



Raising Resilience History

November 15, 2003: The community confronted drinking and drugging at a forum for parents and teens hosted by a newly formed **Just Know Coalition for Youth and Parents**. The forum was called after an incident involving two Bainbridge Island High School Sophomore girls. The girls were given near fatal amounts of alcohol by a 19-year-old boy they met at the Pavilion. One of the girls ended up semi-comatose from alcohol poisoning.

Imagine Bainbridge, was also created in response to the alcohol poisoning incident and became a member of the Coalition. Imagine Bainbridge was founded by Billie Taylor, who was also the co-founder of Mama Llamas. Imagine Bainbridge started by facilitating a meeting between the kids involved and their parents and went on to host more meetings in the community that grew in attendance and eventually included police, insurance officials, and legal professionals to outline the consequence of unchecked drinking. Imagine Bainbridge also convinced Pegasus Coffee House to stay open late on weekends so local teens could have an alcohol-free place to hang out.

March 31, 2004: Family Night – **The Bainbridge Coalition for Youth and Parents** (formerly Just Know) orchestrated an “unscheduled” family night which encouraged an island wide shut down of all meetings and activities to allow families a night at home together. Mayor Darlene Kordonowy endorsed the event.

August 2004: A Bainbridge Island teenager was killed in a car accident on Tolo Road. The driver was fourteen and the car had been taken without permission. Some of the teenagers in the car had smoked marijuana. Seven other teenagers were injured, four of them seriously. The girl’s mother rallied for change on Bainbridge and beyond. Their family distributed \$2 donation green bracelets that had the girl’s name and “Live2Love Love2Live” in an effort to promote responsibility and raise awareness. It appears **The Bainbridge Coalition for Youth and Parents** rallied after this incident as well. At some point the organization began hosting quarterly dinners at Yonder with community leaders to discuss priority issues facing families in the community and how to address them.

September 2004: **Mama Llamas** launched a parenting series at the library for parents of tweens and teens. Billie Taylor, who founded Imagine Bainbridge was also the co-founder of Mama Llamas. The series included workshops on how to listen to your teenager, the effects of screen technology, raising sexually responsible teens, raising financially responsible teens, and parenting and spirituality.

October 2004: **Imagine Bainbridge** hosted a Power of Hope event for youth and adults. The mayor encouraged the group to take the results of this event to the community with Table Talks, a program sponsored by the city that posed questions that encouraged communication between youth and their parents placing cards on tables in restaurants and on the fence near the ferry for a six-week period.

May 2005: **Mama Llamas** sponsored a discussion about rape after an Island teenager was raped by a coach.

August 2006: **The Bainbridge Coalition for Youth and Parents** qualified as a 501 (c) (3). We should note that Imagine Bainbridge and Mama Llamas ceased to operate over time and The Bainbridge Coalition for Youth and Parents (which eventually changed their name to Raising Resilience) continued the work the separate organizations had been doing.

September 2012: The Bainbridge Coalition for Youth and Parents voted to change their name to **Raising Resilience** (but didn’t file the name change with the state until June 2019)

October 2012: **Raising Resilience** began a rotation of yearly speaker events, panels, classes, workshops, and documentaries. The first Raising Resilience event was Growing Resilient Children with Clay Roberts.

The ***Bainbridge Island Healthy Youth*** came on the scene at some point as an alliance between Bainbridge Youth Services, Rotary, Raising Resilience, Boys and Girls Club, and BISD. Along the way, they changed their name to ***Alliance for Youth***.

The Alliance was charged with hosting an annual healthy youth summit and delivering a resource guide for tweens and teens.

At this point, Bainbridge Youth Services served youth, Raising Resilience served parents (but co-sponsored events with BYS that crossed over) and the Alliance for Youth connected both youth and parents to resources.

The Alliance has since dissolved and Raising Resilience has a clarified role as the parent support organization for Bainbridge Island (with growing outreach to neighbor communities). Raising Resilience works symbiotically in alliance with Bainbridge Youth Services.

July 2019: Raising Resilience hired their first executive director and entered a capacity building phase. They also moved from an event to event structure to an annual program calendar and expanded content on their website to reach parents through both live events and online.

Current Sector Roles

Raising Resilience serves parents by focusing on the parental role. We offer information, education, resources, and connections through both live events and online content and program.

Bainbridge Youth Services serves youth by focusing on their social and emotional well-being through free counseling services for ages 12-21. They also facilitate peer tutoring and teen job and internship placement and occasionally host workshops. BYS offers one on one parent coaching when it involves mental health issues for youth, ages 13-18.