Local Residents

- “We are deficient”
- Our local relationships are damaged
- Most money comes into our community for programs – often narrowly defined
- Money can get misdirected towards professional helpers, not residents
- We place focus on leaders who magnify deficiencies
- We reward failure and foster dependency on systems
- Our community has a poor self-image
- We experience hopelessness

Individuals



Sample Personal Capacity Inventory

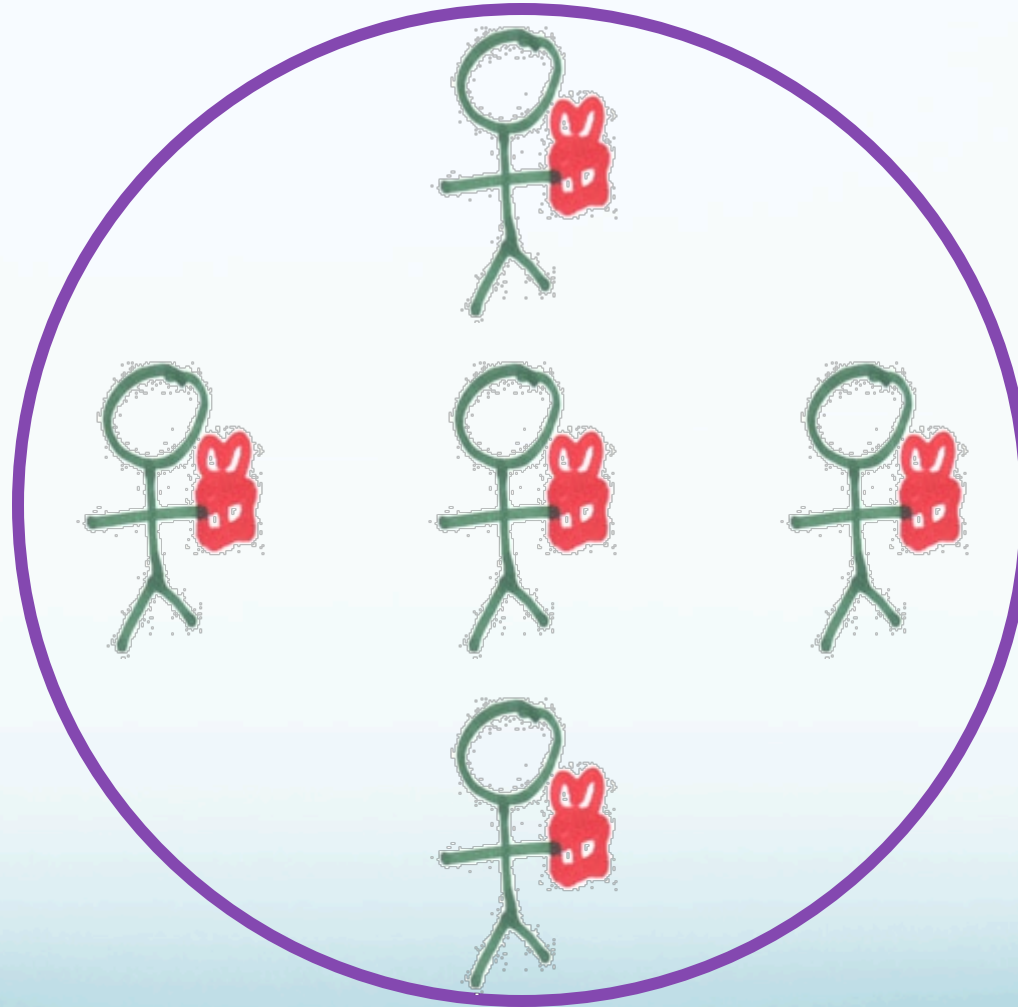
Gifts I Can Give To My Community

Gifts of the Head (Things I know something about and would enjoy talking about with others, e.g., art, history, movies, birds).

Gifts of the Hands (Things or skills I know how to do and would like to share with others, e.g., carpentry, sports, gardening, cooking).

