

# Strengths

## Youth \* \* \* \*

- Passionate and engaged
- Articulate and strong leaders

## Community \* \* \* \*

- Collaboration of programs/organizations.
- A lot of good work already being done in our community.
- Varied and generous community partners.
- This issue is relevant to our community and people are passionate and building momentum.
- Community is involved and cares about needing change.

## School system \* \* \* \*

- School focus on whole child (holistic).
- Educators recognize importance of social/emotional issues.
- Collaborative sharing among districts.

## Families \* \* \* \*

- Small community with involved parents who are active and care about their kids. Want the best for them.

## Resources \* \* \* \*

- Money
- People
- Time

# Weaknesses

## Expectations \* \* \*

- Can be unrealistic and produce unnecessary academic and social pressure for youth.
- Parents are involved, but this can also be a weakness when they become “snow-plow” parents, forcing every obstacle out of their child’s path.
- There is also an unhealthy competition between some of the schools.

## Vulnerability \* \* \*

- There is an especially strong stigma surrounding mental health issues in our area. This can cause parents to feel shame or embarrassment and even prevent seeking help.
- Poor social emotional wellness is often hidden under the facade of affluence.

## Diversity \* \* \* \*

- There is an overall lack of diversity in our community. This includes racial, economic, social, and ideological diversity.
- This manifests in a lack of empathy and call to social justice.

## Awareness \* \* \* \*

- Parents are engaged, but not equipped.
- It can be difficult to get information out.
- While there is attention to this issue, there is still a lack of awareness of how to truly help.
- There is potential for confusion amongst organizations causing duplicate efforts.

## Resources \* \* \* \*

- Although there is money in our community, there are still insufficient resources in the school system to address social emotional problems.

# Opportunities

## Community \* \* \*

- Monument is a small, close-knit community.
- People know that something is wrong, but aren't always sure what to do.
- While some local partners have already come together in response to tragic events to create new initiatives, provide support, and alternatives for youth, we hope to grow an even stronger sense of shared responsibility for all young people throughout the community.

## Programming/Partnerships \* \* \* \*

- There is still a need for programming that teaches resiliency, grit, and coping strategies. This includes adult and youth led initiatives at home, school, church, etc.
- With additional education/information the community can learn to recognize mental health warning signs and how to respond.
- As a coalition we have more influence than we do individually.

## Visibility/Public Relations \* \* \*

- Our organizations can work together to provide consistent messaging and common language surrounding social emotional wellness.
- There are a lot of offerings, but not a centralized way to disseminate the information (i.e. local resources, offerings, what needs they meet, etc.).
- Our small community size gives us the opportunity to relay information through local avenues (i.e. locations and events such as movies at the clock tower, 4th of July, concerts in the park, etc.)

## Connection \* \* \*

- People are hungry for a place to belong.
- Youth and families seem less connected than ever.
- There is a need for safe spaces where kids and adults can get help, be authentic/vulnerable, and feel confident that they're not alone.

# Threats

## Funding \*\*

- We have outsourced social emotional learning to the schools.
- Schools cannot afford to do this work without additional resources.

## Culture \*\*\*

- There are 4-5 separate Monument communities (Downtown, Woodmoor, Jackson Creek, etc.) All have different costs/funding sources and age/stage of life demographics.
- Our growing retirement community (many on fixed incomes) don't relate to the needs of younger families (i.e. bond measures, etc).
- There is denial about the existence of this issue, and a "blame game" about who is responsible.
- There is an information overload in regards to this issue, and a lack of participation in Social Emotional Learning events.
- Stress and pressure is placed on students to succeed.

## Youth Community \*\*\*

- There is an absence of consistent community for youth. Some of this is due to social media/screen-usage. Breaks and vacations also disrupt their community, routine, and support systems.

## Momentum \*\*\*\*

- We can become discouraged as a community if we don't see improvement.
- We can get complacent if we think things are getting better.

## Access to Care \*\*\*

- When specialized care is needed, our current systems can be inconsistent, inefficient, and hard to navigate. This can be a roadblock to finding appropriate resources. This is true within the school system and the community at large.