

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

“ Building a comprehensive continuum of services for Bainbridge Island residents.”

Fall 2004 Highlights

Human Services Safety Net Just Got Better

A Safety Net You Can Count On

The Safety Net of Human Service Agencies

One Call for All



Health
Housing and
Human Services
Council

Readers may notice that “COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH” has become “COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.” This change reflects a shift in focus of collaborating agencies with the intent of building a broader base of human services to include not just youth, but the elderly, and everyone in-between.

Bainbridge Island Community CONNECTIONS

Human Services Safety Net Just Got Better

In 2003 the Health, Housing and Human Services Council (HHHS) completed an assessment of our community’s human service needs with an eye for gaps in the current system of services. As strong and diverse as the Bainbridge Island human services system is, unmet needs were found. So, HHHS moved assessment into action. More than seventy volunteers made up five action teams to strategize how to fill those gaps in services. The action teams’ recommendations follow. In several cases, new systems to close service gaps have already been put in place.

ACTION TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Affordable Housing

- Support the Mayor’s 2004 Affordable Housing Task Force Report.
- Inventory publicly owned land to identify potential affordable housing sites.
- Convene a Housing Summit to educate and engage the community in housing solutions

Affordable Medical and Dental Care

- Develop a dental referral system for low-income adults and children. **A new system went into place in July, 2004, services provided by local dentists and hygienists, with referrals managed by Helpline House.**
- Support establishment of the new Peninsula Community Health Clinic on Bainbridge Island. **This new clinic, serving uninsured and underinsured people opened in August 2004 at the Kitsap County Health District location at the Bainbridge Commons.**
- Improve the current Island medical referral system, including improved mental health services and prescription assistance

Childcare for Children with Special Needs

- Increase provider capacity through information, support, and development strategies.
- Create childcare options for working parents.
- Address financial considerations for families and providers.

Senior Day Services and Affordable Assisted Living

- Increase awareness of and access to case management and supportive services.
- Support collaboration between social service and medical providers and assist seniors in accessing prescription drugs.
- Explore ways to offer adult day health and respite care.
- Develop additional resources for assisting people in need of financial supports.
- Explore alternative models for affordable housing and assisted living and encourage developers to think in terms of senior needs.

- Provide ongoing opportunities for consumers and providers to coordinated and support strategies for aging in place. **The second quarterly forum—open to all interested people—was held in October, 2004 at the Senior Center.**

Youth Drug and Alcohol Abuse

- Establish mission and direction for “Just Know” coalition for sustainable, focused action.
- Implement policies and practices that validate the role of youth in our community.
- Create a stable funding mechanism to support youth programs and initiatives.
- Explore options for a multi-generational community facility that supports youth activities.
- Enhance youth access to confidential medical, counseling and social services.
- Work with youth-oriented businesses and organizations on the Island to expand programs, hours of operation and involve youth in shaping those programs and services.

Contact HHHS at 206/842-9335 if you or a group you work with are interested in moving an action team recommendation forward, or if your group wishes to receive a presentation on the needs assessment follow-up process. For a full copy of the HHHS needs assessment and follow-up report, go to: www.bihhhs.org or call HHHS.

When Life Takes a Turn

At any given time in a community the size of Bainbridge Island, life can take an unforeseen turn for some of us, and we find ourselves needing help. For just those times, the community has developed an effective safety net of human services Islanders can rely on. Here are three invented scenarios typical of situations that bring us, our friends, or neighbors to the human services community for assistance.

Beth's story... *Last year you, your husband, and four children (3, 8, 12, and 16) moved into a beautiful rental on the Bainbridge waterfront to see if Island living was everything you dreamed it might be. If so, you hoped to build a new house. You also wanted to be near your newly widowed brother and his special needs son. When the sale of your Seattle house fell through, you were a little worried. But you had two incomes. Then, six months ago, your spouse lost his job.*

Tony's story... *You need answers fast, but a demanding job and being a single dad, leaves little time to hunt for them. You're staring at a note from your daughter's high school advisor suggesting counseling. Given how sensitive she is right now, suggesting that she needs counseling won't fly. And you'd be the bad guy, yet again. But if you're the bad guy, why does she rarely spend weekends with her mother? And why does she blow up after every visit? And what is she doing after school? Your instincts tell you she needs help, but where to turn?*

