



SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

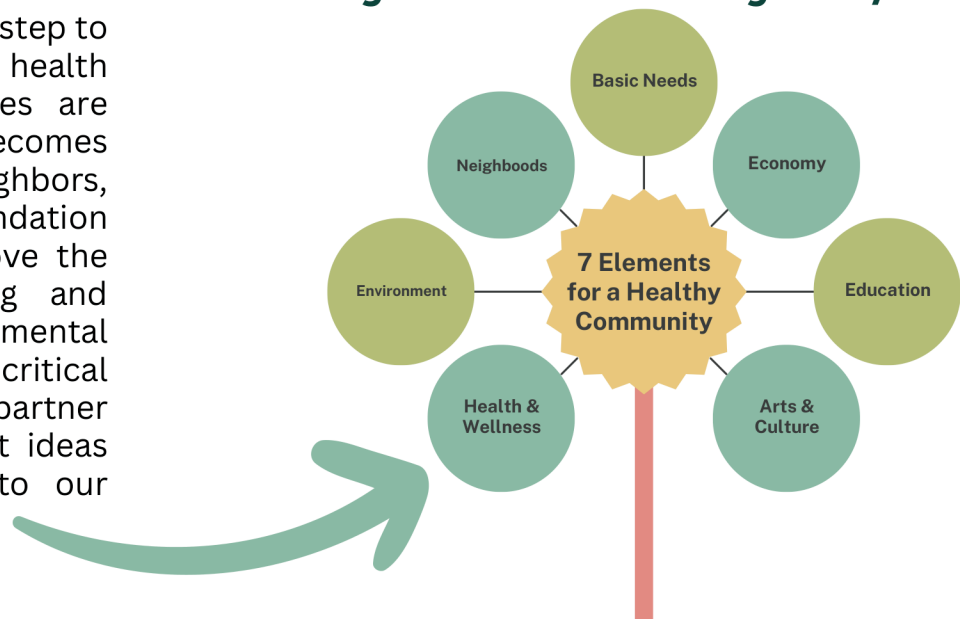
MENTAL HEALTH IS HEATHCARE

Grants Provide Funding for Programs

Removing the stigma of mental illness is the first step to finding resources that can help improve mental health care in our county. While several resources are available, making those resources accessible becomes increasingly important to our community, neighbors, friends, and family. The Barry Community Foundation generously funds programs designed to improve the health of our residents, including fostering and supporting programs designed to provide mental healthcare. Nowhere is mental healthcare more critical than supporting our children, and this is why we partner with Corewell Health Foundation to fund great ideas that improve access and provide services to our schools.

7 ELEMENTS OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Building a Vibrant & Strong Barry County



Youth Advisory Council

A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

Giving Local Teens Support and Hope.

In 2013, the Delton community came together after six teens took their own lives, and they established a program called Delton R.O.C.K.S (Reaching Our Community's Kids with Support.) With a mission to cut down on bullying and build student confidence, organizers created The Shack to provide clothing and supplies. The Youth Advisory Council recently provided a day of service and helped sort, inventory, and organize donations. "In the past, YAC provided grants to this program. This year, the teens involved in YAC decided to also volunteer their time to the Shack. It's amazing to see students help other students," explains BCF Program Associate, Sam Waller.

MAKING BAD DAYS INTO GOOD DAYS

Students Receive Mental Health Support

89 students received mental health counseling via a new behavioral telehealth program supported by Corewell Health and BCF grants. Teens from Hastings, Thornapple Kellogg, and Delton Kellogg High Schools benefited by spending 612 hours with a mental health professional in a private virtual counseling session. The convenience to kids and families has been invaluable to families who lack financial or work flexibility which disadvantages their students from receiving important, ongoing counseling services. "A large percentage of students I see struggle with some suicidal ideation/thoughts of self-harm. I've been able to implement safety plans and refer them to additional care when needed," explains one of the social workers. One student shared with a social worker this insight: "You helped me put a smile on my face, even when I was having a really bad day."

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INFO

info@barrycf.org or
(269)945-0526
231 S. Broadway St.
Hastings, MI 49058