



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.

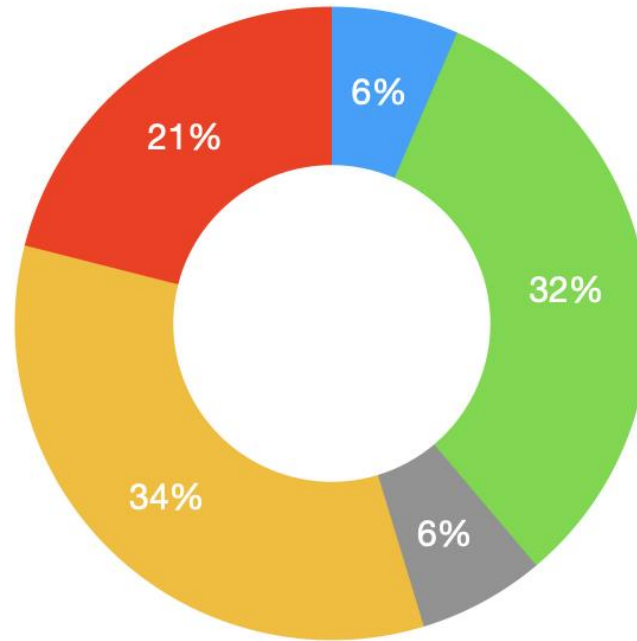


Program highlight: SAFE Rides

A promotional graphic for the Safe Rides program. It features a black and white photograph of a Ford pickup truck parked on a street. Overlaid on the image is a large white circle containing the text "Smart Teens. Smart Choices. Call or Text ... SafeRides!". To the right of the truck, a black rectangular box contains white text: "GET HOME SAFELY!", "any Friday or Saturday night", "Hi Hastings teens -", "We care about your health, and we want you to be safe. If you need a ride in Hastings, please do not hesitate -- call or text us! And we will drive you wherever you need to go within our village, with no questions asked.", "Please put this # in your contacts!", the phone number "914-478-2471" inside a blue bubble border, and "FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, & SAFE RIDES 10PM-1AM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS". At the bottom, in small blue text, it says "SafeRides is an effort of the Hastings Youth Council. For more information, please email hohyouthcouncil@gmail.com."

- 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
- Emergency Assistance for Families
- Finkelday Scholarship
- Food Pantry
- Safe Rides

Y.A.P.



YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Programs

Food Pantry

Safe Rides

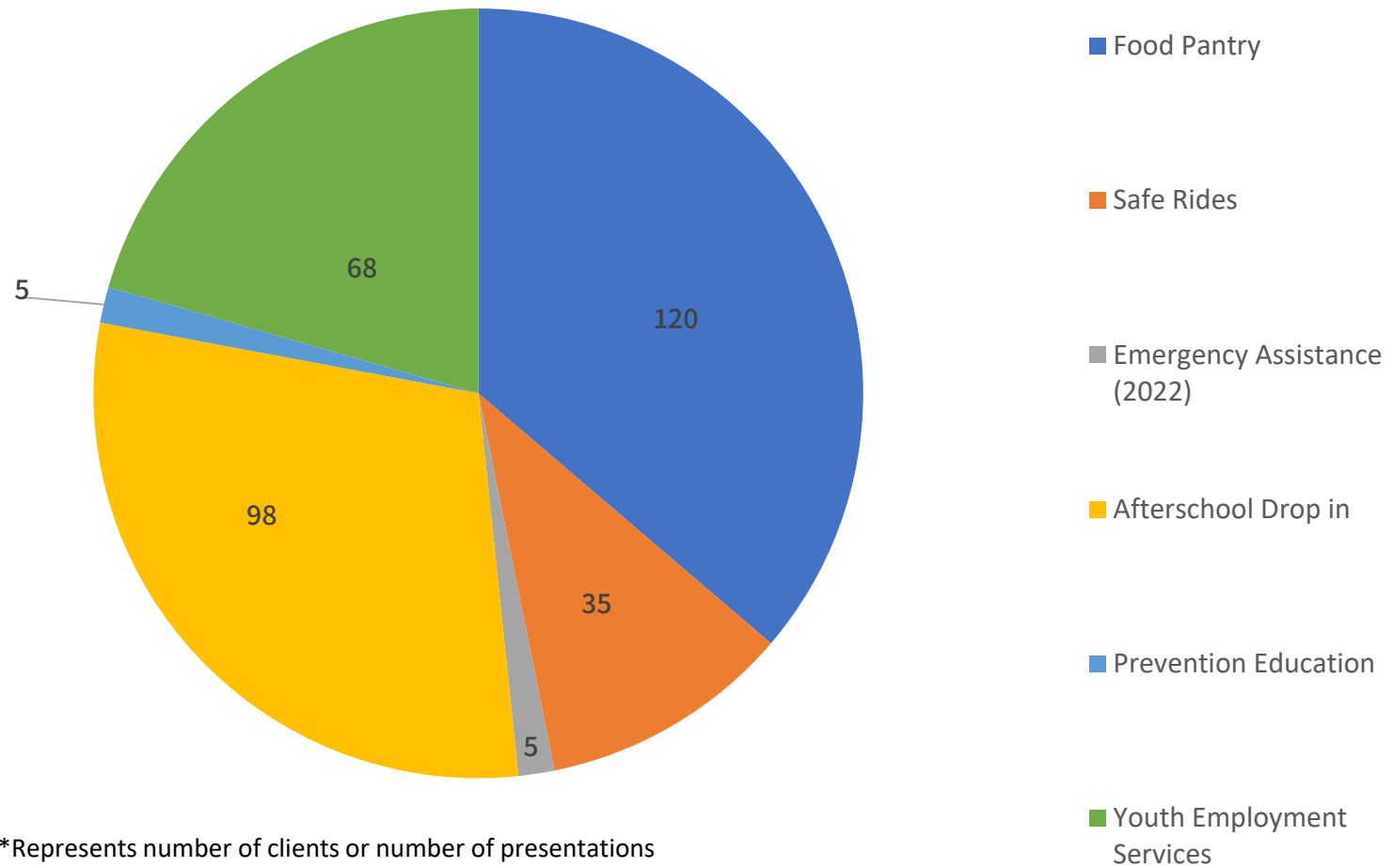
Emergency
Financial
Assistance

After school
drop in

Prevention
Education

