

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

### Financial Update

In order to be able to continue to support the youth in Red Wing, we need your help. We were unfortunately unable to host our Dueling Pianos fundraiser at the end of March. We had planned to use donations from this fundraiser to help with our programming. Our other big fundraiser scheduled for this year is the Duck Race which is part of River City Days. With that event in question, we plan to fall short of our fundraising goals for the year. If you are able to make a financial donation at this time, we have several options available:

- **Venmo App:** @RedWingYouthOutreach
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you are a Thrivent Financial member, designate Red Wing Youth Outreach as your preferred agency to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- **Mail your donation:** Use the enclosed envelope to mail a donation to our office.

We thank you for your continued support of our programs. Stay safe and healthy!

Thank you to our business, foundations, individuals and partners for supporting youth in Red Wing. Our major donors include:

- Albrecht and Poss Family Foundation
- First Lutheran Church
- Jones Family Foundation
- Red Wing Area Fund
- Red Wing Elks
- Red Wing Shoe Foundation
- United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, and Pierce Counties
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- 3M Fall Protection



## YOUTH STORY

### NAVIGATING LIFE THROUGH COVID-19 WITH YOUTH OUTREACH'S SUPPORT

I have been part of Red Wing Youth Outreach programs for three years. Youth Outreach helped me tremendously throughout this time and continues to help me. I have met many people through Youth Outreach Programs who have remained in my life. Youth Outreach has two programs (Independent Living Skills & Mentoring) that I have participated in. I am always referring my friends and family join their programs. My sister entered into the Mentoring program 2 years ago after I told her about it and how it could help her! The people that run the program are three strong women, Mandy, Chelsea, and Jenna. These women help all kinds of people in need of help. I personally have



## SPRING 2020

experienced their help when I was on my own and running out of food. They have helped me with where I can go to find resources and how to communicate better with others around me. Once COVID-19 hit our community, my part time seasonal job was over sooner than I had financially planned for and I was out of a job with no money coming in. I am too young to qualify for any stimulus help and I do not qualify for unemployment as a student. Youth Outreach stepped in to help me again. Honestly, I love this program; it is like a small little family. Thank you for always being there when I need someone to talk to or a good laugh and thank you to the people who help keep this program going. - A

### YES! I want to donate to Youth Outreach.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

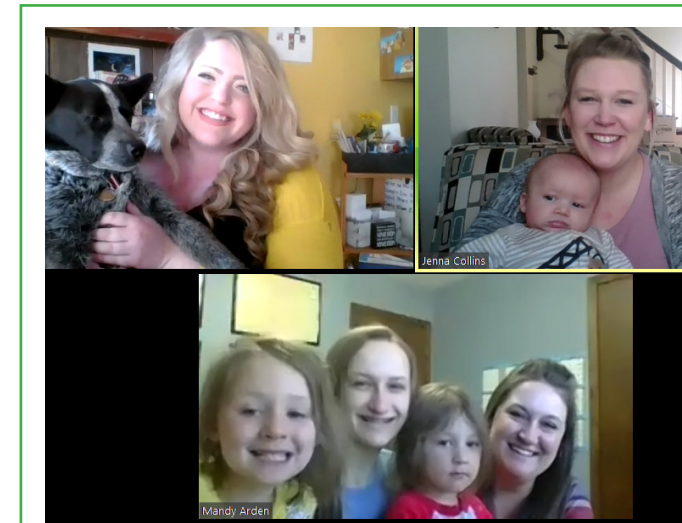
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

