2016-2017 Annual Report
Vision

Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids.

Mission

Aunt Leah’s Place helps prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. To support them on their journey to self-sufficiency, we provide supported housing, coaching on essential life skills, educational guidance, and employment training.

Success

Create an environment where all children connected to the foster care system have equal opportunities akin to what parented children receive.

Core Values

All behaviour has meaning and is the human tool for communication.

Success is fragile and must be tended to and supported with care.

An individual’s artistic/soulful centre must be expressed and appreciated.

Celebration is essential to a successful life.

Community building ensures that we all have a place to go when we need support.

Entrepreneurial spirit builds individuals and organizations.
A Family Model

Every year in BC, over 700 youth will turn 19 and “age out” of government care, forcing an abrupt end to their social, emotional, and financial supports. Quickly, these youth must secure food, housing, employment, and develop the life-skills to keep it all together. It’s an exacting standard we ask of no other young adults in our society. As a result, nearly half of these youths will experience homelessness, less than a third will graduate from secondary school, and the majority will rely on income assistance.

However, it doesn’t have to be this way. By modeling Canadian families, and surrounding youth with holistic supports, including housing, counselling, life skill development, education and employment opportunities, we have seen these courageous young people realize their potential while becoming resilient, independent adults.

Aunt Leah’s Family Model of care is a bottom-up approach, guided by the young people we serve, informed by quality data, and verified by the best practices in our field.
As the umbrella program for Aunt Leah’s services, the Link connects 19+ year old youth with the housing, food security, life skills, social capital, education, and employment opportunities needed to help them achieve their goals and become healthy, independent adults. And like a family, Aunt Leah’s foster youth cannot age out of this support.

Entering into its 10th year, The Link continues to grow at an unprecedented rate (23% in 2016-2017) underscoring the need for continued support after youth age out of care. Link Support Workers help participants with practical needs every young adult asks for, such as housing, food, income assistance, doctors appointments, education employment, transportation, and social connection.

This program is funded in part by BC Gaming, BC Housing, City of Vancouver, and Central City Foundation.
Bridging The Housing Gap

Over the past five years, the Link has excelled in housing youth transitioning from care. After boasting a 90% housed rate last year, we learned that eliminating youth homelessness in our region is attainable. However, despite housing 17 homeless youth this year, we saw a 10% decrease in our housing rate, as additional youth maxed out our housing subsidies and greatly increased our staff to youth ratio. Importantly, this data shows that we have the model to end youth homelessness, and with the right funding we can make this a reality in Metro Vancouver.

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

This past Summer, with funding from the Vancouver Foundation, Aunt Leah’s YAC organized and paddled alongside 20 other organizations and first nations, during the Pulling Together Society’s week long canoe journey. This unforgettable trip allowed them to advocate for youth, connect to traditional indigenous culture, and submerge themselves in the beauty of British Columbia.

“So much happened to my little Canoe Family this year on our journey, but we were blessed to be able to go off into nature and take personal time to reconnect while still doing the important work the Pulling Together Canoe Society had set us all out to do.”
Aunt Leah’s Place provides supportive housing for youth transitioning out of foster care and young mothers in need. Our programs target the entry and exit points of the foster care system, with a goal of providing stability, resources and opportunities similar to those provided by mainstream Canadian families.

**Aunt Leah’s House** provides safe, supported housing for pregnant and parenting teen moms currently in government care. This past fiscal year the house cared for six young moms and seven babies. Aunt Leah’s House has given these young families a healthy foundation for the future by ensuring that each mother and child is connected with a family doctor, dentist, and optometrist. Furthermore, the majority (83%) are attending school and 100% secured housing after leaving the program.

This program is funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.
**Support Link** provides transitional housing for teens currently in foster care who want to live independently and develop essential life skills before aging out of care. During this past year, **Support Link staff helped 40 youth prepare for their 19th birthdays.** Upon exiting the program, 75% of these youth secured safe housing three months after aging out. Thanks to a renewed focus on employment & training, 75% of youth in the program are currently employed.

*This program is funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.*

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**Thresholds House** provides supported housing and services for new moms at risk of losing custody of their child. This past year the house brought security to 25 moms and babies in need. **93% of these mothers secured safe housing and maintained custody of their children upon exiting the program.** While in the program these moms also made significant strides in their personal development, with each of them indicating heightened involvement in school and employment training programs.