Youth
Employment
Services

Service Utilization



Funding Sources

Friends of Hastings Youth Council

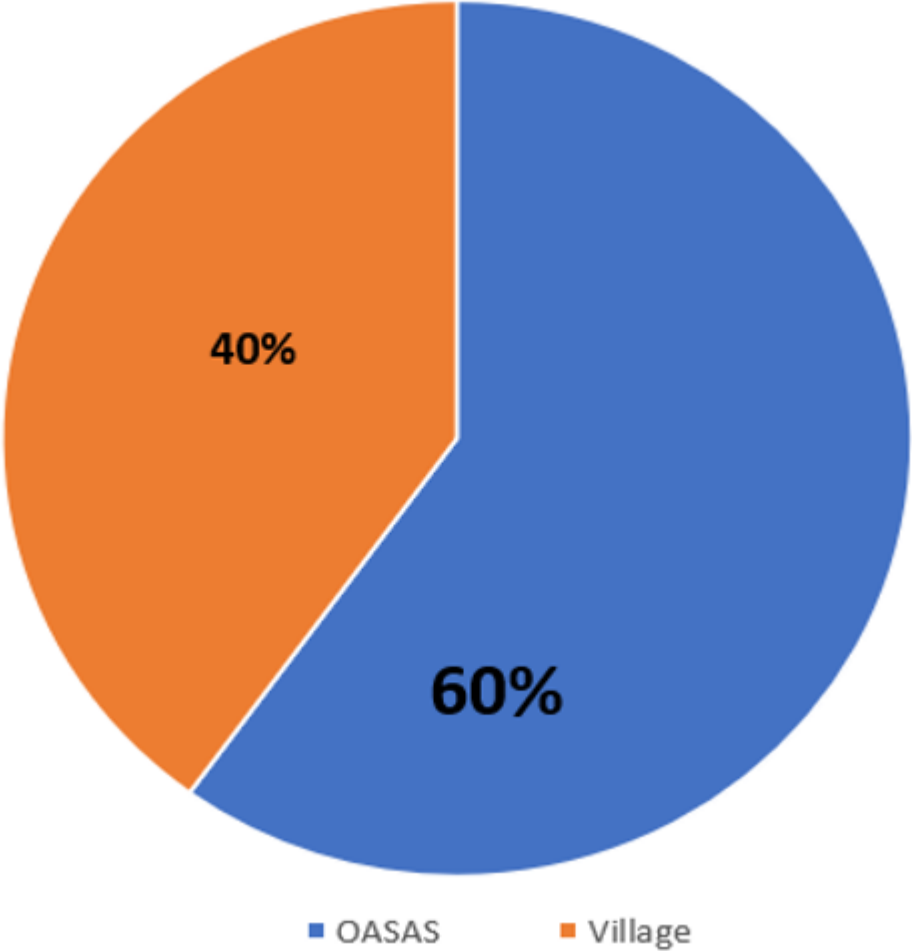
- Food Pantry
- Safe Rides Driver
- Emergency Financial Assistance

