AUNT LEAH'S PLACE
668 Carnavon Street, Unit 200
New Westminster, British Columbia V5X 2T5
Phone 604.525.1204
Fax 604.525.1293
Email auntleahs@auntleahs.org

www.auntleahs.org

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011

Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids
Aunt Leah’s 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, job training and coaching on essential life skills.

Core Values

Celebration is essential to a successful life.
An individual’s artistic/soulful centre must be expressed and appreciated.
Success is fragile and must be tended to and supported with care.
All behaviour has meaning and is the human tool for communication.
Entrepreneurial spirit builds individuals and organizations.
Community building ensures that we all have a place to go when we need support.

Areas of Service

Aunt Leah’s offers four areas of support services in Metro Vancouver for youth and young moms to help them transition to independent living.

HOUSING:
The housing we provide consists of semi-independent living suites plus communal living for young single moms and their babies.

JOB TRAINING:
Job Training opportunities are available for work in restaurants, retail stores and landscaping. Training includes work experience, help with resumes, interviewing and finding jobs for youth.

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING:
Life skills are the basic life management skills necessary for independent living, including banking, budgeting, health and well being, laundry, cleaning, shopping and cooking.

QUALITY OF LIFE OPPORTUNITIES:
In addition to the necessities, we provide Quality of Life Opportunities - participation in activities that add meaning to life – personal celebrations, recreation and group outings.
Message From The Board Chair
James McCullum

Once again it is my privilege to report to you, the friends, donors, and visitors about the year that Aunt Leah's has just completed.

We continue to serve youth at risk in our many programs and locations and we are warmed by their growth and your support.

During the past year the Board has met monthly and occasionally more frequently. A great deal of time has been spent on developing strategic planning goals and objectives, searching for new ways to raise funds to support our all important mission, and planning for the future.

The business of raising those much needed dollars is difficult and hard work, especially for our Executive Director whose success in this area is phenomenal, as in all other areas of her work. The partnership with Pacifica Foundation, Central City Foundation, and Vancouver Foundation has borne much fruit and we look forward to seeing the results of this work in the months to come.

We do conclude the year with a deficit. We are disappointed in this and we hope that our donors and new friends will help us cover that amount so that no programs or young people will have to bear the brunt of any hard decisions the Board will have to make. We are always open to suggestion and if you know of a group that would be open to a request for support from Aunt Leah's please suggest it to Gale.

I have just had the wonderful experience of participating in a Mother's Day tea at Aunt Leah's with our new moms and babies as well as many of their friends and former residents. The spirit of welcome and celebration was alive and well. The group received an aboriginal blessing and prayer from one of the elders.

Thank you again for your support of Aunt Leah's this year. Please continue your generosity and perhaps you have a friend who would be interested in joining Aunt Leah's extended family. Just let us know how to reach them.

Respectfully submitted

James McCullum
Chair, Aunt Leah's Board of Directors
Message From The Executive Director
Gale Stewart

As we begin this new fiscal, we continue to explore new ways of supporting youth and young mothers with supported housing and essential skills training.

Last year we purchased our first home (the Aunt Leah’s House for aboriginal teen moms). As we begin this year, we are partnering with the Pacifica Family Addictions Foundation, the John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation, Central City Foundation and BC Housing to purchase a second house. This home will re-instate our Thresholds Program and once again provide needed housing and support for homeless adult moms and their newborns.

As I write, we are a few days away from our third survey for Accreditation. I extend a big thanks to staff and board in their work to ensure that we reach international standards and that we secure our third three-year accreditation. There is so much work associated with this task and without a commitment to its importance we couldn’t accomplish the goal.

Aunt Leah’s continues to stay committed to its social enterprise efforts and this year we will be seeking a new location for our Thrift Store. We hope to find new premises in Vancouver, somewhere along the Broadway Corridor between Fraser and Cambie Streets. If you have any advice or contacts please let us know. There will also be a new location for a third Tree Lot this Christmas. A grant from HYDRECS (BC Hydro Employees) will pay for start-up costs in this new business expansion. We hope to find a location south of the Fraser River. Again any help with this project will be greatly appreciated.