Maria's story... *Ed, your late husband, left you well-provided for. No money for frills, but you've always been self-reliant—until now. Today the car gave up the ghost, and that's probably a blessing because your eyesight's not sharp enough to drive anymore. However there's no money for regular taxi trips to the store. Vim and vigor have gone the way of your eyesight, and some help around the place is essential. It's worrisome. If you can't care for yourself and your property well enough you might have to give up the home you and Ed built together sixty years ago.*

Help Is Available

There is a broad and effective safety net of human services organizations to help Islanders when times get tough. Through Community Connections, these agencies collaborate to serve the community and work in partnership with the Health, Housing and Human Services Council, Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation District, and the Bainbridge Island School District. The stories of how the agencies might respond to clients like Beth, Tony, and Maria follow.

Boys & Girls Club of B. I.

855-8486

When Beth's family ran into financial difficulty, the club gave her son Adrian a safe place to go after school every day for only \$20 a year, as well as a scholarship for early dismissal days, parent conference days, and summer day camp. Adrian got to go swimming with the kids in the Club on Fridays! He got his older brother Robbie involved, too. Robbie dreams of being a teacher, so he enjoys tutoring club members in science and math, and helps with club events like the recent Pumpkin Walk.

Housing Resources Board

842-9664

Maria had heard of the nonprofit housing work we've done for the community over the past fifteen years, and plucked up the courage to give us a call. She was worried about her inability to maintain her house properly. Because she qualified for our Independent Living home modification program, we were able to help her make some much needed home improvements. We just finished installing her lighting and heating upgrades, and we rebuilt her entryway porch, which had rotted through. All free to Maria.

B. I. Special Needs Foundation

780-1211

Recently, Beth's brother Andy and his son Mark got involved in our Stephens' House donut baking project. Mark blossomed when we tailored the operation to suit his skills. The donut project gave him a taste for success and now he also enjoys making our body care products. Mark likes the outdoors and is very interested in the plants in his yard at home. So, we designed horticultural business activities to channel his interest in a productive way. He's delighted to find that his green thumb pays.

of Human Service Agencies

Call for All'

BI Teen Center **855-9769**

Tony's daughter Anna stopped by the Teen Center late one Friday night to use the free phone to call home for a ride. While she waited, she had fun with some teens who were making duct tape wallets. Since then, she spends time after school at the Center, especially when our female staff works. When Anna alluded to being afraid to visit her Mom since her parents divorced, a staff member told her about the free counseling available at Bainbridge Youth Services. She seems much happier since she got support, and we're happy because she's now the treasurer for our Teen Board.

B.I. Child Care Centers **842-6525**

Children's Center • Big Kids • Kid's Club
When Beth and her husband moved to the island, they enrolled their youngest children with us. The children thrived in the nurturing, fun filled program. The enriching activities both before & after school and year-round made us an excellent choice for the children of two working parents. After the family experienced financial difficulties, we provided a scholarship for the children. Also, we were pleased to hire their oldest son Robbie as a childcare aid four mornings a week before school. He's a born teacher!

B. I. Senior Community Center **842-1616**

Maria called the Senior Center and learned that Kitsap Access will pick her up at home and take her to any place in Kitsap County, so she can maintain her independence. Now, she has lunch almost every weekday at the Center with old friends from her school days at Bainbridge High and new friends, too. She's been feeling better since she started taking our exercise classes three days a week, and she volunteers as our receptionist, too. The people at the Center are like a second family to her.

Bainbridge Youth Services (BYS) **842-9675**

Tony and his daughter Anna came to us for counseling. He wanted to learn to improve communications with his daughter, and Anna wanted to help protect her mother from a violent boyfriend. After being able to talk together, father and daughter left determined to work as a team for Anna's mother's safety. Tony gained a new appreciation for his daughter's maturity. And, while at the BYS office, Anna discovered a job on the Jobs Board. She's now employed at a local photography studio—her first love!

Helpline House 842-7621

When Beth came to us, our social worker helped design a proactive plan to deal with their reduced income and to maintain family unity. Counseling helped Beth's family deal with stress. Food Bank resources as well as emergency rental and power assistance got them through until they could move to a more affordable home. Everyone in the family was happy to receive scholarships to programs sponsored by BIPRD. Even better, Beth's husband worked with our career counselor and has found a great new job at last.