Gifts of the Heart (Things I care deeply about, e.g., protection of the environment, civic life, children).

Associations



What are Local Voluntary Associations?

- Groups of two or more residents joined together around a common activity or interest, often sharing a common passion, care and interest.
- Might have a small paid staff, but
- Members always create the vision and engage in the work to achieve the goal.

Typical Neighborhood Associations

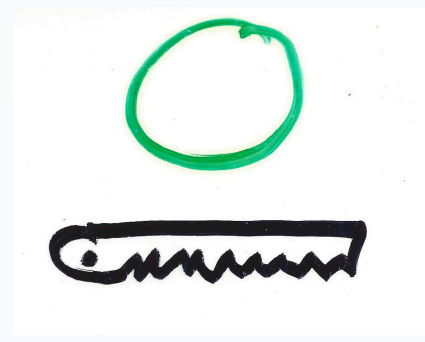
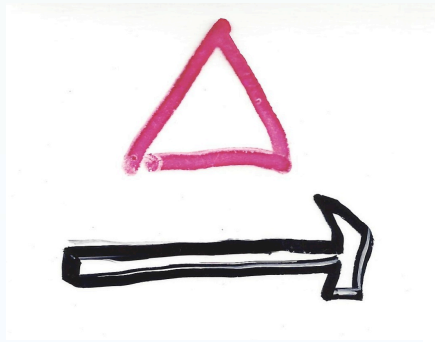
- Addiction Prevention and Recovery Groups
- Advisory Community Support Groups
- Animal Care Groups
- Anti Crime Groups
- Block Clubs
- Business Organizations/Support Groups
- Charitable Groups and Drives
- Civic Events Groups
- Cultural Groups
- Disability/Special Needs Groups
- Education Groups
- Elderly Groups
- Environmental Groups
- Family Support Groups
- Health Advocacy & Fitness Groups

Typical Neighborhood Associations (cont'd)

- Heritage Groups
- Hobby and Collectors Groups
- Men's Groups
- Mentoring Groups
- Mutual Support Groups
- Neighborhood Improvement Groups
- Political Organizations
- Recreation Groups
- Religious Groups
- Service Clubs
- Social Groups
- Social Cause/Advocacy Issues Groups
- Unions
- Veteran's Groups
- Women's Groups
- Youth Groups