Recently, I was sorry to hear of the passing of Susie Birch, a long-time volunteer and supporter of Aunt Leah’s. We will always remember Susie’s smiling welcome at the registration table for our golf tournament and her energy and storytelling during our mail-out sessions. I extend my condolences to Susie’s family & friends at this very difficult time.

I would like to thank this year’s board. To Jim for your kind and generous leadership as Chair, to Marty for your financial wisdom and strategic thinking, to Tammy for your support of the moms at the house, to Sara, Kristin, Bina and Megan for your support of the Training and Fundraising Events. It is always my great pleasure to interact at the board level – to be heard and to receive support in carrying out the mission and mandate of Aunt Leah’s. Molly Caron leaves the board this year and I especially thank you for your volunteer board work. Molly embraces the Aunt Leah’s cause and I hope that she will return to Aunt Leah’s in another role to support the work.

As always I thank the Aunt Leah’s staff, they are the hands and feet that deliver the important services to homeless youth and vulnerable young moms. Often the work is not recognized for many years to come, but the impact of the work effects the generations.

To you the reader and supporter, I thank you for your gifts of time and money. Please continue to support this important group of young people. This month’s statistics show youth homelessness is up by 20%. Foster Children left without support become the future chronically homeless. Children from parented homes receive some basic supports for a successful transition to adulthood. Your support of the Aunt Leah’s mandate promotes social justice and ensures that an important continuum of care is provided for this vulnerable group of young people.

In the spirit of Leah

Gale Stewart
Executive Director
Board of Directors

Aunt Leah’s Board Members volunteered over 400 hours from April 2010 to March 2011. In addition to their work in governance, they also assisted with several fundraising events throughout the year.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

**James McCullum**  
Board Chair  
Retired Anglican Priest

**Megan Halprin**  
Board Secretary  
Chief Financial Officer  
Snowflake Trading Corp. Ltd.

**Molly Caron**  
Board Member  
Contractor  
Common Sense Consulting

**Kristin Jamieson**  
Board Member  
Associate Partner  
Compton Fundraising Consultants

**Bina Bawa**  
Board Member  
Account Manager, Business Banking  
HSBC Bank Canada

**Marty Frost**  
Treasurer  
Human Ventures  
Cooperative and Non-Profit Development and Training

**Tammy Munro**  
Board Member  
Aboriginal Infant Development Consultant  
Vancouver/Coastal AIDP Regional Advisor

**Sara Getz**  
Board Member  
Senior Development Officer  
Advancement Office  
St. George’s School

Staff Members

List of all staff employed from April 2010-March 2011

**Management Team**

**Executive Director:**  
Gale Stewart

**Program Director:**  
Sarah Stewart

**Director of Operations:**  
Brook Calvert

**Director of Communications:**  
Theresa Olson

**Aunt Leah’s House**

**Acting Program Director:**  
Pam Costello

**Aunt Leah’s House Supervisor:**  
Autumn Moreno  
Candice Landet

**Family Support Workers:**

- Andree Richer
- Cindy Reinhold
- Laura Balaski
- Lorraine Evans
- Amanjot Mohem
- Maggie Lister
- Michelle Reitsma
- Jessica McCallum
- Erin Mullen
- Dawn Fletcher
- Natasha DeMarchi

