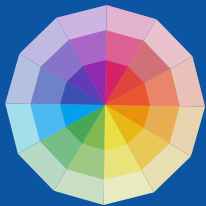


# HELPING KIDS SUCCEED



A COMMUNITY-  
WIDE YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE FROM  
UNITED WAY OF  
HASTINGS

## "WEBS OF SUPPORT?"

More than fifty years of research proves tight webs of support between youth & adults leads to greater success in school, more acceptance of others, & avoidance of alcohol, drugs, bullying, & violence.

This web is made up of protective factors, or "strings," guiding youth to make good decisions, uncover their strengths, & help them overcome adversity.

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

Adults *must* spend time with youth, growing the positive qualities we want to see in our children, teens & young adults.

Home, family, school, church, & community are all sources of support for young people in Hastings.

United Way of Hastings | 113 2nd Street E, Ste 102 | Hastings, MN 55033  
[www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org)  
651-438-3337



# HELPING KIDS SUCCEED MODEL

## RED = ANCHORS

5 is the magic number. Young people with 5 or more trusted, caring adults in their web do better on every measure of success now & in the future.

## STRINGS

The model has 20 Orange ("tangible") & 20 Yellow ("intangible") strings. The more Anchors = the more strings in a web. The more strings, the stronger the web of support.

## GREEN = THE BALLOON

The green Balloon (youth) can bounce on the web, or push down through the strings. The best way to amplify the Balloon's strengths is to strengthen their web.

## BLUE = SCISSOR CUTS TO THE WEB

Scissor cuts erode the web - some are external, like divorce, mental health issues, or changing schools. Others are self-imposed, like too much screen time, substance use, or non-supportive friends.

## INDIGO = CARING FOR THE CARE'ERS

All Anchors need a web of support, too.  
Webs help everyone!

## VIOLET = SOCIAL NORMS

Social norms are community-wide beliefs, values, & standards. They can be positive or negative, difficult to change. They support or erode a young person's web.

## YOU NEED A WEB

We all need a web! Positive, healthy relationships with trusted, caring adults helps you with the challenges of being a teen & young adult. Anchors help you grow your gifts & talents, show how to overcome adversity, & provide help & support.

A web with many strings has the power to help you live a rich, meaningful life, now & in the future.