*This program is funded in part by Vancouver Foundation, John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation, and Moffat Family Fund.*

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**The Link: Housing First** provides homeless participants immediate access to permanent housing and regular support services. This past year, Housing First helped house 19 youths secure housing. Since entering the program, **four of these youth are now enrolled in education and training programs, and nine are employed** and working towards independence.

*This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy.*

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**The Friendly Landlord Network (FLN)** is a Metro Vancouver-wide network of homeowners and property managers who rent suites to youths transitioning out of government care, with the support of 16 youth serving organizations. **Despite an aggressive housing market, with vacancy rates at a record low of 0.7%, the FLN managed to house eight youth from care.** This progressive model was presented at the Pacific Housing Research Network Presentation.

*This program is funded by the Vancouver Foundation.*
Aunt Leah’s Foundation

Aunt Leah’s Foundation provides a continuum of housing to meet the needs of foster youth and youth aging out of care throughout the Lower Mainland. With a range of properties at its disposal, the Foundation operates a self-sustaining, income-producing real estate portfolio and works closely with Aunt Leah’s Place through a joint development and operations team and collaborative boards.

New Housing

In 2017, Aunt Leah’s Foundation, in partnership with BC Housing, acquired two new properties - a 10+ unit apartment building and a five bedroom home. These buildings help expand Aunt Leah’s Thresholds program and provide new housing opportunities for youth in need transitioning from care.
Housing Updates

This past year each of Aunt Leah’s properties received substantial upgrades that enhance their quality and increase the organization’s capacity & programming capabilities.

Head Office Upstairs Renovation
Thanks to generous funding by Telus and the support of the Central City Foundation, Aunt Leah’s was able to complete the upstairs renovations at the head office, increasing our programming space downstairs.

Thresholds Kitchen Upgrade
Thanks to the funding and support of the Home Depot Canada Foundation and Moffat Family Fund, Aunt Leah’s Thresholds house was able to receive an extensive renovation of the upstairs kitchen and living room space. The additional counter space has allowed staff to increase participation in the Cooking Club program.

Aunt Leah’s House Fence Repair
Our local Home Depot helped Aunt Leah’s House replace its old decaying fence, providing a safe and beautiful environment for our young moms and children to relax and play in.
Life Skills

Our life skills programs and workshops provide participants with the knowledge and experience needed to navigate living on their own. Youths learn how to plan and prepare for independent living through workshops and hands-on experience led by community experts who donate their time and knowledge.

737 Program Attendance
(Up 31% from Previous Year)

52 Workshops
(e.g. First Aid, Ready to Rent, Mental Health, Interview Skills, Recreation)

The Essential Skills Workshops have grown thanks to allowing participants to show up for a meal without being required to attend the class. We’ve seen that after having some food and socializing with the other youth there, more young people are encouraged to participate in the workshop.

This program is funded in part by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation.
Education

Supporting Education for Foster Youth (SEFFY)

Education has been shown to be directly linked to a person’s quality of life and is an important key for youth to transition successfully out of care. Our education program highlights strengths, identifies needs and advocates for resources that lead to academic success for foster youth. Thanks to generous donors and education partners, we can eliminate barriers to stable housing through our HELPS subsidy and provide in-house bursaries to cover the cost of supplies and tuition.

36% Post Secondary - 36% of SEFFY participants 19+ years old are enrolled in Post Secondary School.

10 Bursaries - In 2017, SEFFY provided 10 Bursaries, worth $11,700, to participants pursuing their post secondary education at institutions across Metro Vancouver including Douglas College, Langara College, Native Education College, Vancouver Community College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Thompson Rivers Open Learning.

This program is funded in part by HSBC, Seedlings Foundation, and Community Foundations of Canada.
Aunt Leah’s training programs give youth a chance to develop their employable skills through training programs, such as First Aid and FOODSAFE, and hands-on retail experience at one of our social enterprises. Youth also receive help building their resume, gathering references and job searching.

**Tree Lot Retail Training**

- **3** Program Graduates
- **2** Train the Trainers

**Bootstraps**

- **12** Program Participants
- **75%** Graduation Rate
- **58%** Post Program Employment & Education Rate

Last winter, Aunt Leah’s piloted a new training program called Bootstraps. The objectives of the program were to help youth overcome barriers to employment and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge to access employment opportunities, return to school or a combination of both.

