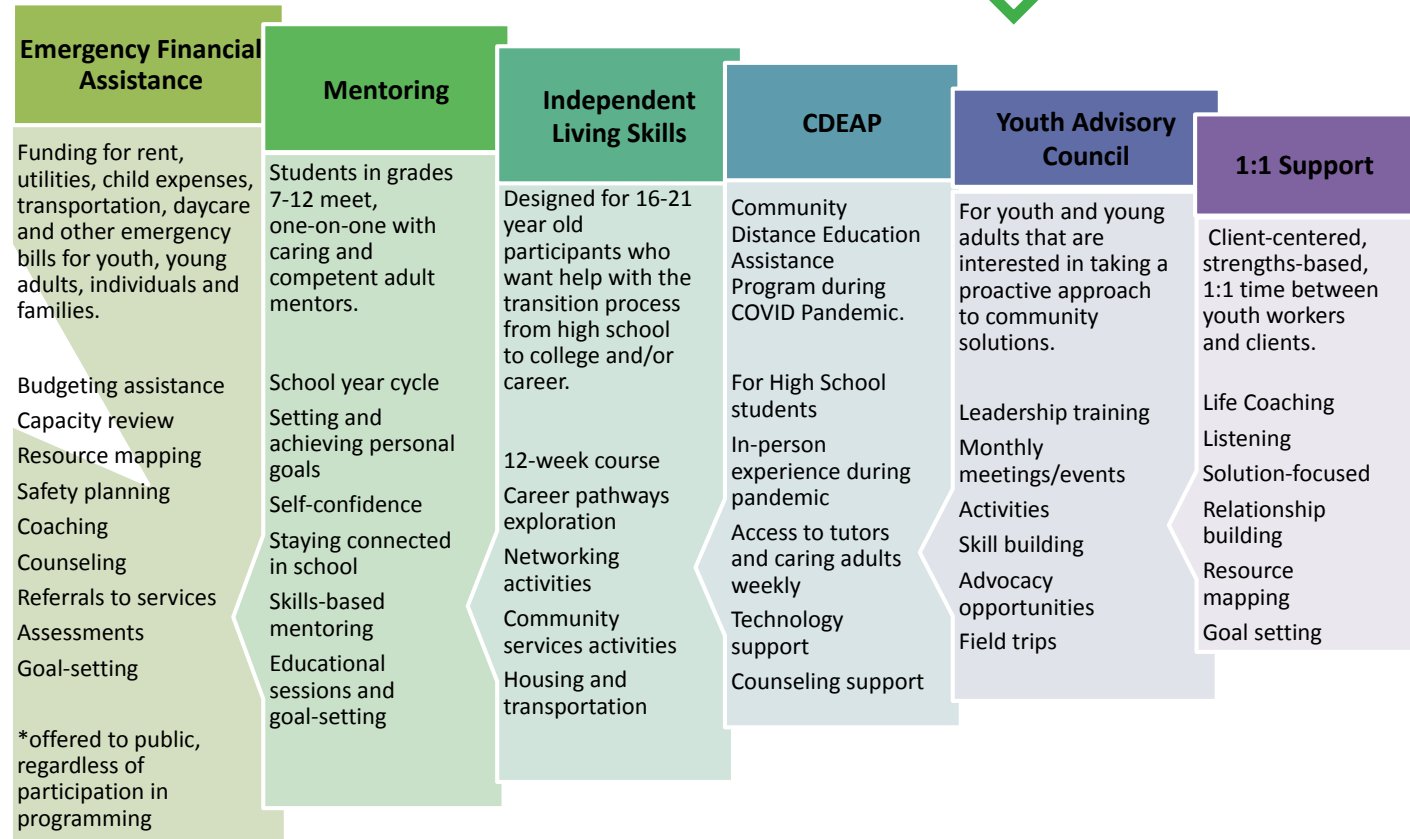


YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM MODEL



THANK YOU PARTNER AGENCIES

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the partner agencies we work with in the Red Wing community.



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 MENTORS ARE COMMITTED!

SUMMER 2021

We started out the 20-21 school year virtually and ended the year being able to have a few in-person sessions. We are proud to say that all of the mentors were flexible, caring, and generous and have put the kid's needs first! We had a few mentors take on extra kids so they would not go without a caring adult this year. We believe that this was a year of stronger connections. The way the mentors and mentees adapted to the new ways of communicating is admirable and their conversations were richer than they have ever been. The mentoring program is very excited to see how we can blend virtual and in-person into the future- to make the mentoring program better than it has been before.

