

Helping Kids Succeed

INITIATIVE

Goal: Every young person in Hastings is strong, resilient, & connected



WHY?

Kids with healthy webs of support do better on every measure of success, reduce risk-taking behaviors, & develop grit & resilience to face life's challenges.

WHAT?

Helping Kids Succeed (HKS) is a youth & community development initiative. We help young people create & nurture healthy webs of support.

WHAT'S A WEB OF SUPPORT?

Strong "webs of support" are made up of 5 or more trusted, caring adult "anchors" in the lives of young people. Strong webs help kids "bounce back" when bad things happen.



WHAT'S AN ANCHOR?

Anchors are trusted, caring adults who have a young person's best interests at heart, & high expectations for their future. They can be parents, extended family, teachers, coaches, bosses, church members, family friends, neighbors, etc.



EVERY KID NEEDS 5

Repeated studies show having **5 or more** anchors builds student achievement, civic mindedness & supports a successful transition to adulthood.



A strong web reduces school failure, bullying, drug & alcohol use, absenteeism, the impact of mental health issues, suicidal thoughts & behaviors, etc.

STRONG WEBS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS!

We each need a strong web of support. Supportive friends & family are important to everyone.

Despite our technology & ample standards of living, people are lonelier today than ever.



www.unitedwayofhastings/helpingkidssucceed.org



Helping Kids Succeed

IMPACT

Mission: Ensure every child in Hastings has a strong web of support

Our journey so far...

2013



Creation of the Helping Kids Succeed (HKS) initiative.

Initiate a teen leadership development & training team (YES Team).

Over 50 students have been members.

2014

Publication of the HKS handbook.

Over 900 ideas from the community on how to build webs of support for young people.



Impact: how well-connected are kids in Hastings?

2015

Survey 40 Hastings High School (HHS) boys (9-12th grade).

20% report having 0 anchors in their lives.

20%

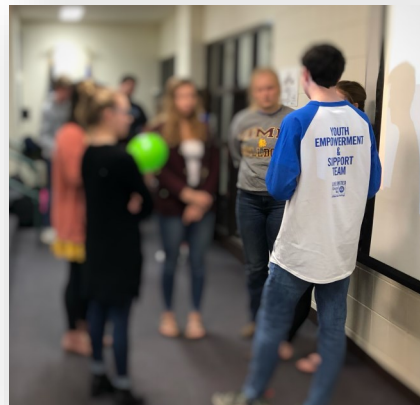
2017

HKS model presented to Hastings 6th, 7th, 8th & 10th graders.

Survey 360 8th graders.

15% report 3 or fewer anchors in their lives.

58% want more info on HOW to build a strong web of support.



2018

HKS model presented to 5th—8th graders.

75%

Survey of 8th graders finds a 75% retention rate from previous year.

2019

Train 8th & 9th graders on how to build webs of support.

Approximately 15% report 3 or fewer anchors in their lives.

2020

58% of 6, 7, 8th graders report wanting to spend more time with their adult Anchors.

Communities in Schools (CIS) collaboration led to 25+ failing students improving grades and passing classes, while distance learning during the pandemic.

We've worked with over 2,000 students in 7 years. Young people in Hastings are hungry for connection, healthy relationships, meaning, & purpose.