**Link Program**

**Link Transition Worker:**  
Joanne Orbeck  
Tara Skobel

**Training Programs**

**Retail Training Program Coordinator:**  
Angelina Oates

**Cooking Club Chef and Trainer:**  
Antonio Dominelli

**Food Preparation Worker:**  
Tai Tang

**Landscape Maintenance Program Coordinator:**  
Paul Stewart

**Landscape Trainer:**  
Dennis Chmilar

**Support Link Program**

**Acting Program Director:**  
Pam Costello

**Support Link Program Coordinator:**  
Cathy Finley

**Purchasing Manager:**  
Bridge Orford

**Maintenance Manager:**  
Paul Stewart

**Maintenance Assistant:**  
Dennis Chmilar

**Support Workers:**

- Husain Vahanvaty
- Joanne Orbeck
- Lisa Lee
- Sarah Thomas
- Connie Babiak

**Aunt Leah’s Thrift Store**

**Thrift Store Manager:**  
Angelina Oates

**Thrift Store Staff/Trainer:**  
Jean Paul Bouchard

**Thrift Store Assistants:**

- Fran Rajanayagam
- Brayann Rivera
- Victor Kefitng
- Lauren McGuire-Wood
- Martin Plumondon

**Administration & Development**

**Christmas Tree Lots General Manager:**  
Paul Stewart

**Thrift Store Manager:**  
Angelina Oates

**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
Jan Lovick

**Administration/Fundraising Assistants:**

- Karin King
- Karen Sorenson
- Erika Morgan
- Tracy Phare

Aunt Leah’s Board of Directors: Top: Sara Getz, Gale Stewart (ED), Bottom: Bina Bawa, Kristin Jamieson, Molly Caron, Megan Halprin, Marty Frost, James McCullum, missing: Tammy Munro.
### Participants Served Through Aunt Leah’s Programs

**April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Persons Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Link</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunt Leah’s House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moms: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thresholds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moms: 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies: 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Skills Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Skills Workshops</td>
<td>60*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Workshops were held</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Link Drop In</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Training</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106 Training Shifts were offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking Club</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 Classes were held</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Training</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 Training Shifts were offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total participants receiving services</strong></td>
<td><strong>269</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Essential Skills Participants—this is an estimation based on numbers of youth from various programs and community who were in our programs and also attended these workshops.

If you would like to request a copy of our Audited Financial Statements
Prepared by Galloway Bottesele 7 Co. please contact us
by email at auntleahs@auntleahs.org or by phone at 604-525-1204

### AUNT LEAH'S INDEPENDENT LIFESKILLS SOCIETY

**Statement of Operations**

**For the Year Ended March 31, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>$1,069,561</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees for service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects and fundraising</td>
<td>231,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC Gaming Commission</td>
<td>59,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and grants</td>
<td>357,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grant - Aunt Leah's House</td>
<td>651,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$2,369,995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and promotion</td>
<td>12,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization</td>
<td>10,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>9,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract service fees</td>
<td>37,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and clothing</td>
<td>108,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment expense</td>
<td>43,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>10,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office expense</td>
<td>16,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>9,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and training</td>
<td>45,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>12,505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair and maintenance</td>
<td>32,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>394,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
<td>956,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff development</td>
<td>16,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry</td>
<td>1,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>56,146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>37,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>8,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,817,867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess of Revenue Over Expense** $552,128
**Support Link**

A semi-independent residential program which integrates housing with life skills training & pre-employment opportunities.

Children who are in care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development have to learn how to live on their own by their 19th birthday. Aunt Leah’s Society developed the Support Link Program to meet this need. The Support Link Program is a semi-independent living program for youth ages 16-18 that are in care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

We have a total of 14 Support Link suites under contract with Vancouver Coastal and MCFD South Fraser region. The young people who are in the Support Link Program are provided with a fully furnished basement suite along with a Support Worker to assists youth in working on their goals and life skills development. Youth are also given opportunities for celebration and recreation - both individual and group outings. Youth in Support Link can access pre-employment training programs provided through Aunt Leah’s.

In the upcoming year Support Link will expand to 16 suites. The additional 2 suites are under contract with MCFD South Fraser region as a “Pilot Project” and are for youth who need additional one-on-one support with a Support Worker.

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**Aunt Leah’s House**

A licensed residential program for pregnant and parenting Aboriginal teen mothers.

All new moms require additional supports during their pregnancy and once their new baby arrives. For a young girl who is 16 years old without a supportive family it is even more crucial that positive support is provided.