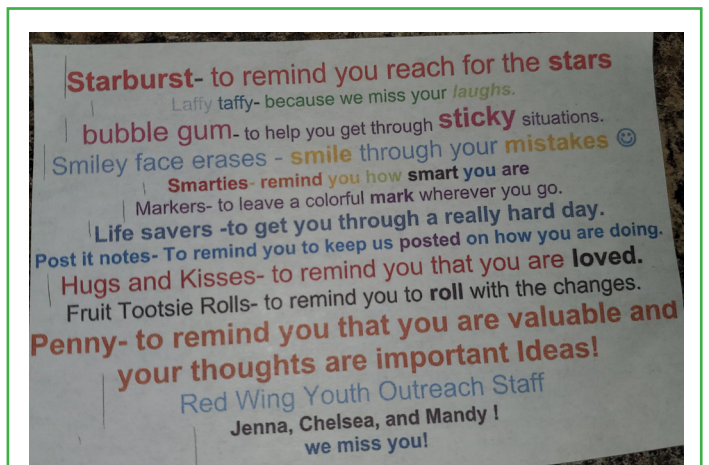
Please use the included envelope to mail your donation.



Red Wing Youth Outreach  
410 Guernsey Lane • Red Wing MN 55066  
651-388-3371  
redwingyouthoutreach.org



Our staff is finding unique ways to stay connected to youth in our community.



Care packages were delivered to youth to remind them they have support during these difficult times.

## YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### Mentoring Update

Coming back from maternity leave in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic has been a great learning experience. I was 3 weeks short of seeing my mentoring kids in person when they closed school. Even though I knew this was the right decision for their health, I was devastated that I would not see those smiling faces for even longer. Our team spent 2 weeks turning an “in-person” mentoring program into an “online, text messages, and phone calls” mentoring program. It was challenging and exciting to be creative in our delivery of services.

Our mentors have been nothing short of AMAZING and we give them all the credit in making this transition easy. Most of our mentors reached out immediately to say “what can I do”? This filled our hearts at Youth Outreach knowing that our mentors are here for the kids for the long haul! Our mentors have been willing to reach out to parents to see what they need, help the school deliver lunches, and help their mentees with their homework. We even have some mentor/student pairs writing letters to each other like pen pals.

### A few fun stories:

We have one mentor and mentee pair that are meeting over zoom to have a conversation about the mentee’s favorite movie (The Lego Movie). The mentee asked his mentor to watch the movie, and suggested meeting the following week over FaceTime to discuss it. Almost like a review! So a grown (40-ish year old) man watched the The Lego Movie to help make a connection to a student. Can you imagine the feelings of

### Independent Living Skills Update

It’s crazy how fast things can change in our world. At the beginning of March we had our first Independent Living Skills group (still in person & with precautions). Our youth were so excited to be there and so many laughs were shared that night. I was just as excited to start group again, but within days we would soon discover the schools would be completely online and in turn our programs would have to change to a virtual setting. Within 2 weeks we had moved all of our programming online. I still “meet” with our youth one-on-one via Facetime, texting, or phone calls, however, no one has taken me up on the offer of carrier pigeon letters back and forth! ;) We also host a private Face-



Chelsea and Jenna on Zoom with longtime mentor/supporter/Red Wing Elk’s Lodge partner, Warren Wertman.

“cared for”, “validated”, and “worthy” that child felt??!! Simply amazing!

Another mentor and mentee pair wrote a poem together and submitted it to the newspaper to see if they can win a contest.

He brushed off the dust; And cleaned off the rust;  
From this forced inside vacation; Caused by the pandemic mitigation. And said “If I can’t go outside I’ll bust!”

The mentors and the mentees have been very inspiring during this time and have impressed Youth Outreach staff immensely. We are forever grateful for all the adults in our community that show kids that they matter.

### Jenna Collins

[jrcollins@rwps.org](mailto:jrcollins@rwps.org)

book group that was created just for Youth Outreach kiddos. Every day in this group we post something to engage the youth; a cooking video, how to play a game, mental health check-ins, or a funny meme. It’s a great outlet for our youth to remain engaged and it provides them a safe group to be honest and share how they are doing. This group also provides our youth with a support system. So many of our youth have shared how they feel and are able to support one another. Independent Living Skills has changed a lot in the past weeks; however, I have enjoyed the new opportunity of being creative in a virtual setting.