*This program was funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Skills Link Program, Coast Capital, Bosa Family Foundation, and Aunt Leah’s Urban Thrift*
Aunt Leah’s food based programs help ensure that youth from care and young moms avoid hunger and are taught the skills to make nutritious, affordable meals. The Fresh Food Network helps stock these programs, by collecting and re-distributing foods that only hours previously were for sale on store floors at full price.

**Fresh Food Network**

$52,000 - Amount of food collected and donated by Dan’s Legacy & ReFood to Aunt Leah’s Place.

32 - The Fresh Food Network, pioneered by Aunt Leah’s & Dan’s Legacy, now delivers food to 32 organizations, serving many different people in need throughout our region.

**Sunday Haven** - Every Sunday our friends at Dan’s Legacy host a community dinner for the youth and mothers at Aunt Leah’s Place. This year Dan’s Legacy prepared $10,660 worth of food, feeding 218 young people in need throughout the year.

**Cooking Club**

4 Moms Who Graduated with FOODSAFE

40 Participants (20 moms & 20 Children)

*These programs are funded in part by the United Way Lower Mainland and BC Gaming.*
Marcia Tait came to the Thresholds program on a cold day in February of 2015. During her initial meeting with one of Aunt Leah’s staff, it was clear that Marcia was feeling uncomfortable. Aunt Leah’s staff took her out for breakfast after the meeting. While having breakfast, Marcia told them she wasn’t sure if Thresholds was for her. The staff listened to Marcia share her story, then one of them smiled and told Marcia “I think this is just where you need to be”. Marcia began to cry, and they asked her if she was okay, she smiled only in a way Marcia could and told staff that this was the first chance she had been given in a long time. Marcia moved into Thresholds a few days later.

Today Marcia is a Peer Mentor for the Thresholds house, for its current and past moms. Marcia isn’t just a participant of the Thresholds family she is a huge part of what we do on a daily basis. Marcia has worked very hard with the staff to find her VOICE and to realize she has CHOICE. She shares her struggles and success with the moms openly. In her own way “You got this!”

Marcia and her youngest daughter are now participating in the second stage of Aunt Leah’s Thresholds Program. Marcia will continue in her role as a Peer Mentor and an amazing mom.

The Leah Award
Unconditional Love & Support

Bruce was a friend and long-time supporter of Aunt Leah’s who passed away on March 6, 2010. It was important to Bruce to be more than a donor. He also gave his time as a volunteer and shared his wisdom, helping Aunt Leah’s in various fundraising endeavours. Bruce was known among his family for giving them his unconditional love and support and was always proud of their achievements.

- In Honour of Bruce Ambrose -
This award is presented in honour of Rona Castagnier, a long time co-worker and friend of Aunt Leah’s Society. Rona was a very strong, kind, compassionate and proud person. Rona wouldn’t hesitate to give someone her last dollar if they were in need, even if it meant that she would go without. In honour of Rona, Aunt Leah’s gives an annual award and bursary to a student from one of Aunt Leah’s Training Programs who has shown the characteristics that Rona appreciated the most.

- In Honour of Rona Castagnier -
Braydon Chapela
2017 Jeremy Wright Award Winner

In May of 2016, Braydon moved into the Support Link program, a semi-independent living program, through Aunt Leah’s Place.

What is most striking about Braydon is that as a 17-year-old he has managed to build an influencer level social media presence on Instagram, work a part-time job, live on his own in the Support Link Program, purchase a car all the while attending university. Today, he is 18 years old and will be going on a youth agreement and moving into his own independent suite on May 1st, 2017.

Braydon’s bliss and motivation are to continue seeking knowledge about the film and photography world through post-secondary education. He has a strong passion for photography. He recently saved, then purchased, a speciality vintage camera. He has started his own Instagram account to exhibit his work. This account has accrued over thirty-five thousand followers. His photography is highly recognized throughout the lower mainland.

Aunt Leah’s place was fortunate to have Braydon work for it during the summer of 2016 in the capacity of videographer. Currently, Braydon has just finished his first year in University at Kwantlen Polytechnique University. He continues to have contractual work for his photography and filming events.

Aunt Leah’s hope for Braydon is to continue pursuing his bliss of working with photography and film.

The Jeremy Wright Award
Character & Determination

The Jeremy Wright Award was created to honour the memory of Jeremy Wright, a Support Worker, who was very special to the organization. The award is to recognize and support a Support Link youth with goals that they have set and are actively working towards. It is presented to a youth living in the Support Link Program who has strived to achieve their personal best and who most “follows their bliss.”