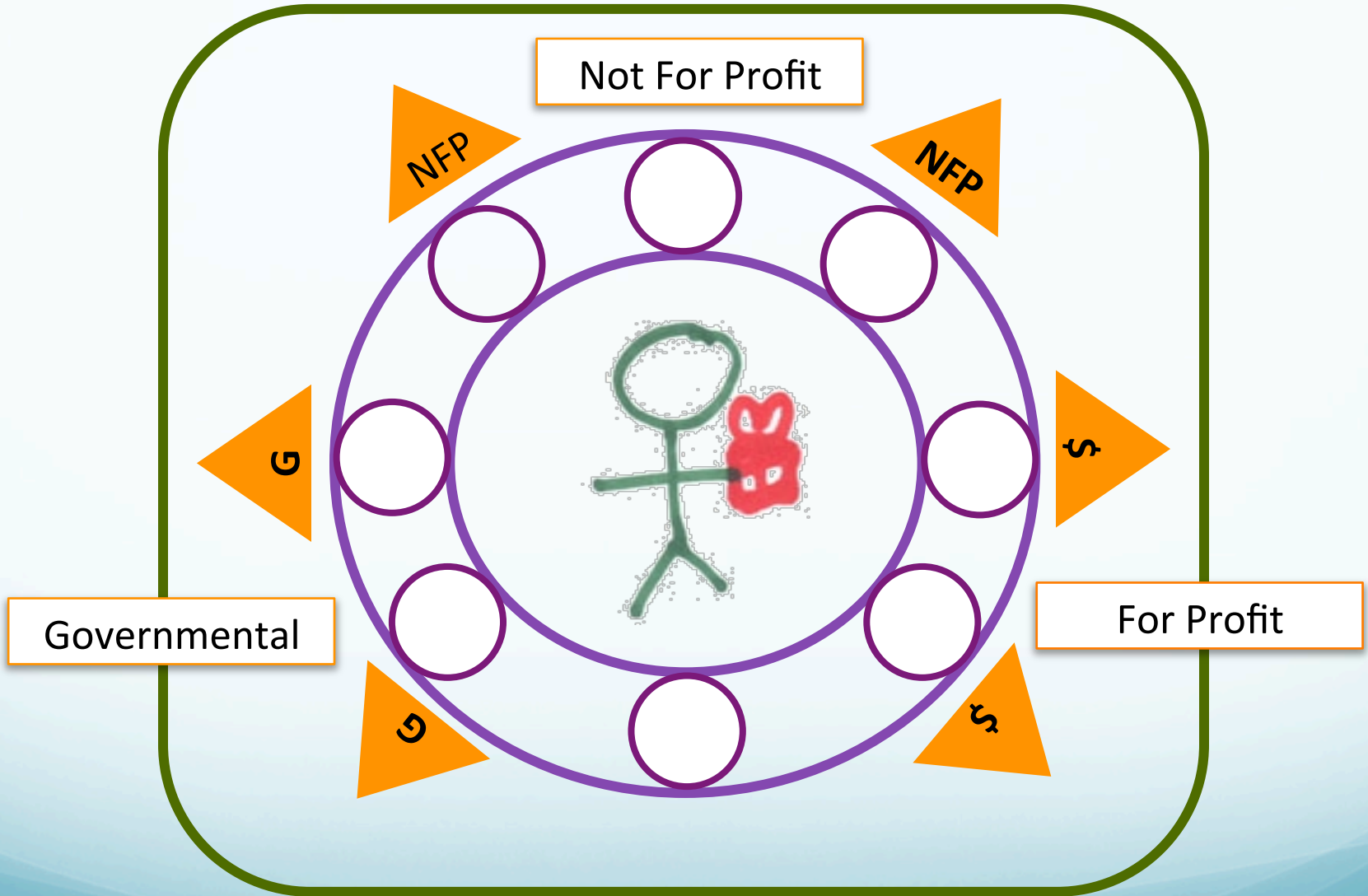
Local Institutions

- Schools
- Libraries
- Parks
- Law Enforcement
- Colleges, Universities, Trade Schools
- Health and Human Services Agencies
- Non-Profits
- Private Business

