

# HELPING KIDS SUCCEED

# INITIATIVE

## WHAT?

Helping Kids Succeed (HKS) is a youth & community development initiative from UWH.

We help young people create & nurture healthy webs of support.



## WHY?

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

## 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.



## ANCHOR?

Anchors: trusted, caring adults. Have a young person's best interests at heart, & high expectations for their future. Parents, family, teachers, coaches, bosses, church members, family friends, neighbors, etc.

## EVERY YOUTH 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-NOT JUST FOR KIDS!

We all need a strong web of support! Friends & family are important to everyone. Despite our technology & ample standards of living, people are lonelier today than ever.

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# IMPACT

2013

Creation of the Helping Kids Succeed (HKS) initiative. UWH a key community partner.



Start teen leadership development & presentation team (YES Team).

Over 55 team alumni to date.

2014

Publication of the HKS handbook. Over 900 ideas submitted from Hastings community members on how to build webs of support for young people.



HOW WELL-CONNECTED ARE YOUTH IN HASTINGS?

STRONGER WEBS NEEDED

2015

Survey of 40 Hastings High School (HHS) male students (9-12th grade).

20% report having 0 anchors in their lives.



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.

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

2019

Present to 8th & 9th graders: **15% report 3 or fewer anchors in their lives.**



2021

HKS model presented to 5th-8th graders, 9th grade. **21% report 2 or fewer anchors in their lives.**

**Vision: Every young person in Hastings is strong, resilient, & connected**  
**Mission: Ensure every child in Hastings has a strong web of support**