Council Members

Lori Walsh, PsyD (Chair)
Matthew Wilson (Treasurer)
Marie Louise Miller
Sarah Epps
Mary Esther Malloy
Laura Heisler Mitton (Secretary)
Lauren Aaronson
Role, background, and structure

The Hastings Youth Council is a Village commission that:

● Provides families with safety and necessities
● Promotes the feeling that all people are valued members of the community
● Promotes interpersonal attachments and relationships between people in our community

7 community volunteers are appointed by the Board of Trustees and the Mayor to oversee and collaborate with the Youth Advocate Program, Youth Employment Services, and WAY (Working Alliance for Youth) Coalition, as well as provide our own programming for families.

Programs we provide and supervise include the Hastings Food Pantry, Hastings K.I.D.S., SAFE Rides, Help A Child, Emergency Assistance, and the Bill Finkeldey Academic Scholarship.

Funded by the 501(c)3 Friends of the Hastings Youth Council

Formed in 1968 as the Hastings Community Narcotics Council with the goal of eliminating drug problems in the village through educational programs. Over its 54 years, the organization has evolved to reflect needs and research on effective programming to support children and families.
2022 achievements

Organization: Over the past 18 months, the Youth Council underwent a re-organization that has set it up to operate effectively and should ensure that it operates as long as it’s needed.

Food Pantry: We adapted to post-COVID realities, re-activating community partnerships (e.g., Hastings Farmers Market, Grace Church, Foodtown) and onboarding with Feeding Westchester, which enables us to distribute food to 120 families with 80% lower operating costs than during the pandemic. We’ve also increased fresh food distribution by increasing our refrigeration capacity. We are updating our food pantry storage and infrastructure through a generous donation by California Closets that a community member initiated and organized.

Community: The families of 18 children receive birthday, holiday, beginning of school and camp gift cards each year so they have what they need throughout the year. Each Friday and Saturday night, approximately 35 teens get home through Safe Rides making sure that no teens have to walk home in the dark or get in a car with an intoxicated driver. We also provide about 10 families a year with emergency funds to keep their electricity on, internet streaming, and camp fees paid.
2023 challenges and goals

Challenges:

- SNAP benefits, child tax credits, and Medicaid are returning to pre-pandemic levels, which will likely increase demand for social services on a local level
- We’re outgrowing our infrastructure
  - 2008 SAFE Rides vehicle
  - Food Pantry occupies multiple rooms in the Community Center, including a former conference room that needs to return to that purpose

Goals:

- Build resilience in our programs by increasing our volunteer involvement and improving our internal and external communication
- Continue to invest in community partnerships to help solve our Pantry space needs
- Launch a new college counseling program to support a level playing field for all kids in our community
Program highlight: Hastings Food Pantry

- We spend an average of $200 to serve 50-60 families/week, ~120 families total
- Post-COVID, we’ve focused on reinvigorating our community partnerships
  - Hastings K.I.D.S. have led in-school fundraisers
  - Hastings Booster Club sponsored basketball games raising $2000 and canned goods
  - Hastings Farmers Market doubled their regular donations of apples and eggs
  - We received a donated commercial fridge from Bloomy and a freezer from DiRiso
  - Family-to-Family helped establish a partnership with Foodtown and Sara Lee Bread
- Feeding Westchester has been a game-changer for us, allowing us to stock basics like rice and pasta as well as produce like cabbage and bananas, while reducing our operating budget for food purchases by 80%
- In 2023, we’re focusing on increasing volunteer involvement and redesigning our space to accommodate community needs
Program highlight: Kids Involved in Doing Service (K.I.D.S.)

Book Buddies
Hillside Hikes
Blood Drives
Midnight Run
Supporting the Food Pantry
Raising money for charities such as The American Cancer Society and AFYA.
Program highlight: SAFE Rides

- Safe Rides provides adolescents with free and safe transportation between the hours of 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Confidential, “no judgment.”
- The Safe Rides truck was donated to the village in 2010. Over the past year, it has needed regular repairs. An upcoming issue will be how to replace it so this crucial harm reduction program can continue.
2023 Annual Spending

- Special Projects/Programs: 32%
- Emergency Assistance for Families: 34%
- Finkelday Scholarship: 6%
- Food Pantry: 6%
- Safe Rides: 21%
Service Utilization

- Food Pantry: 120
- Safe Rides: 35
- Emergency Assistance (2022): 5
- Afterschool Drop in: 68
- Prevention Education: 98
- Youth Employment Services: 35

*Represents number of clients or number of presentations*
Funding Sources

Friends of Hastings Youth Council
• Food Pantry
• Safe Rides Driver
• Emergency Financial Assistance

OASAS/Village of Hastings on Hudson
• After school drop in program
• Prevention Education
Total Funding

OASAS funds vs. Village funds

- OASAS funds: 60%
- Village funds: 40%
# OASAS Budget

**NYS Office of Addiction Supports and Services**

Currently receive $163,169 in state aid

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Allowed Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Services</strong></td>
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<td>• Program staff salaries</td>
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<td>• Part-time staff</td>
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<td><strong>Fringe Benefits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Health/Dental Insurance</td>
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<td>• MTA Tax</td>
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<td>• Retirement Benefits</td>
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<td>• Workers Compensation</td>
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<td><strong>Other Than Personal Services</strong></td>
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<td>• Utilities</td>
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<td>• Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Office &amp; program supplies, equipment</td>
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<td>• Food for youth</td>
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The WAY Drug Free Community Grant

2017 - 2023
In September 2016, the Yonkers Coalition for Youth received a Drug Free Community Mentor Grant to support and strengthen the newly formed Hastings Coalition.

