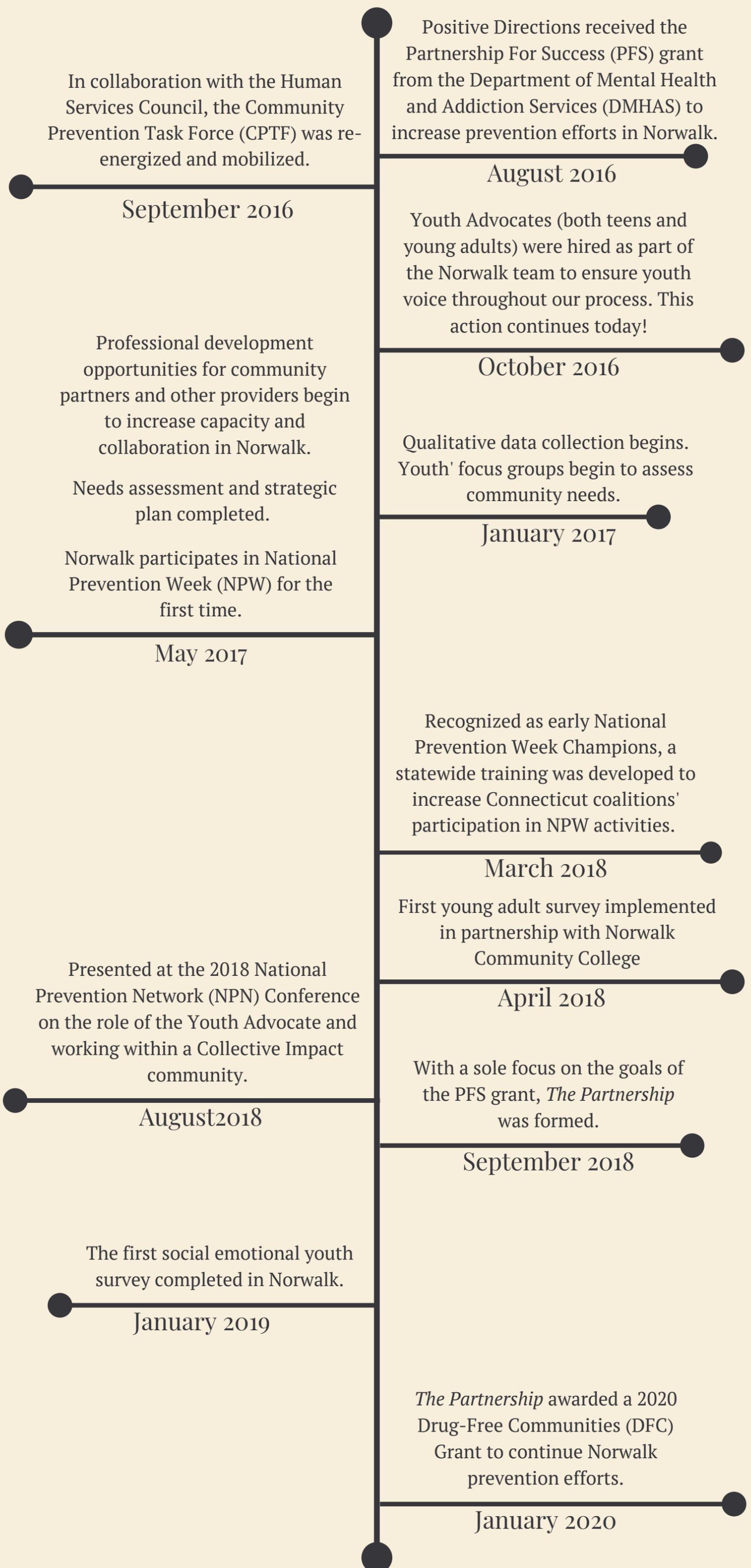


# OUR NORWALK PREVENTION JOURNEY

The mission of *The Partnership* is to collaboratively work together to reduce rates of substance misuse among youth and young adults and develop capacity and resources to support a healthy, safe, substance-free Norwalk.



BE A PART OF OUR JOURNEY! JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP!  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (203) 227-7644 OR  
EMAIL [DLEWIS@POSITIVEDIRECTIONS.ORG](mailto:DLEWIS@POSITIVEDIRECTIONS.ORG).

# TESTIMONIALS

As president of Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, Connecticut for 15 years, I had the privilege of working with Positive Directions on several projects. These ranged from providing much needed mental health services for our students to a campus-wide survey of alcohol abuse.

Throughout our collaborations, Positive Directions worked beautifully with college staff and students. While many at the College were concerned that we were bringing in an agency to address problems that were beyond the scope of the College, Positive Directions did an outstanding job in being sensitive to such concerns and literally won the college over through their tactful, professional approach.

-David Levinson, Presidential Fellow  
Connecticut State Colleges and University

This week, Denique and other members of the Positive Directions Team presented the overview results of the Attitudes and Risky Behaviors Survey completed by Norwalk 7th, 9th and 11th grade youth. At the BOE – short presentation and the more complete presentation to members of the Norwalk ACTS social emotional workgroup, Denique was outstanding. It wasn't just the data presentation but the way she expressed her philosophy about youth and hearing youth voice and engaging them in the work that I found so impactful and important for everyone in the room to hear.

Three members of the district leadership team were present and they will be taking a deeper dive into this at the district retreat in July where recommendations from the SE workgroup will be presented. There is a strong interest in focusing on how to increase youth assets as a priority. It's the start of a journey that has been a long time coming. It would not have been possible without Positive Directions.

-Cathy DeCesare, SVP Strategic Initiatives  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

During my time I gained compassion to a large community of people affected by mental health issues...I'm so glad I was able to participate in this free course. It's so helpful, especially when my job is working with many mothers in the community.

-Anonymous Training Participant

Positive Directions – The Center for Prevention and Counseling, continues to demonstrate strength in working with community partners to address issues that prevent individuals and families from reaching their fullest potential. As the backbone operation for collective impact work in our community, Norwalk ACTS continues to look to your expertise, professionalism, and leadership in helping solve community level problems. Your diligent work partnering with the Norwalk Public Schools to collect data on student behaviors has made a huge difference in our ability to set strategies and action plans around social emotional learning for our community.

-Jennifer Barahona, CEO Norwalk ACTSs

Being a Youth Advocate with the PFS grant allowed me to work with youth from my community in Norwalk to address trends in substance misuse and underage drinking. As Youth Advocate, I helped develop and implement survey questionnaires to gather young adult drug use data and conducted focus groups to better understand emerging trends in adolescent substance use. I have been able to utilize the knowledge gained from grant related trainings on data collection, community mobilization, and strategic planning throughout my career. Since working in prevention, I have graduated with a Masters in Social Work from Columbia University and worked at the intersection of gun violence prevention and justice reform. Currently, I work at the Center for Court Innovation as a Coordinator of Strategic Planning and Operations. The skillset I learned as a Youth Advocate has influenced my career tremendously and I am grateful for the experience.

-Farrah Marin, Former Youth Advocate