- In Honour of Jeremy Wright -
In its 23rd year, Aunt Leah’s Trees opened its fifth Tree Lot, thanks to partnerships with the Wesgroup’s Brewery District in New Westminster. New security concerns were also raised this year as the lots suffered its first major theft when the “Grinch” - aptly named by the media - stole $5,000 worth of trees from our Lonsdale Quay tree lot. We want to give special recognition to the amazing community of North Van who responded with kindness and generosity. Within three days we had recovered all that was lost through donations, thank you.
Urban Thrift

Aunt Leah’s Urban Thrift features quality “pre-loved” clothing and accessories as well as a variety of furniture and household items. All profits go towards preventing children in foster care from becoming homeless, and mothers in need from losing custody of their children.

2016 Store Sales Figures

Urban Thrift: Annual Sales Comparison

$10,726 provided to participants at Aunt Leah’s Place

10 Love to Give concerts held at Urban Thrift

59 Volunteers gave 2,908 hours.

This past year, Urban Thrift continued to play a versatile role for Aunt Leah’s Place, responding to new training programs, managing unique staffing challenges, all the while staying competitive and boasting a **22% gross increase in sales.** The team is poised to have a breakout year, thanks to our growing number of donors, and Love to Give Night, which brings the community together for live music at our store once a month.

*Bootstraps Training staff for Urban Thrift were funded in part by the Government of Canada’s Skills Link Program.*
Events

Introducing The Birthday Party Gala

On the evening of Gale Stewart’s retirement, Aunt Leah’s introduced The Birthday Party, a legacy gala, that will provide a coming of age celebration and an on-going source of funds for young foster youth “aging out” of government care on their 19th birthday.

This annual event recognizes Aunt Leah’s commitment to serving vulnerable foster youth and mothers in need through innovative programming and a family model of care.

Third Party Events

We would like to acknowledge the individuals, groups & businesses who organized and ran a third party fundraiser in support of the young people at Aunt Leah’s Place.

Pay it Forward
Fraser Valley Quilters Guild
Claudia Yung of Vive Tu Vida Fitness
Regional Recycling
Mission of Care (FS Financial)
Absolute Software
Double Negative Canada Productions Ltd.
Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver
Florists Supply
West Coast Science Fiction Association
Volunteer

Volunteers are critical to the success of our Programs and to the lives of the young people we serve. Our volunteers are the driving force of our Social Enterprises and Fundraising Events. We feel honoured that so many amazing people donate their time to us each year.

577 Volunteers

6,314 Volunteer Hours

$68,444 Donated Labour (set at BC’s min. wage)

Special thanks to BMO, Dan’s Legacy, MNP, Pay It Forward, Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Telus, The Home Depot Canada, and our fantastic Board.
Supporters

We would like to acknowledge the many organizations, businesses and foundations who help fund and contribute to Aunt Leah’s work.

1988 Investments Ltd.
Absolute Software
Abundance Canada
Andrew Mahon Foundation
Averbach Family Foundation
BB Wise Fund
BC Housing

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development
BC Nurses Union
BC Provincial Blood Coordinating Office
Bosa Properties Charitable Foundation
Central City Foundation
Charity Intelligence
Chevron Canada Limited
CIBC Children’s Foundation
City of Vancouver
Costco Wholesale
Dahl & Connors Barristers & Solicitors
Dawson Service Ltd.
Digitally Hip Corporation
Double Negative Canada Productions Ltd.
DP World
Dr. Ann Worth Charitable Foundation
Dr. CM Knight Optometric Corp
Dragon Fire Foundation
Elks Club of New Westminster
Face the World Foundation
Fix Enterprise Ltd.
Florists Supply
Fraser Valley Quilter’s Guild
GBL Architects Inc.
George & Donna Battye Fund
Gomoh Enterprises Ltd.
Government of Canada
Hager Design International
HSBC
Jessie F Gordon Chapter IODE
John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Vancouver, BC