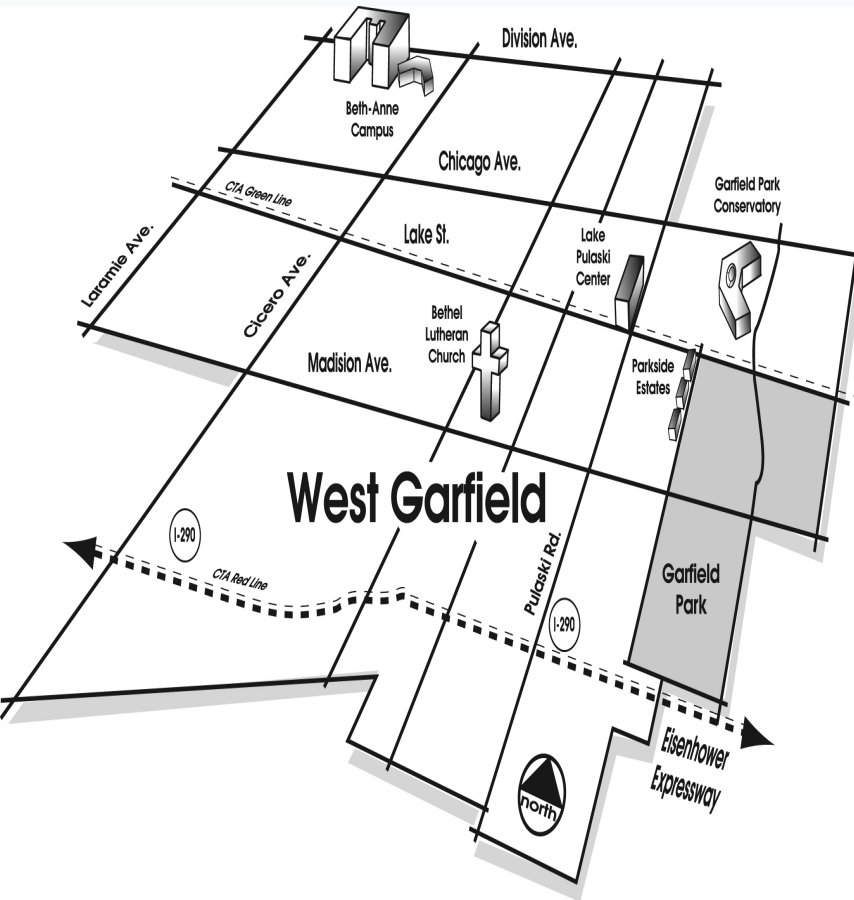


CONTROL	CHOICE
PRODUCTION GOODS SERVICES	CARE
CLIENTS CONSUMER	CITIZEN
NEEDS	CAPACITY

Physical Space



Assets- Community (physical, social capital, economy)



- Recognize your physical assets & economic ones
- Look with new eyes
- Bethel - abandoned school, closed down hospital, transit stop, conservatory
- Look at the assets of the economy of the community-businesses, etc.
- Build partnerships
- Keep evolving