In September 2018, a 5-year Drug Free Community (DFC) grant was awarded to the Hastings Coalition as The WAY, Working Alliance for Youth.

DFC Grant Goals:

1. Increase community collaboration
2. Decrease youth substance use rates
Planning

- The **Strategic Prevention Framework** (SPF) is used to plan, implement, and evaluate prevention practices and programs.

- **Strategic action plans** with timelines and measurable objectives are created each year by analyzing data, and identifying root causes and local conditions that contribute to youth substance misuse.

- **Evidenced based strategies** are planned to produce community level change.

- Short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes are tracked in a detailed performance measurement plan.

- **Progress reports** are submitted to CDC every 6 months.
Data Collected to Assess Progress

- DFC grants require a student survey every 2 years. In **March 2017, April 2019, and December 2021** (delayed due to Covid) the District surveyed 8th, 10th, and 12th grade to assess local alcohol and other substance use prevalence rates and related factors.

- A Community Survey was conducted in 2017 and 2019, and is planned for 2023.

- Key leader interviews and focus groups are conducted.

- Social media metrics and attendance at programs are tracked.
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<td>Parents</td>
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<td>Youth-Serving Organizations</td>
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Total Number of Active Members: 14 ↑ 63 ↑ 38
The percentage change of Middle School Youth reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Alcohol Decreased at a rate of -9.4.

The percentage change of High School Youth reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Alcohol Increased at a rate of 62.2.

2021 data was taken during covid restrictions, and the magnitude of that impact on results is unknown.
• The percentage change of **Middle School Youth** reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Marijuana **Increased at a rate of 0.5**.
• The percentage change of **High School Youth** reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Marijuana **Increased at a rate of 12.5**.
• 2021 data was taken during covid restrictions, and the magnitude of that impact on results is unknown.
Current Prevention Strategies

Raise Awareness and Educate the Community

Weekly Social Media Posts

Ad Campaigns

School Staff & Police Trainings

Film Screenings & Discussions

Parent Virtual Speaker Series

Educational Sessions
For Parents & Students
Current Prevention Strategies

Reduce Availability & Promote Safe Disposal

- **Don’t Become An Accidental Dealer**
  - Secure Medications and Safely Dispose of Those Unwanted or Expired Immediately After Use (Don’t Save Them)
  - Bring them to the Hastings Police Department Drop Box 24/7
  - Request a free drug deactivation Deterra Bag today from your Greenleaf pharmacist
  - Mix meds with a little water & an undetectable substance (coffee grounds, dirt, cat litter), seal the containers & dispose of in the garbage - Not Down the Drain!

- **KEEP KIDS SAFE**
  - Two-thirds of teens who misused pain relievers in the past year say that they got them from family and friends, including their home’s medicine cabinets. (SAMSHA)

- **Safe Disposal Brochures & Medication Disposal Bags**
  - distributed at Greenleaf Pharmacy

- **Community Education on Social Host Laws & Narcan Trainings**

- **Participate in DEA Drug Take Back Days with Police Department**
  - Next takeback day is APRIL 22nd
Current Prevention Strategies

Provide Support for Healthy Choices & Policies

Hastings Community Substance Misuse Coalition

VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
Thursday, May 7 2020  7:30-8:30pm

The WAY Coalition is offering a new group for Hastings-on-Hudson parents/guardians of 8th-12th graders who want support addressing the topic of alcohol and drug use with their children. The goal of the group is to provide a safe and non-judgmental space to discuss concerns and provide tools to navigate challenging topics. Discussion will include:

- How to talk about alcohol and drugs with your children
- "Yes" and "no" words
- Expectations and limits setting
- Speaking with like-minded parents/guardians
- Promoting a culture of our community

Support Parents & Encourage Dialogue on Teen Substance Use

Promote Healthy Choices with No Smoking or Vaping Policy Enforcement

Collaboration with Y.A.P. on Chain of Hope Project
Current Prevention Strategies

Promote Youth Leadership & Healthy Decisions

Hastings High School SADD Club to Kick Off Mental Health Awareness Week

The Students Against Destructive Decisions club is starting next week on Mental Health Awareness Week at Hastings High School.

Organized by the club’s eight members, the week will focus on different themes each day including motivation and willingness to learn, sleep, stress, time management, and social influence. Participants will be surveyed through a survey created by SADD.

SADD Club Prom Bags with Alcohol Poisoning Information Card

Youth Leadership Training

The WAYS & The SADD Club

Wish you a Safe & Fun Prom 2021!!

Get Dressed Up, Not Messed Up

Make Memories, Not Regrets.

Don’t Drink. Have a Prom Night to Remember!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

EASTERN STATES YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Scholarship Information Website for Eligible Youths and Their Families

www.easternstatesleadership.com

Deadline: February 1, 2021

Applications and instructions are available online at the website.

E-mail: info@easternstatesleadership.com

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E-mail: info@easternstatesleadership.com
Federal grant funds of $125,000 are awarded each year.