Landmark Law Group
Link Charity Canada Inc.
Lonsdale Quay Market Corp.
Magic Stronghold Games
Metro Vancouver
Mission of Care Association
MNP Community Committee
Moffat Family Fund
Napaja Enterprises Ltd c/o Jane Duff
New Westminster Firefighters Charitable Society
North Vancouver Host Lions Club
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
Peter Gilgan Foundation
PG Wilcox MD, FRCPC Inc.
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver
Regional Recycling
Rotary Women’s Association
Seedlings Foundation
Shiseido Social Welfare Foundation
St. Mary’s Anglican Church
Super-Save Fence Rentals Inc.
TELUS
The 1988 Foundation
The Gyro Club of Vancouver Charitable Foundation
The Home Depot Canada Foundation
The Quesnel Foundation
The Seaview Fund
Timothy C Kerr Family Foundation
Trevor Linden Foundation
United Way Lower Mainland
United Way of York Region
United Way Toronto & York Region
VanCity Community Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Walter Painting Systems
Wesik Construction
West Coast Science Fiction Association
Whittall Family Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
Wolrige Foundation
WorkSafe BC Helping Hands
Young Foundation
Thank you to the 546 people who made a donation to Aunt Leah’s Place this past fiscal year. Your contributions provide foster youth & young mothers with needed programs and a supportive community.
Brighter Future

Monthly Donor Community

Adah Crawford
Ali Andeku
Al MacInnes
Amanjot Mohem
Angelina Oates
Anne Garthshore
Apple Inc.
Ariel Creighton
Audrey Neumann
Ben Catalano
Bev Evans
Bob Main
Brian Watts
Bridget Orford
Cam Sylvester
Carla Busnardo
Carol Bassingthwaighte
Carole MacKay
Catherine J Moody
Catherine Schindell
Cindy Johnson
Clete Hanson
Colleen Whitehouse
Corinne Durston
Corrie Chow
Dana Rowland
Darlene Cathcart
Dean Strugnell
Deborah Solberg
Diane Newton
Don & Judi Curtiss
Donna Treptow
Don Sturgess
Doreen Stephens
DP World
Drew Stewart
Dumisile Owane
Eleanor Stewart
Elizabeth Williams
Emily Beam
Erica Hiebert
Eric Stanger
Erlene Woollard
Ernest Bone
Gale Stewart
Galt and Gerda Wilson
Gary Tennant
Genevieve Creighton
Georgeann Glover
Ginger Shaw
Helen Hama
Hope Rayson
Irene Harvalias
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Janet Mitchell
Janis McCaffrey
Jennifer Zabkar
Joan Sangster
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John Ingram
John Lenaghan
John Mosca
Jolene Lansdowne
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Judith Bain Dampier
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Karina Olliver
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Katrina Pacey
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Kira Gerwing
Kyle Morton
Lauren Tittley
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Lisa Sturgess
Lois Walker
Louise Sturgess
Margaret Gallagher
Margot Elizabeth Innes
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Mark Hiebert
Megan Halprin
Mengo McCall
Molly Caron
Muriel Kerr
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Omar Kassis
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Patricia Cooper
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Patricia Joyce
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Paul Stewart
Penny McCleery
Penny Nation
Polly Tan
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Ralph Sabey
Romilly Cavanaugh
Roshine Morrison
Sandra Hoath
Sarah Stewart
Shaelyn Bayduza
Shar Silveira
Sheila Kelton
Shirley Hammond
Shoni Field
Sondra Marshall
Stephen Stewart
Steve Tedder
Tammy Munro
Tanya Murray
Tia van Deventer
Todd Sakakibara
Tom & Maggie Lancaster
Tracy Craigen
Tracy Sherlock
Trevor Simpson
Vanessa Terrell
Verlon Otto
Vic Martens
Yvonne Gomez
Zona Macdonald
Thank You Gale!
Celebrating the Work & Dedication of Our Founder

After 28 years of compassionate service to youth in foster care, Gale Stewart, Aunt Leah’s Place founder, stepped down from her role as Executive Director.

Gale’s hard work helped grow Aunt Leah’s Place from her home in Marpole to one of the top charities for children in Canada. Her caring and keen insight into the issues youth face are the essence of the many ground-breaking programs and facilities she has established.

We want to thank Gale for her years of advocacy and, most importantly, for giving foster kids throughout Metro Vancouver a brighter future.
Governance

Organization Chart & Three Year Strategic Plan

2017-2018 Organizational Chart

Board of Directors

Executive Director

Management Team

Programs

Development

Administration

Social Enterprise

3 Year Strategic Plan

Goal 1:
Raise awareness of the issues that foster children face and show Aunt Leah’s Place as addressing those issues.