Exchange

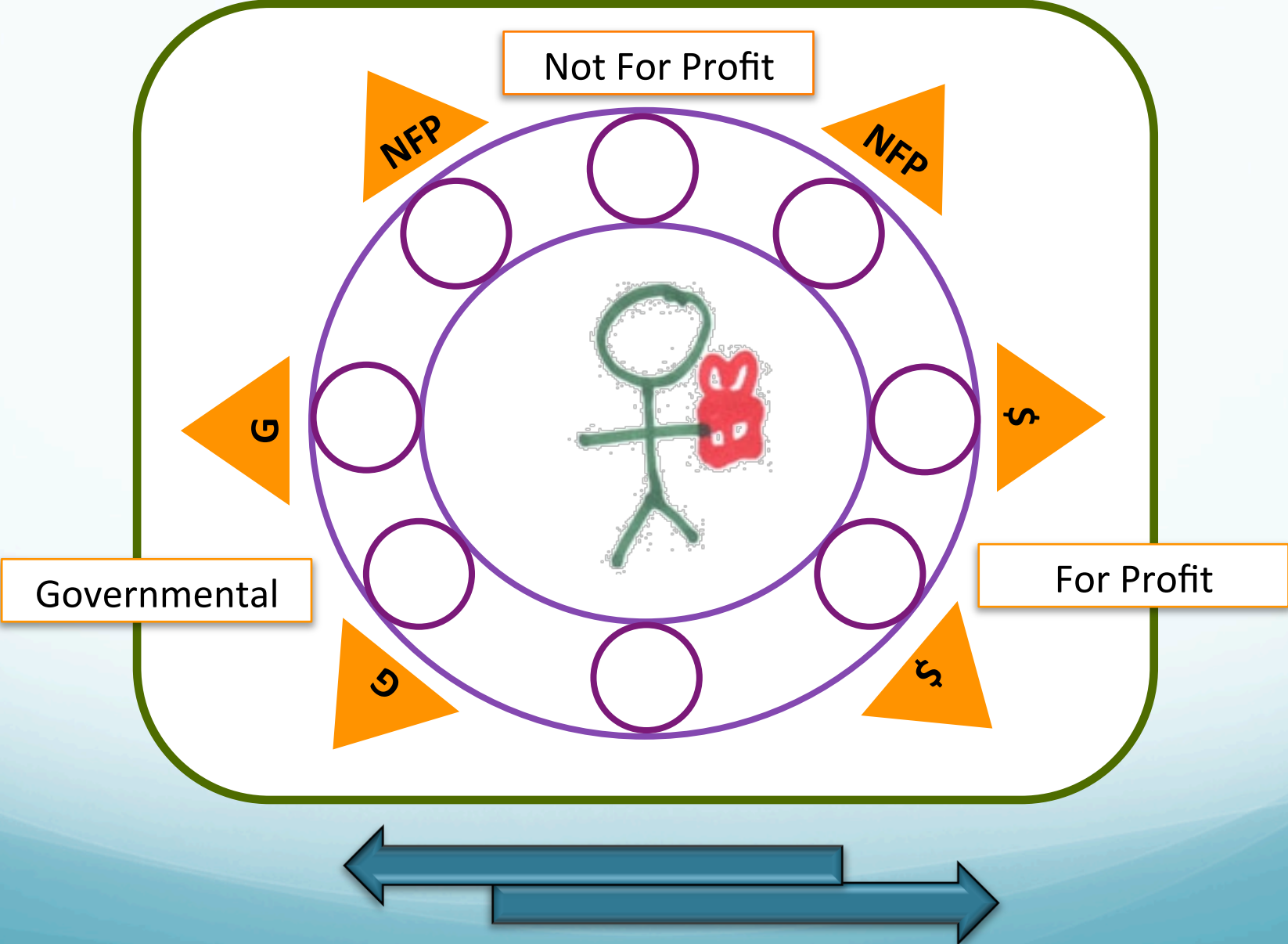
