"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.
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.

WEBS OF SUPPORT

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.