OASAS/Village of Hastings on Hudson

- After school drop in program
- Prevention Education

Total Funding

OASAS funds vs. Village funds

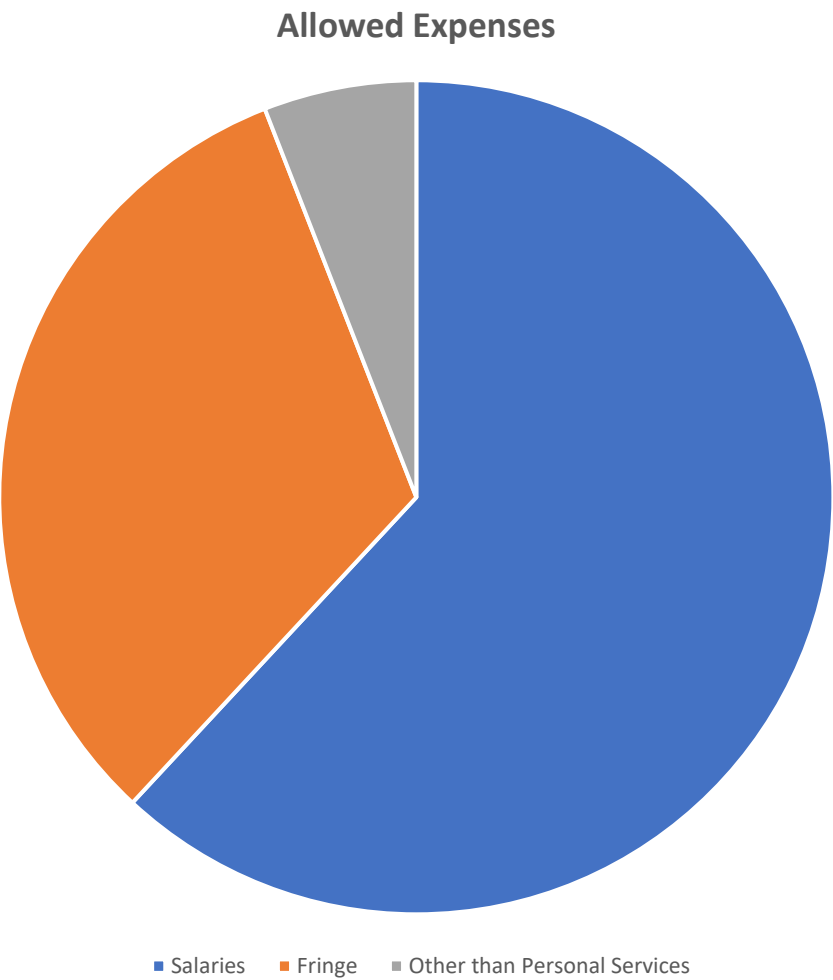


OASAS Budget

NYS Office of Addiction Supports and Services

Currently receive \$163,169 in state aid

Items
Personal Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program staff salaries• Part-time staff
Fringe Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health/Dental Insurance• Social Security & Medicare• MTA Tax• Retirement Benefits• Workers Compensation
Other Than Personal Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilities• Insurance• Office & program supplies, equipment• Food for youth





The WAY Drug Free Community Grant

2017 - 2023

Background

- 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.















Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

Local Problems Require Local Solutions



Membership by Sector: Building Community Capacity

Sectors	First Report		Most Recent Report (Aug. 2022)	National DFC Median (Feb. 2022)
 State or Local, Tribal Governmental Agencies with Expertise in Substance Use	1	↑	4	3
 Parents	1	↑	9	2
 Schools	2	↑	11	4
 Law Enforcement Agency	2	=	2	2
 Civic Volunteer Groups	1	=	1	2
 Religious or Fraternal Organizations	1	=	1	1
 Media	1	=	1	1
 Healthcare Professionals	1	↑	3	3
 Business Community	1	=	1	2
 Other Organizations with Substance Abuse Expertise	1	↑	4	2
 Youth	1	↑	15	5
 Youth-Serving Organizations	1	=	1	2
Total Number of Active Members	14	↑	53	38



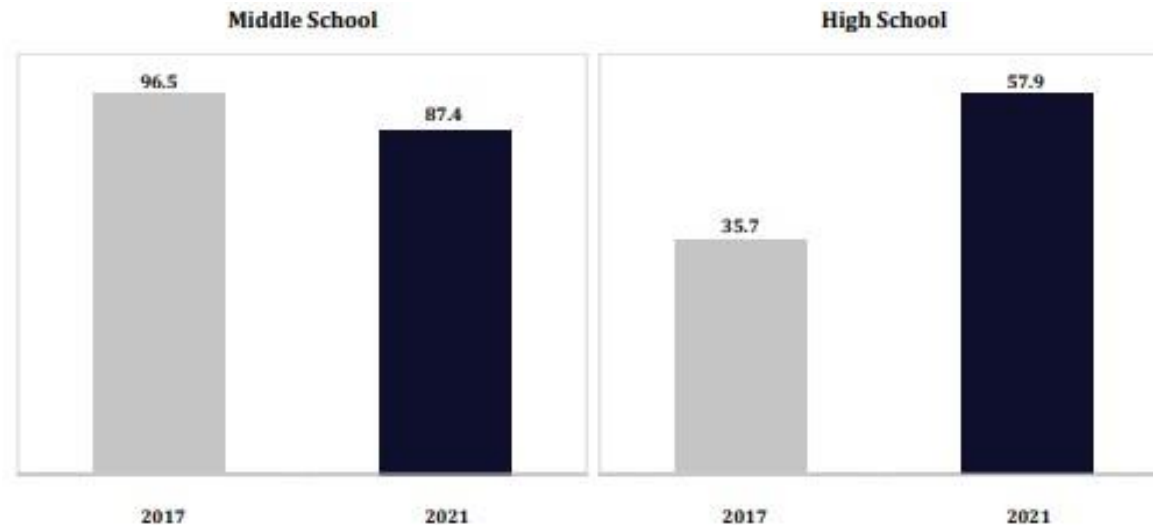
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

Local Problems Require Local Solutions



Core Measure Outcomes by Grade Levels First and Most Recent Report: **Alcohol**

Past 30-Day Non-Use



- 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.