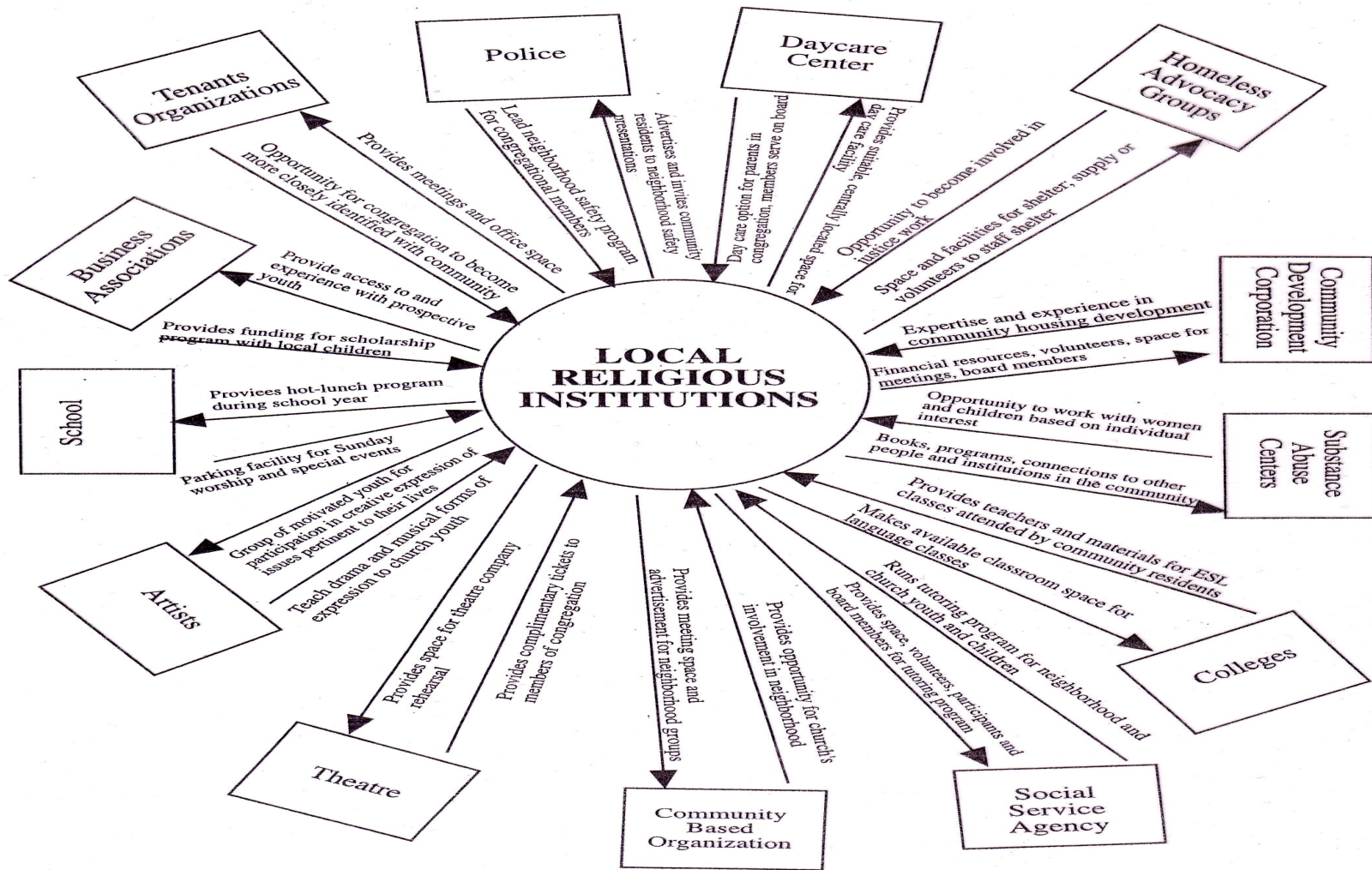
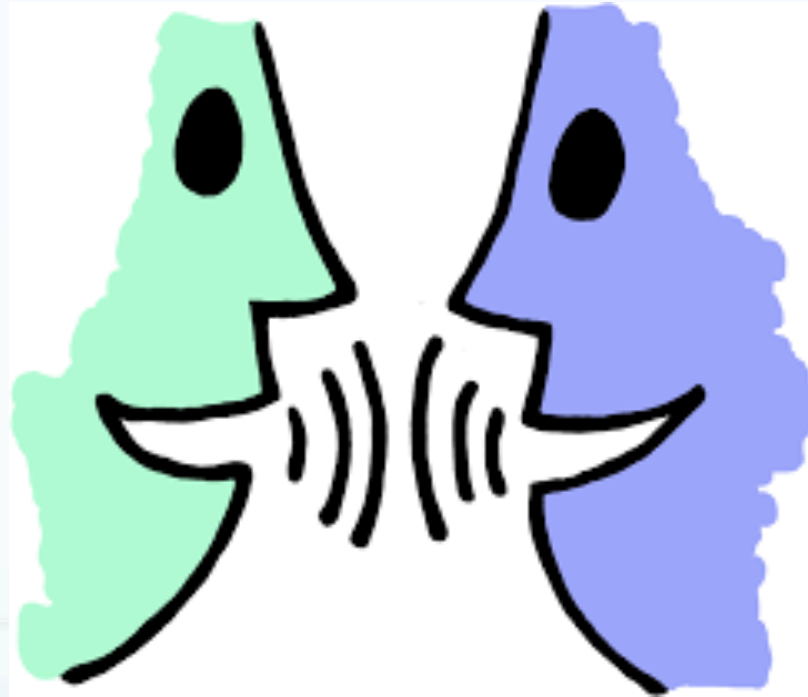


