

Caring Adults

Safe Places

Healthy Start

Effective Education

Opportunities to Help Others

Caring Adults Defined

From birth on, every child and youth needs and deserves support and guidance from caring adults in their families, schools and communities, including ongoing secure relationships with parents and other family adults, as well as multiple and consistent formal and informal positive relationships with teachers, mentors, coaches, youth volunteers and neighbors.

- *Nationally, one-third of teens and 20 percent of younger children do not have quality relationships with their parents.**
- *More than 40 percent of the young people ages 8 through 21 who participated in the Voices Study (America's Promise) say they want more adults in their lives to whom they can turn for help.**

**KEY INDICATORS:**

For this promise to be kept, young people should have many caring adults across multiple contexts of their lives.

- Caring relationships with parents/primary caregivers
- Caring relationships with extended family adults
- Caring relationships with adults at school
- Caring relationships with adults in the neighborhood/community, including formal mentors in school- and community-based settings

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Use the “Sharing Your Community Conversation” sheets in the Tool Kit to capture the answers to these questions ...

How is this promise being delivered in Dubuque County? Who is delivering it?

- What groups or individuals are helping to deliver this promise?
- What are some success stories you know about?
- Why is it working?

Where are we falling short as a community in delivering this promise?

- What’s not working?
- Where are the gaps?
- Is there duplication?
- What’s missing in our community?

How can you make a difference? How can you deliver this promise?

- What can you as an individual do?
- What can a group or groups do?
- Who should step up to deliver this promise in our community?

What are the most urgent needs in our community?

- *Eight percent of local sixth graders do not believe that adults in the community care about people their age. Twenty-one percent of eighth graders and 36 percent of eleventh graders feel the same way.[†]*
- *Local youth surveyed do not believe that adults in their neighborhood or community would help them when they needed help: 16 percent of sixth graders, 32 percent of eighth graders and 42 percent of eleventh graders.[†]*