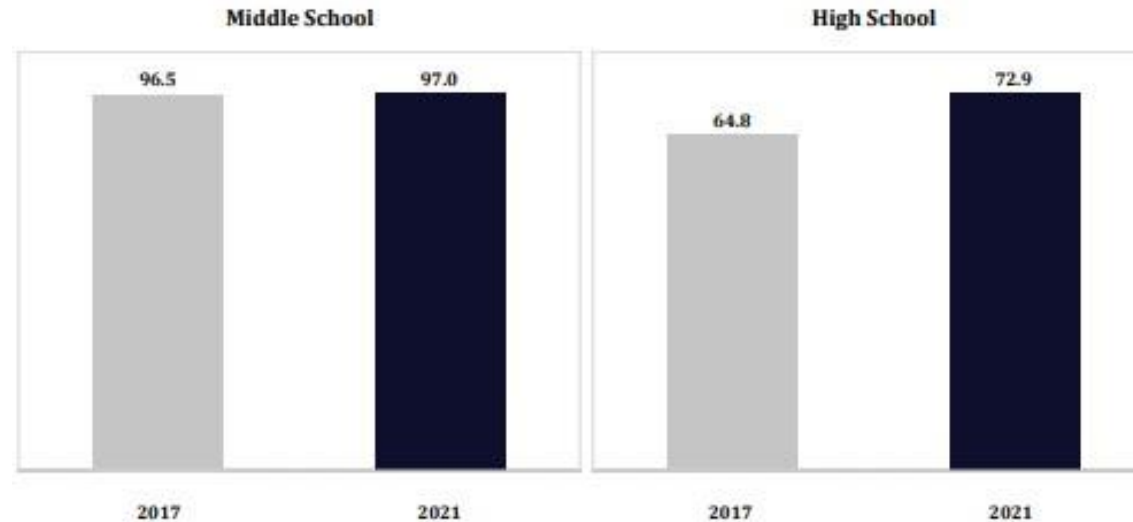
Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

Local Problems Require Local Solutions



Core Measure Outcomes by Grade Levels First and Most Recent Report: **Marijuana**

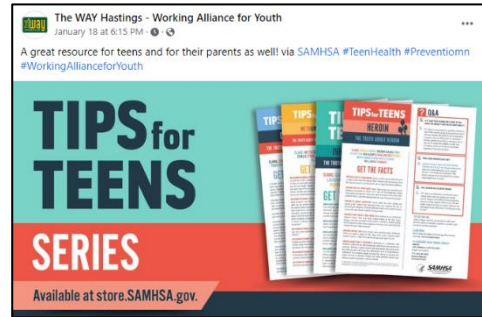
Past 30-Day Non-Use



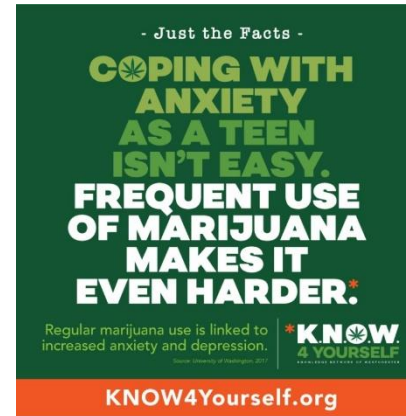
- The percentage change of **Middle School Youth** reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Marijuana **Increased at a rate of 0.5**.
- The percentage change of **High School Youth** reporting Past 30 Day Non-Use of Marijuana **Increased at a rate of 12.5**.
- 2021 data was taken during covid restrictions, and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