This is why Aunt Leah’s created Aunt Leah’s House, a supportive housing and life skills programs for aboriginal teen mothers who are working on parenting skills, life skills and establishing a positive community for themselves and their child.

Aunt Leah’s house is a 4 bedroom house that provided a home for 7 moms and 7 babies who accessed this program over the last year. The Staff connected to the house celebrated many milestones including birthdays, holidays, Mother’s Day and other special holiday events.

The moms also attended parenting and life skills workshops during the year, including World Host certification, First Aid Training and Food Safe. Funding for this supported housing program is through the Ministry of Children and Family Development.
**Essential Skills Workshops**

Essential Skills is a series of workshops designed to teach the essential skills needed for living alone successfully.

We’ve introduced some new ideas into our workshops this year. While we’ve maintained the existing structure, we’ve added elements that are proving to be successful. An example is the incorporation of Careers Day into our education month. This gave the youth an opportunity to learn about many different industries, to start thinking about careers rather than just jobs, and was really positive for our community involvement.

We continue to build relationships with outside agencies by booking guest speakers and this year we’ve also linked with some new organizations to ‘raise the bar’ for the youth’s learning. ‘Check Your Head’ came in to deliver workshops on Public Healthcare and Food Sovereignty.

We feel we can demonstrate the success of this approach by the number of youth that attend. Attendance has increased with the record being 24 youth at one workshop. Not only are we seeing more engagement from the youth in our programs but they are bringing their friends and family to the workshops as well!

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**Cooking Club**

Employment and life skills training through classroom and on-site learning in cooking and service skills, while providing nutritious meals for community members.

Aunt Leah’s Cooking Club happens every Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Aunt Leah’s Chef & Trainer, Antonio Dominelli, and his students work out of the kitchen located in the basement of St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Vancouver.

Students develop their culinary skills throughout a twelve-week curriculum that incorporates preparing tasty, low-cost, easy meals as well as preparing a lunch every Thursday for 100 people for St. Mark’s Community Meal Program.

Students have the opportunity to see individuals in the community enjoy the food that they have prepared. Aunt Leah’s cooking club is an opportunity for our students to learn some tangible skills as well as be a part of the creative process of preparing a meal. This past year we had the opportunity to work with the students from John Oliver’s Lifeskills Program as well as from the Down Syndrome Research Foundation. We are looking forward to continuing our work with these agencies.
**Landscape Training**

Provides opportunities for youth who are currently enrolled in Aunt Leah’s Programs to learn first job skills with an experienced landscaper.

Aunt Leah’s Landscape Training Program is a 12 session program that operates in the Metro Vancouver area. Last year 15 youth, either current or past participants of Aunt Leah’s residential programs, participated in the training. During the late fall and the early spring months, the program concentrates on cleaning up yards and gardens and pruning and shaping shrubbery and trees. Later in the spring and during the summer and early fall, the major work is lawn maintenance. The venues for Landscape Training are customers who are interested in supporting Aunt Leah’s Society and its work. Customers pay market price plus a fee for training costs.

Occasionally the work will stray into other areas – the demolition and removal of a garden shed, or participating in the sale of tulip bulbs. In partnership with the Bentall Group, youth helped package and sell bulbs and proceeds were donated to the support of the landscape training program. The youth really enjoyed this activity and one of the youth who helped sell the bulbs later told us how he gave some of the bulbs to a friend who planted them and gave the resulting tulips to his mother this past Mother’s Day!

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**Retail Training**

This program operates out of Aunt Leah’s Thrift Store and is designed for youth to receive skills, training and experience in retail businesses.

Aunt Leah’s Retail training Program was located in our Thrift Store in Vancouver. It was a twelve-week program designed to provide students with an overview of the retail industry. Since the first day of the Retail Training Program back in June 2008, it has served over 170 youth across the lower mainland. Teaching them skills such as customer service, cash handling, sales, promotions, inventory, pricing, display set-ups, stock, opening and closing procedures. The program also taught “soft skills” such as communication, organization, professionalism, efficiency, following directions and initiative.