B. I. Park & Recreation District **842-2306**

BIPRD subsidizes classes for people in need with the screening support of Helpline House. Beth and her family received program vouchers for swimming, gymnastics, and pottery classes, and her two sons have vouchers for the ski bus this winter.

B. I. School District 842-4714

The school district assists families through a variety of familiar programs such as subsidized hot lunches and counseling support. We also collaborate with Bainbridge human services agencies to help families link up with the effective network of assistance available outside of the school setting—the kind of caring assistance available from the agencies represented in this newsletter.

B. I. YWCA A.L.I.V.E. Program **780-2931**

When Tony realized Anna's mother was being abused in her new relationship, he and his daughter contacted the YWCA A.L.I.V.E domestic violence program. Anna's mother received help in obtaining a protection order; got counseling, and found the needed resources to become self sufficient. She joined the ongoing Thursday evening support group, and says that having others to talk with who are also experiencing domestic violence has turned her life around. Best of all, Anna feels its safe to spend weekends with her mother again.

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers **842-4441**

Through a friend, Maria heard that Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers might give her a ride to her Seattle medical appointment. Sure enough, a volunteer named Mickey drove her to the clinic, picked up her prescription, and then took her back home. Maria was worn out from the trip to Seattle. So, Mickey did her grocery shopping, fed her cat, and read her the Bainbridge Review while Maria rested and enjoyed a companionable dinner. Mickey loves to garden and offered yard help for the coming weekend, so the two spent a happy Saturday together winterizing Maria's favorite perennial bed.

Health, Housing and Human Services Council (HHHS) **842-9335**

We help make connections that tie Bainbridge Island's safety net of human services together by providing coordination and advocacy for the nonprofit human service organizations you're reading about on this page. We also educate the community about human service needs. HHHS has the unique responsibility of implementing the Human Service Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, fostering improvements in the range, delivery, and quality of human services for our community.


COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

221 Winslow Way W., Suite 203
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-842-9335
www.biccfy.org

B.I. Child Care Centers
502 Cave Ave. • B.I. 98110
206-842-6525


B. I. Special Needs Foundation
P.O. Box 10919 • B.I. 98110
206-780-1211

B.I. Teen Center
P.O. Box 10569 • B.I. 98110
206-855-9769

Bainbridge Youth Services 
P.O. Box 11173 • B.I. 98110
206-842-9675

Boys & Girls Club of B.I. 
P.O. Box 10416 • B.I. 98110
206-855-8486

Helpline House
282 Knechtel Way • B.I. 98110
206-842-7621

Housing Resources Board 
P.O. Box 11391 • B.I. 98110
206-842-1909

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
P.O. Box 11253 • B.I. 98110
206-842-4441

YWCA A.L.I.V.E.
B.I. Domestic Violence Program
P.O. Box 137, Rolling Bay, WA 98061
206-780-2931


Health Housing and Human Services Council
221 Winslow Way W., Suite 203
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-842-9335



City of Bainbridge Island
208 Madison Avenue N.
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-842-7633

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

B.I. School District
206-842-4714

B.I. Parks & Recreation District
206-842-2306

B.I. Senior Community Center
206-842-1616



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Building Community Through Giving

There are many needs in this community, needs for housing, food, emotional or financial help. **There is also the need to give**—giving your time, your talents, your extra clothes or food, your funds. It's a great feeling to slip into Helpline and drop off those cans of perfectly delicious Amy's Chili that your daughter mysteriously abandoned in favor of Stag—and a few other things you think people might enjoy as well.

It's also a great feeling to know that the safety net of human services is there to catch you and your friends and neighbors when life takes an unpredictable turn. The agencies that are the fiber and strength of that net depend, in part, on the **One Call for All Fund Drive** for support.

It's a terrific feeling to put that big red One Call for All envelope in the mail—a little fatter from your check. And to recall tirelessly filling in an amount—no matter the size—across from every single agency you enjoy supporting.



Bainbridge Island Health, Housing and Human Services Council (HHHS) has combined efforts with the listed agencies in the creation of the **Community Connections (CC)** project. For more information on community related services, check out the CC website: www.biccfy.org, or the HHHS website: www.bihhhs.org