Current Prevention Strategies

Raise Awareness and Educate the Community



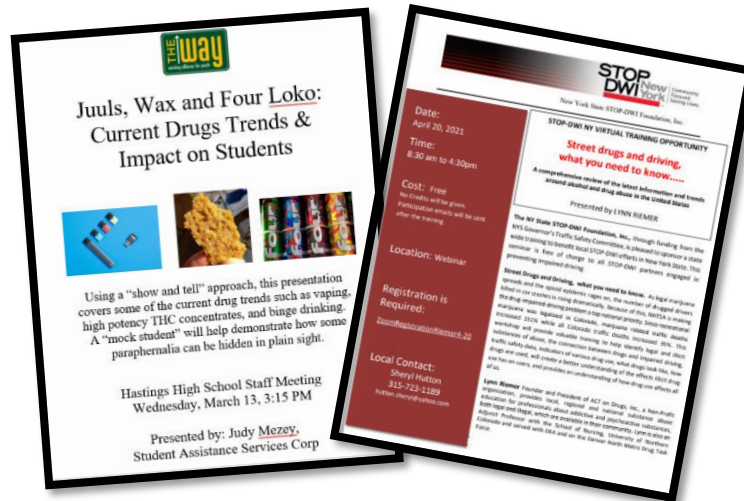
Weekly Social Media Posts



Ad Campaigns



Parent Virtual Speaker Series



School Staff & Police Trainings



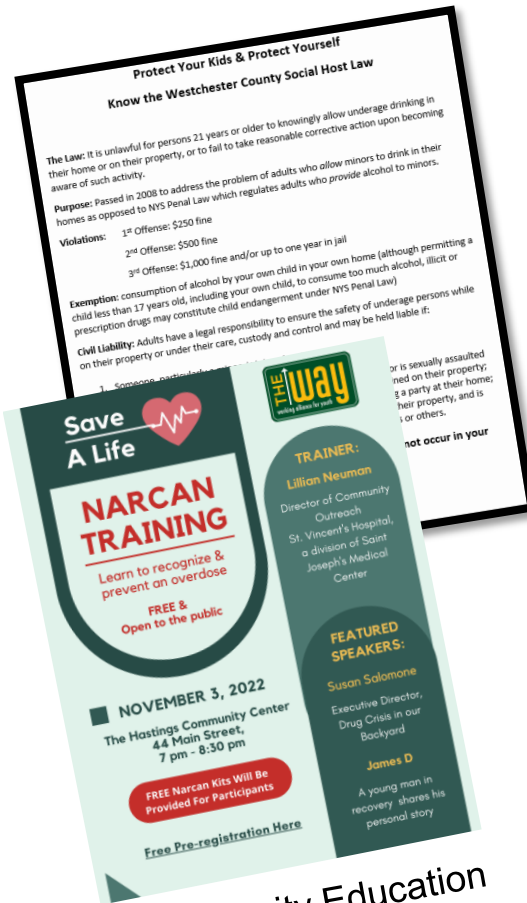
Film Screenings & Discussions



Educational Sessions
For Parents & Students

Current Prevention Strategies

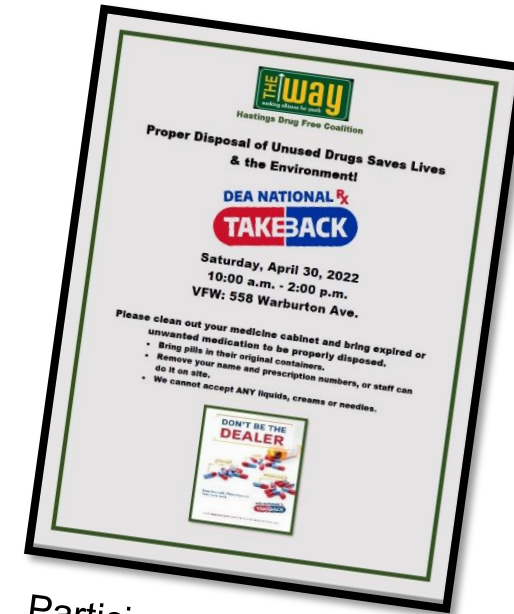
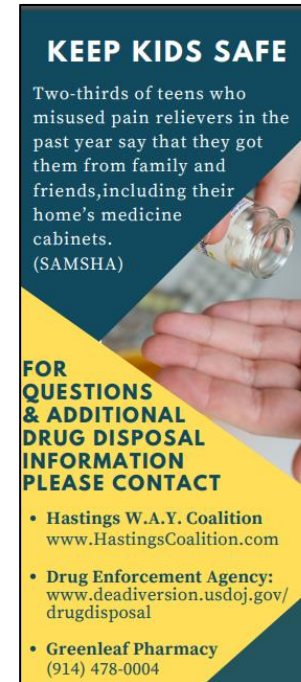
Reduce Availability & Promote Safe Disposal



