

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. Includes 900+ web building ideas from Hastings community members.



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

Present 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.**

2022

HHS teens attend HKS summer program and create professional fentanyl awareness materials.

Present HKS model to 5th–8th graders. Surveys showed a strong desire to connect with trusted adults to build skills, explore interests, grow webs.

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