RECONNECTING

There was one mentor/mentee pair that really stood out this year. They have been in the program for 3 years now and they have been at almost every in-person mentoring session. During the school year when students were only going 2 days a week in person, it was hard for some kids to meet with their mentors online during the school day. This mentor was so worried about not hearing from their mentee so they consistently checked in to see if we had heard from the student. We determined that if we could get both the student and the mentor to come to our CDEAP program, they could meet in-person again. When the first in-person mentoring session of the year happened at CDEAP, this student was waiting anxiously for her mentor to arrive. When she did, she ran up to her and gave her the biggest hug. It was really touching to see. This mentor came every single week to see her mentee, and their bond grew even stronger. We enjoyed watching them laugh together and pick up right where they left off. We are so happy that our programming was able to provide a safe space for these kids to meet with some of the adults that really care about them.



YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC)

Local Advocacy: In the beginning of April, we had two of our youth from the YLC (& staff) go to a public forum with the mayor of Red Wing. Our youth expressed concern about the housing/rental prices. Our youth are looking to move out and be independent, but the rent is so high that they cannot afford to live on their own, and if they can find rent cheaper it is not a safe option. Our youth were vocal about what they felt affordable housing would be and what needs to be safer in our community. Our girls spoke with such confidence and charisma! They answered any questions asked. At the end of this forum, our mayor said he would start looking into having all rental places inspected to make sure they are meeting codes.

Making Connections: In June, we had our first YLC event that was 100% planned by our YLC! One of our YLC members wanted to go to Pride Fest, but did not want to go alone. Five of our YLC members decided to go together. They planned when and where they were meeting, where they were going to meet up if separated, where they would get dinner at the end of the day, and what time they were going to leave. This shows the support they are giving to each other and they demonstrated great responsibility.

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Our Youth Leadership Council and Mentoring pairs are teaming up to package hygiene products to be given to families that access our local school lunch program. The YLC members worked together to gather donations from local business, as well as inviting families to stop and shop. Our Mentor & Mentee pairs put a nice hygiene care package together prior to our give away date so it's easier the day of to get as many of these hygiene care packages out!

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS (ILS)

That's a wrap: Our ILS group ended programming in May. This semester they learned about: credit cards, auto loans, credit reports & scores, mortgages, housing, down payments, retirement accounts, accounting, interest & fees, tax returns, income & sales tax, credit reports & scores, identity theft, discretionary income, auto, life and renters insurance, preparing for college, ATM withdrawals, overdrafts, tipping and more!



YLC members attending Pride Fest

"We at Youth Outreach are so proud of these YLC youth! They have come together over the past year and a half to make a difference whether it's in our community or in their own group. This is the NEXT group to watch for! They are going places and making changes."

- RWYO Staff

If you would like more information about becoming a mentor or know a High School or Middle School student who could use more caring adults in their lives, please contact Jenna at jrcollins@rwps.org or Jennifer at jenniferdtift@gmail.com

YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

COMMUNITY DISTANCE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The RWYO Community Distance Education Program (CDEAP) was a community effort that met the needs of many students during the 2020-21 school year. 20-35 students attended consistently during any given month. We worked closely with Hispanic Outreach, First Covenant Church, First Lutheran Church, and other community partners to provide a safe place for students to complete online learning, connect with each other, and connect with caring adults.

One of our many success stories is Reghan, a 9th grader who came to our program in January when students were transitioning back to hybrid learning. Reghan had been struggling at home with distance learning and needed the extra adult support and the community and student connections offered at CDEAP. She says of her experience there, "CDEAP was amazing! It really helped me socially with meeting new people, and everyone was super kind and amazing." Around that same time, Gina Rippentrop became a volunteer at our First Covenant Church location. Gina, along with other much-appreciated volunteers, helped students complete schoolwork, made sure they got lunches and lots of treats, and developed relationships with our kids who desperately needed connection after months of mostly distance learning. Once students were back in school four days a week in April, we transitioned to providing a combination CDEAP/Mentoring program on Wednesdays. We utilized the space at First Covenant Church to provide mentoring activities such as crockpot cooking, painting with ArtReach, and game day. During this time, Reghan and Gina both decided they would like to be a part of our mentoring program and were a natural pair.



CDEAP student, Reghan, with program volunteer, Gina.

From Gina: "Volunteering with CDEAP has been incredibly fun and rewarding. I've loved getting to know the students and being a resource to aid in their success in school. After the conclusion of the CDEAP program, I continued my volunteer work by becoming a Youth Outreach mentor to CDEAP student Reghan who is bright, caring, outgoing, ambitious and fun. Spending time with Reghan has been an amazing experience and has made me a better person. I look forward to continuing mentorship with Youth Outreach and with Reghan!"

Now that CDEAP is (thankfully!) no longer needed, throughout the coming years, Gina and Reghan can be a part of the RWYO Mentoring program offered at Red Wing High School. We look forward to hearing more about the difference this connection will make for both of them.

If you would like to be a mentor or learn more about our mentoring program, please contact Jennifer at jenniferdtift@gmail.com or Jenna at jrcollins@rwps.org.