Chart Three: One on One Relationships



Culture, Stories and History



Six Community Assets

Individuals

Associations

Institutions

Physical Space

Exchange

Culture/Stories/History

Basic ABCD Findings

- In every story, neighbors know about the **local assets**.
- Successful neighborhood action is the result of assets that were not connected being **connected**.
- To connect assets there must be a **connector**, i.e. individuals, associations or local institutions.

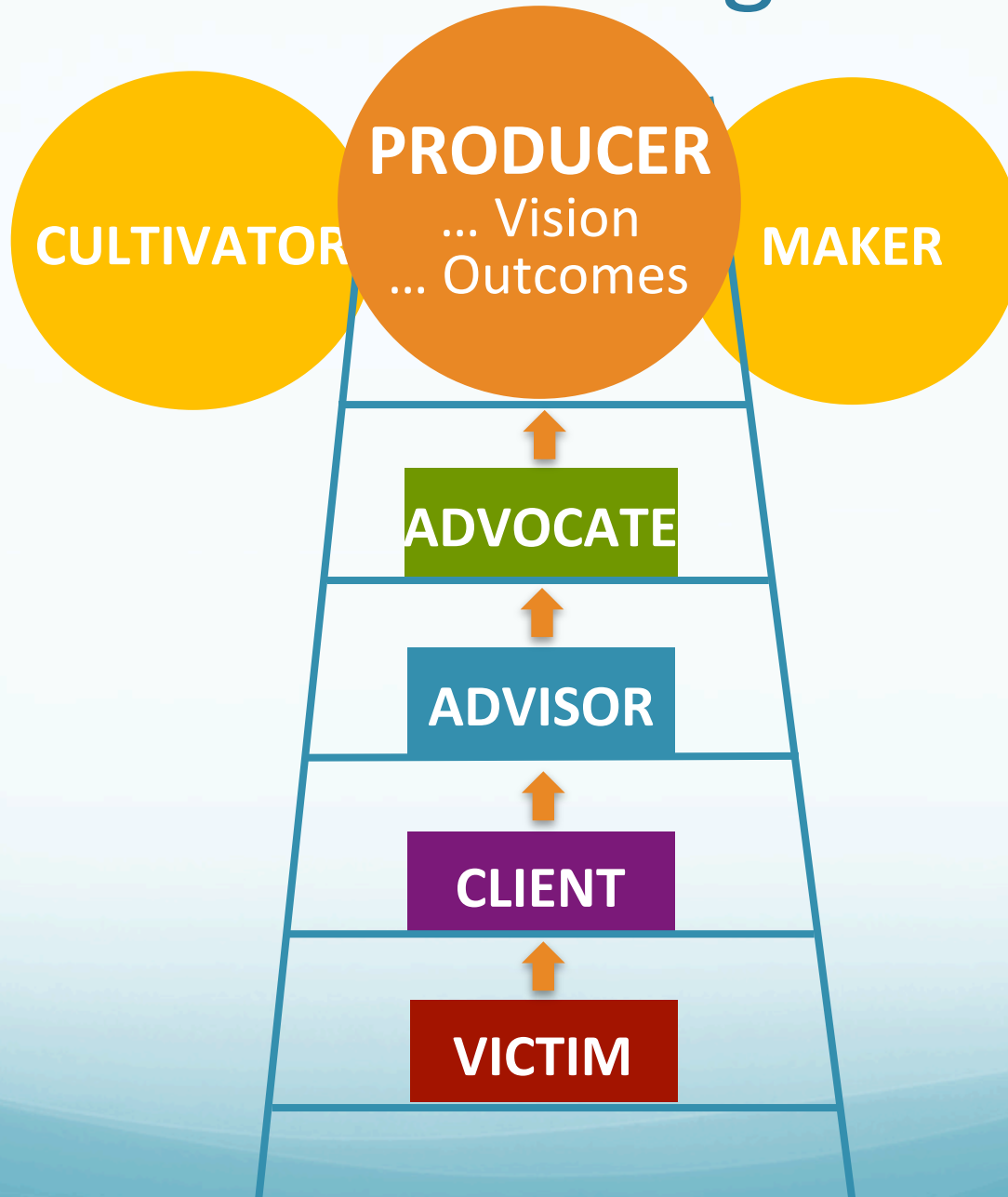
Connector's Skills

- Gift centered
- Well connected
- Trusted
- Believes community is welcoming

Three Planning Questions

- As neighbors, what can we achieve by using our own assets?
- What can we achieve with our own assets if we get some outside help?
- What can't we do with our assets that must be done by outsiders?

Citizen Power Progression



Community Development



*Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have;
But of the best leaders
when their task is done
The people will remark
“We have done it ourselves.”*