### Chelsea Will

[willcm9@gmail.com](mailto:willcm9@gmail.com)

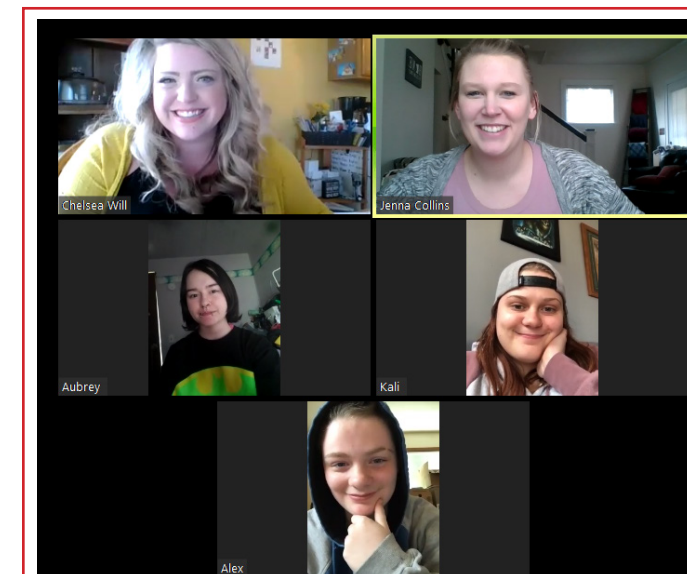
## YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

As we have all heard repeatedly in the past few weeks, there are unprecedented times. Regardless, Red Wing Youth Outreach continues to move forward, and we wanted to share information regarding the changes we have implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Independent Living Skills and Youth Advisory Council

Our programs have moved ONLINE. Chelsea is hosting groups through Zoom, meeting 1:1 with clients through social apps, and is creating videos for clients to follow to learn basic living skills, coping skills, and leadership together.



YAC (Youth Advisory Council) Zoom meeting with Chelsea and Jenna.



### Mentoring

Our team has adapted the mentoring program to fit outside of the in-school setting we normally offered. Our #1 goal during this time is to stay connected with youth to provide emotional support and resources to combat isolation. We have partnered with the school to use their Google Classroom platform, which allows daily communication with students, virtual sessions, and surveys. We are working on practicing social skills and emotional management skills as they experience this crisis. The pandemic will affect families and individuals differently and our services for this group have been based on the needs of each individual youth. Mentors are able to

directly communicate with students via calls, texts, letter writing, emailing and Google Hangouts (per the school’s Google Classroom platform).



### Young Mom’s Group

This group exists to provide a support system for healthy social connections and to help young parents feel connected to a group of similar age parents. Due to MN Stay At Home requirements, we are unable to host this group. We remain connected to families through Facebook. We are also still providing financial support, diapers and other child rated items to these families.



### Crisis Intervention

We are encouraging individuals experiencing a mental health crisis to call: 1-844-CRISIS2.



### Emergency Financial Support

We are seeing a large increase in requests for financial support during this time. Our staff is part of a triage team with Hispanic Outreach and HOPE Coalition. People needing financial support can contact any of these agencies and we will triage the support.

While social distancing has greatly impacted our ability to meet in groups, we feel confident that our team is responding in the best possible ways to stay connected to youth during all this.

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time if you have any questions or concerns. While our offices at 410 Guernsey Lane is closed to the public for the time being, we are available via email.

Mandy: [mandylarden@gmail.com](mailto:mandylarden@gmail.com)

Chelsea: [willcm9@gmail.com](mailto:willcm9@gmail.com)

Jenna: [jrcollins@rwps.org](mailto:jrcollins@rwps.org)

### Resources

If you know a child or young adult in the Red Wing community who may be in need of professional assistance, please contact Red Wing Youth Outreach at **651-388-3371**.