Community Education
on Social Host Laws &
Narcan Trainings



Safe Disposal Brochures &
Medication Disposal Bags
distributed at Greenleaf Pharmacy



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



Promote Healthy Choices with No Smoking or Vaping Policy Enforcement



Hastings Community
Substance Misuse Coalition

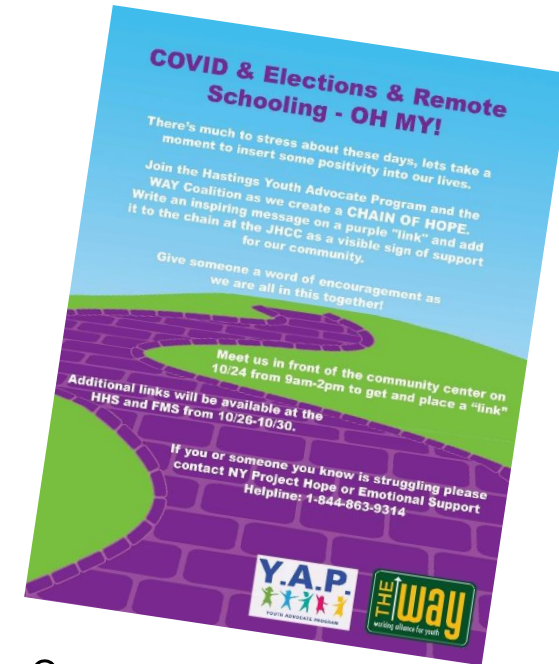
VIRTUAL PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

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 nonjudgmental space to discuss concerns and provide tools to navigate challenging topics. Discussion will include:

- ⇒ How to talk about alcohol and drugs with your children
- ⇒ "Padj" and house parties
- ⇒ Expectations and limit setting
- ⇒ Speaking with like-minded parents/guardians
- ⇒ Permissive culture of our community

Support Parents & Encourage
Dialogue on Teen Substance Use



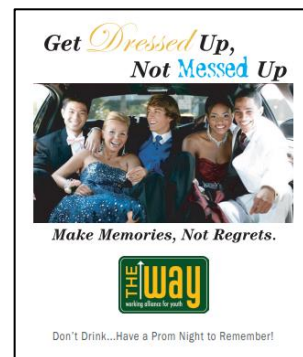
Collaboration with Y.A.P. on
Chain of Hope Project

Current Prevention Strategies

Promote Youth Leadership & Healthy Decisions



Assist HHS SADD Club



SADD Club Prom Bags
with Alcohol Poisoning
Information Card

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

The Students Against Destructive Decisions club is claiming next week as 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 interaction. Students selected the themes through a survey created by SADD.



Youth Leadership Training



Budget Summary

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 (projected)
Personnel	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
Fringe		3,008	7,770	8,234	8,400
Travel	11,100	3,095	1,029	1,435	7,000
Supplies	3,307	6,766	12,552	2,908	3,000
Contractual	40,789	62,390	61,635	68,809	64,000
Other	4,021	22,847	7,674	19,804	7,000
Total	\$70,467	\$109,356	\$101,910	\$112,440	\$100,650

Federal grant funds of \$125,000 are awarded each year.