Goal 2:
Deliver innovative, responsive programming that reduces risk and increases protective factors for foster children and families at risk.

Goal 3:
Enhance organizational capacity and stability

Goal 4:
Achieve financial independence

2016-2017 Annual Report | 25
Board Message

Omar Kassis, Board Chair

In the last twelve months Aunt Leah’s Society has undergone several major changes concurrently. Throughout it all we have continued and even strengthened our core mission of building a brighter future for foster kids and their diverse families. Our Founder and Executive Director Gale Stewart has retired, leaving behind her a thriving organization and a personal legacy of incredible achievement and leadership in our field. The Board is grateful for Gale’s tenure and passion and we are honoured to have supported her work. As we said goodbye to her we also experienced the exciting arrival of our new Executive Director, Sarah Stewart. Sarah is leading this organization with tremendous energy, vision and open-mindedness, and has built a senior management team around her who share her sense of purpose. The future looks bright for our organization under her capable stewardship.

Aside from these governance changes, Aunt Leah’s has also steered its way successfully through a major thrust of expansion of the scale of our work, with the acquisition of two more properties in New Westminster. These will give us the ability to provide supported housing for yet more vulnerable young people in care and transitioning out of care. They will give us the ability to grow while still maintaining financial stability. These are exciting times as we stretch our capacity and solidify our prominent role in the community while always continuing to provide excellent, award winning services that make a tremendous difference in the lives of marginalized youth.

I am very proud of the direction Aunt Leah’s has taken in devoting more effort to promoting public awareness of the issues we work to address. In 2016 and 2017, we have seen the lives of young people in care and the need for services after their 19th birthday become topics in daily news reports and even in the recent provincial election campaign. Youth in care deserve and need equitable levels of care as kids in other types of family arrangements, and the public is becoming increasingly aware of this responsibility. Aunt Leah’s has long been at the forefront of providing those needs, and I believe has helped to nudge these issues into the public eye. Youth in care are citizens of the future.

I would like to thank my colleagues who sit on Aunt Leah’s board, the hard working staff and all of our donors, who provide the means to carry out this important work. I honour the strength that comes from each and every relationship that gets built between an Aunt Leah’s youth and their network of care.

Sincerely,

Omar Kassis
Board of Directors

Omar Kassis
Board Chair
Vancouver School Board Teacher
Cedar Walk Program

Megan Halprin
Board Treasurer
Chief Financial Officer
Snowflake Trading Corp. Ltd.

Colleen Murphy
Board Member
Instructor
Child & Youth Care and Youth Justice
Douglas College

Elana Mignosa
Board Member
Chief Financial Officer
BC Clinical and Support Services

Dana Osiowy
Board Member
Engagement Manager
Vantage Point

Rick Schneider
Board Member
Technical Director
Sierra Systems Group

Cam Sylvester
Board Member
Faculty, Political Studies
Director, Global Stewardship Program
Capilano University
This past year was a significant year for Aunt Leah’s Place with the retirement of its founder Gale Stewart. For 28 year she has lead this organization to provide innovative programming and projects that are based on the needs of the young people and families that we work for. I am awestruck by the work that she has done. In 2017 Aunt Leah’s Place is a strong organization, dedicated to its mission of preventing foster children in care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. Gale has left an incredible set of values that permeate all aspects of the work being done here at Aunt Leah’s Place. To start my work as the Executive Director of an agency with such a strong link to its mandate and values is a gift. I am honoured and incredibly passionate about continuing the work of providing a caring and supportive place for youth in and from government care and mothers in need to feel welcomed and heard.

Outside of Gale’s retirement, this past year has been busy with the launch of a new training program called “Bootstraps”. Thanks to the seed funding from Bosa Foundation and Coast Capital the Bootstraps program was able connect with the business community and find supportive job placement opportunities for the young people and families that we work for. We were fortunate to receive funding from Skills Link Canada to expand the training opportunity to include a series of workshops and training opportunities in addition to job placements. The cohort of young people who committed to this enhanced training session was impressive. The passion and dedication that they put into their work drive my conviction that youth in and from care should have access to similar opportunities as mainstream youth have in the twenties.

