



“Bridges Project”

Bridging the Community Together to Prevent Substance Use.

THE BRIDGES INITIATIVE MISSION:

To create a community-wide response to the prevention of youth substance abuse in Milford and Bellingham, by drawing on science-based best practices.

WHAT IS THE BRIDGES INITIATIVE?

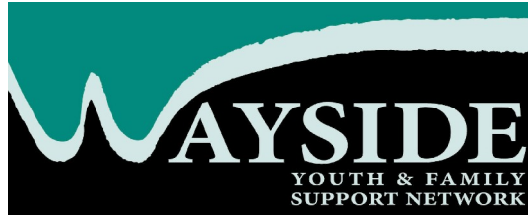
The Bridges will establish a collaborative network of schools, parents, youth and community agencies to identify youth needs, and to work together to implement a youth substance abuse prevention program. Funding over the next three years will be provided by The MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation to assist the towns of Milford and Bellingham to create this community wide approach to prevent youth substance abuse. The foundation will also provide technical assistance to bring science-based best practices from around the country to our program.

Research has shown that successful substance abuse prevention includes both teaching youth decision-making and life skills, and creating a supportive environment for them to thrive in. This project will work with the community to create a positive environment for our youth, increasing community awareness about substance use, identifying community needs and strengths, and building healthy and diverse youth-centered opportunities into the Milford/Bellingham communities.

Our project goals are to:

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify existing problems and to determine the resources needed to create solutions.
- Establish a collaborative network of schools, parents, youth and community organizations working together to create a community-wide plan to address youth substance abuse.
- Select and implement an effective science-based prevention program as part of the schools' Health / Wellness curriculums.
- Create an early identification and referral process for at-risk youth to provide intervention and support to the youth, their families and schools.

**To learn more or to get involved, please contact Amy Wilson, Project Coordinator,
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, at 508-478-6888 ext 204.**



The Wayside Mission

Wayside is dedicated to achieving the highest standards of quality and integrity in providing leading edge counseling, family support, residential and educational services for building strength, hope and resiliency in youth, families and communities.

The Wayside Story

Wayside's story began in 1977 when a group of citizens formed one of the first residences in New England for runaway and homeless youth—Harbinger House. As the need for alternatives to orphanages, reform schools, and psychiatric hospitals grew, Wayside responded by expanding to include an array of services, which support youth and families in their communities. Wayside provides residential programs as well as individual, group and family counseling, home-based outreach services, substance abuse treatment, prevention programs, trauma intervention services, and teen parent programs.

Over the years, the Wayside network has incorporated a number of long-standing, local community organizations whose commitment to helping the children and families of the region has served to complement Wayside's overall spectrum of care. Today, Wayside is one of Massachusetts' most respected child and family serving agencies.

Youth Residential Services

Wayside Harbinger House

A short-term, acute care program for adolescents who require an intensive diagnostic evaluation or who might otherwise need psychiatric hospitalization or are at risk of homelessness. For information, call (508) 872-5665

Twelve Prescott

A transitional apartment independent living program for young people

ages 17-25 that have experienced significant psychiatric and behavioral difficulties. For information, call (781) 643-1668

Sudbury Street Residence

A behavioral treatment residence including Chapter 766 approved special education for boys 12-17 experiencing educational, social, behavioral and emotional difficulties. For information, call (508) 624-4243

Shortstop

A transitional housing program for homeless young adults. For information, call 617-776-3377 or go to www.shortstopinfo.com

Wayside Academy

An approved special education (766) school for boys and girls ages 12-17 experiencing educational difficulties. For information, call 508-786-9424

Counseling and Substance Abuse Services

Wayside Family Counseling Centers

A full range of mental health and substance abuse services for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families including diagnostic assessments, psychological evaluation, medication evaluation and treatment, on-call emergency services, substance abuse evaluation/treatment and individual, group and family therapy. For more information, please call our toll-free Central Intake number at 1-800-4WAYSIDE, TTY (508) 620-1012

Wayside Family Works

Intensive community-based programs specializing in solution focused interventions for individuals and families to increase stability and problem solving skills as well as maintains family preservation and reunification. For more information, call (508) 620-0010 ext. 221 or TTY (508) 620-1012

Home Base/Take Charge

Home Base offers short-term, strength based family services including counseling, parent education, advocacy and respite. Take Charge teaches parenting strategies for coping with difficult adolescent behaviors. For information, call Waltham (781) 891-0555, TTY (781) 899-9422 or Arlington (781) 643-2580

Wayside Day Center

Day treatment, partial hospitalization and substance abuse programming for adolescents who are experiencing significant emotional problems. For information, call (508) 879-9800 ext. 263.

Wayside Early Intervention

A comprehensive community-based program of integrated therapeutic services targeted at children from birth to 3 years old who have developmental delays or may be at risk of developmental delay. For information, call (781) 891-0555 ext. 28.

Wayside Support Groups

A wide array of support, therapy and educational groups focusing on substance/alcohol abuse recovery, mental health, parent education, victims of violence, violence prevention, health, and mental health disabilities. Many groups are free and run consistently throughout the year. For information, call 1-800-4WAYSIDE, 1-800-492-9743 or TTY (508) 620-1012

Prevention and Support Services

Wayside's Child Care Mission Partnership

Wayside has partnered with Child Care Mission (CCM), a non-profit organization started in 1997 in Masaka district, Uganda. CCM's mission is to promote the welfare of HIV/AIDS orphans and that of their guardians, through effective education and training, advocating for their rights and empowering their guardians. For information, call (508) 879-9800.

Wayside Trauma Intervention Services

Counseling, emotional support, violence prevention, advocacy and legal information for sexual assault survivors. For information, call (508) 478-6888 ext. 135. Hotline: 1-800-511-5070

Wayside Community LINKS

Services include promoting healthy/safe alternatives through a provision of mobile outreach and community services to prevent homeless, violent and destructive situations for adolescents. For information, call (508) 620-0010 ext. 340 or TTY (508) 620-1012

Wayside Multi-Service Center

Adventure-based counseling, peer leadership, student assistance, and

activity groups focused on prevention of substance abuse, violence, and HIV/AIDS, through building resiliency skills in youth. Multi-cultural, community-based, collaborative approach to services. For information, call (617) 926-3600 ext. 308 or TTY (617) 926-2569

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Services

Affirming, issue-sensitive services are provided to gay and lesbian youth across our service continuum. Professional training is available for school and other community professionals. For information, call (508) 620-0010 ext. 334

Licenses/Accreditations

Council of Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc.
Massachusetts Office for Child Care Services
Department of Public Health
Department of Education
Department of Mental Health



A United Way
Member Agency



ACCREDITED

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION
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