

# What Do Kids Need to Succeed?

Tight webs of support help youth develop resiliency. This web is made up of "protective factors," guiding youth to make good decisions and to grow to be healthy, principled, and successful.

The supportive adults ("Anchors") in a young person's life offer both tangible and intangible protective factors – which we call "strings" – to guide their growth and development.

A web with many strings provides a strong safety net, with anchors providing authentic caring and high expectations.

The Hastings Way initiative gathered inputs from around our community. These inputs have been compiled in a handbook for use by adults and teens throughout Hastings. The handbook is full of great ideas for strengthening webs.

Every youth in Hastings needs a strong web! Join us in making that happen.

*Orange: the tangible factors adults provide for youth, like nutritious food, shelter, clothing, and time*

*Yellow: intangible factors adults provide for youth, like love, care, self-respect, and courage*

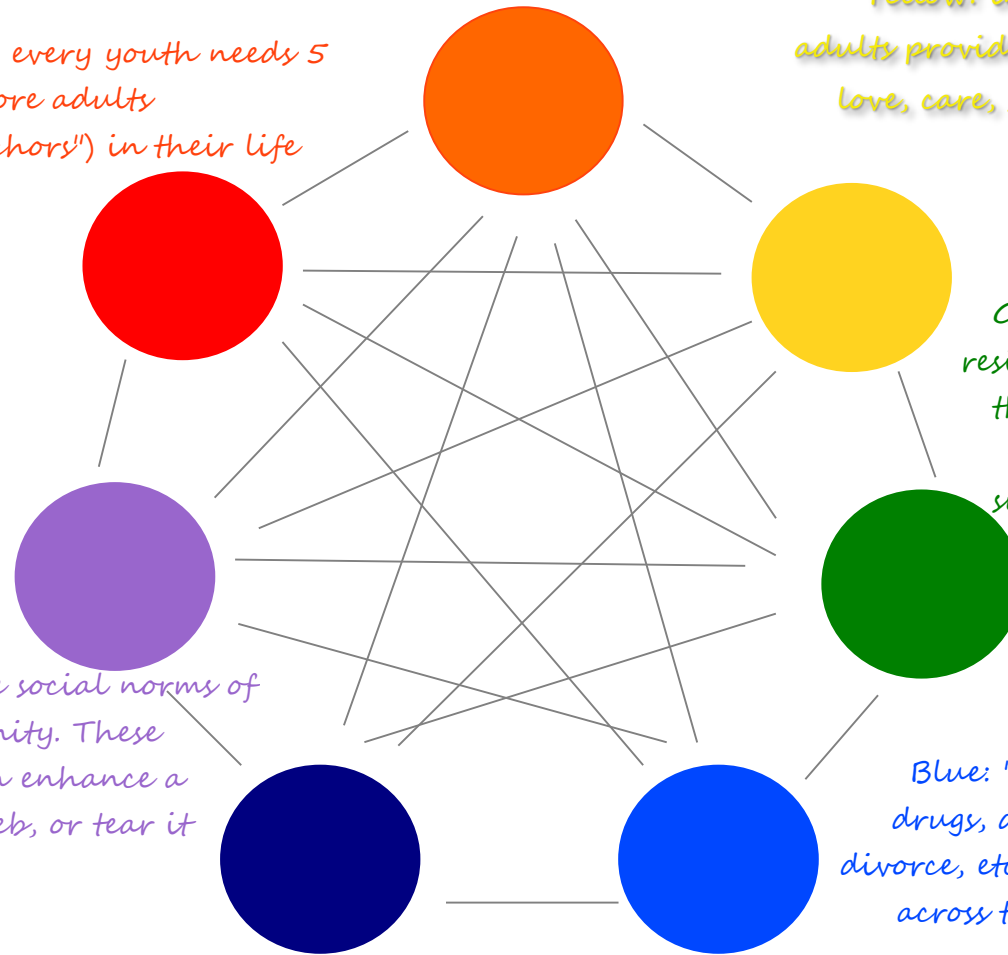
*Green: the innate resiliency of youth, their personality, their values, the sum total of their makeup*

*Blue: "scissor cuts," like drugs, drinking, moving, divorce, etc. sever the strings across the youth's web of support*

*Red: every youth needs 5 or more adults ("Anchors") in their life*

*Violet: the social norms of a community. These norms can enhance a youth's web, or tear it down*

*Indigo: "caring for the care'rs." Each of a youth's Anchors needs 5 people of their own to turn to for support and strength*



**The "Helping Kids Succeed: The Hastings Way" handbook available at the United Way of Hastings office!**



# Strong Webs of Support

More than fifty years of research proves tight webs of support between teens and caring adults leads to success in school, acceptance of others, and avoidance of alcohol, drugs and violence.

“Webs of support” come from 5 or more adult anchors in a youth's life. Anchors 1.) care for the youth's well-being, and 2.) expect more of young people than they expect of themselves, and 3.) guide youth into achieving those expectations.

***Strong webs of support are a better indicator of eventual adult success than income, demographics, race, or a wide range of other factors.***

Webs are built at home, school, church, on a team, on the job, in quiet conversations, etc. Kids need adults in their lives more today than ever before.

Adults must focus on growing the positive attributes we want to see in our young people, and in the next generation.

## Hastings Teen Key Opinion Leaders



Our student leaders are playing a key role in designing, developing, and implementing projects supporting the Helping Kids Succeed – The Hastings Way initiative

### Contact

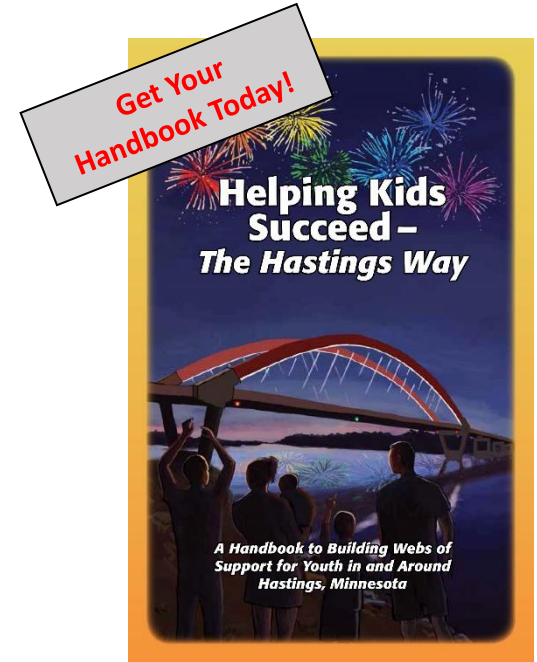
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***A donation of \$5 per handbook is appreciated***



A community-wide initiative to grow & enhance strong, healthy webs of support for all youth and adults in Hastings, MN

**GET THE HANDBOOK  
READ IT  
APPLY IT  
PASS IT ON**



*Funding by United Way of Hastings in collaboration with other community groups*