Our future plans include working with Aunt Leah’s Foundation to establish a continuum of housing supports that can respond to the unique needs of the individual youth and families that we work with. To carve out a section of the housing market for youth aging out of foster care so that their lives and planning are not jarringly interrupted by a 19th birthday. Myself and Aunt Leah’s team of staff are dedicated to ensuring that youth in and from foster care and mothers in need are not in despair and feeling hopeless after they turn 19, by having a spectrum of services connected to housing, education, job training and financial security that are welcoming and inviting.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stewart
# Aunt Leah’s Staff

44 Members Dedicated to Serving Our Regions Youth

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Tokiwa</td>
<td>Support Worker</td>
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<td>Ali Andeku</td>
<td>Thrift Store Manager</td>
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<td>Amanjot Mohem</td>
<td>Assistant Supervisor</td>
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<td>Andree Richer</td>
<td>Support Worker</td>
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<td>Angelina Oates</td>
<td>Director of Training &amp; Social Enterprises</td>
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<td>Autumn Moreno</td>
<td>Aunt Leah’s House Supervisor</td>
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<td>Avis Lam</td>
<td>SEFFY Coordinator</td>
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<td>Awa Faye</td>
<td>Family Support Worker</td>
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<td>Bayleigh Patron</td>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
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<td>Bridget Orford</td>
<td>Purchasing Manager</td>
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<td>Brittany Timmons</td>
<td>Support Worker</td>
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<td>Chloë Dunn</td>
<td>Third Party Events Coordinator</td>
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<td>Christina Grammenenos</td>
<td>Community Engagement Coordinator</td>
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<td>Cindy Reinhold</td>
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<td>Claudia Whitrod</td>
<td>Cooking Club Coordinator</td>
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<td>Clete Hanson</td>
<td>Communications &amp; Development Coordinator</td>
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<td>Dana Rowland</td>
<td>Outreach Worker</td>
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<td>Danielle Jang</td>
<td>Family Support Worker</td>
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<td>David Savory</td>
<td>Link Coordinator</td>
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<td>Drew Stewart</td>
<td>Director of Development</td>
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<td>Dumi Owane</td>
<td>Donor Relations Officer</td>
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<td>Emma McGarry</td>
<td>Link Outreach Worker</td>
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<td>Gale Stewart</td>
<td>Founder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Smith</td>
<td>Link Outreach Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Rayson</td>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator &amp; Fundraising Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Preece</td>
<td>Peer Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer McFarlane</td>
<td>Human Resources Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessy Pinsent</td>
<td>Family Support Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodie Ortega</td>
<td>Executive Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Walcott-Francis</td>
<td>Education Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine Mathieu</td>
<td>Support Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Sorenson</td>
<td>IT and Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karin King</td>
<td>Sponsorship &amp; Event Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Douglas</td>
<td>Thresholds Family Support Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Roque</td>
<td>Support Link Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Costello</td>
<td>Operations Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Wuttunee</td>
<td>Housing First Team Lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roshine Morrison</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Stewart</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shari-Lyn Rougeau</td>
<td>Senior Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinclair Aitken</td>
<td>Handyman &amp; Property Maint. Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarah Falkenhagen</td>
<td>Support Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasmin Tang</td>
<td>Warehouse Manager &amp; Job Skills Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operational Data
Our Impact & Who We Served

292
Youth, Moms & Children Supported

Age Breakdown

55
Babies & Children

46
In Care (Under 19)

191
Aged Out (Over 19)

80%
Participants in Safe Secure Housing

Social Capital & Skill Development

6,290+
One-On-One Sessions & Meetings with participants

680+
Workshops Completed
Financial Report
How We Raised & Allocated Our Resources

Total Revenue: $3,400,530

- **Fee for Service**: $1,180,905 (35%)
  (MCFD & Metis)
- **Social Enterprise**: $657,058 (19%)
- **Donations**: $575,272 (17%)
- **Grants**: $513,840 (15%)
- **HPS**: $212,939 (6%)
  (Homelessness Partnering Strategy)
- **Skills Link**: $107,185 (3%)
- **BC Housing**: $89,000 (3%)
- **Events**: $64,331 (2%)

Total Expenses: $3,581,003

- **Housing**: $1,912,127 (53%)
- **Employment & Education**: $266,745 (7%)
- **Life Skills & The Link**: $244,326 (7%)
- **Social Enterprise**: $548,896 (15%)
- **Fundraising**: $338,061 (10%)
- **Admin**: $270,848 (8%)

For the Complete 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements please visit auntleahs.org
We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather, work, learn and create is the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish People specifically the QayQayt First Nation.