Within the past three years of the program, 41 youth completed the WorldHost Fundamentals workshop, 86 youth successfully completed the full twelve weeks of training and we hosted 7 Graduation Ceremonies celebrating the youth’s success in completion of the program.

Aunt Leah’s has closed our Thrift Store temporarily and is looking forward to opening a new location in the future. We have been working hard to find the right location for the business and the Retail Training Program.
**The Link Program**

An outreach program designed to promote a successful transition to adulthood for children ageing out of the foster care system.

The Link Program received a significant grant from the Vancouver foundation this past year, enabling us to expand the program. It’s been a year of learning and challenges. The most significant achievement is that we now have three Link residential suites for emergency housing.

This year we have worked with 58 young people, 28 of which are continuing to access support and 6 different youth have used our suites.

We’ve just completed a first year report and used the information for future planning. The first year has shown us that the highest areas of need for the young adults we serve are housing and employment, however there is a large number of youth that access us for ‘general support’, i.e. filling in forms, doing taxes, finding a doctor, budgeting.

This has shown us that while it’s important to focus on housing and employment, it is imperative that we maintain the flexibility that allows us to support any youth that walks through our doors and asks for support. This is what makes the Link program unique.

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**Thresholds**

A supportive housing and life skills program for adult women who are working on establishing a positive community for themselves and their children.

The Thresholds Program is a supportive housing program for mothers who need additional support in providing for themselves, safe affordable housing and a positive community.

There were two semi-independent living suites (second stage suites) available last year with the second suite opening up last year using the basement suite of Aunt Leah’s house.

We were excited to re-open the basement suite at Aunt Leah’s House this past year. This suite is designed to ease the transition of a young family moving out of Aunt Leah’s house and onto independence. By providing a second stage semi-independent living suite we will be assisting our moms with a positive transition to living independently and positively with their young family.

There were 2 moms and 2 babies who accessed this program over the last year. The Thresholds Program has had a positive impact on the women and families that we serve.
Four teen boys from the Support Link Program with Support Workers Jamie and Husain and Aunt Leah's resident “Mountain Guide”, Paul

Games Night - while there were board games and even a variety of ancient games played by various cultures around the world, the most popular was of course, the Wii.

First time on a snowboard!

Mother’s Day at Aunt Leah's House—moms, staff and special guests participated in a traditional Aboriginal drumming ceremony.

Past and present moms at Aunt Leah’s House enjoy Mother’s Day dinner

Building Ginger Bread Houses

Decorating Christmas Stockings

Receiving an award for participation/Graduation in 2 Aunt Leah’s Programs

Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

Josh and Marion get their photo taken with Santa at the Christmas Dinner

Support Link kids tubing at Cypress Mountain

Bowling at Rev’s to celebrate Youth Week
In Memory of
Susan Birch

December 15, 1941 - May 31, 2011

Susie was part of the Aunt Leah’s community for many years as a friend to one of our staff members and as a donor and volunteer. Everyone remembers Susie for her vivaciousness, sparkling eyes, zest for life and great kindness. Susie passed away after a courageous battle with brain cancer, on Tuesday, May 31st, 2011 at the age of 69 years. Born in London, England, December 15th, 1941, to Charlton and Mary Morton, Susan always had an ear to lend and touched so many of us with her generous heart and 'cheekiness'. She enjoyed being with her family & friends, running, square dancing, volunteering and a good cup of tea.

The Leah Award

“Unconditional Love and Support”
In honour of Bruce Ambrose

Bruce was a friend and long-time supporter of Aunt Leah’s who passed away on March 16, 2010. It was important to Bruce to be more than a donor—he also gave his time as volunteer and he shared his wisdom, helping Aunt Leah’s in various fundraising endeavors. Bruce was known in his family for giving them his unconditional love and support and was always proud of their many achievements. We know that Bruce would have been proud of Chelsea too.

Chelsea Behnsen

Chelsea Anne Behnsen came to us in January 26th, 2010 and lived at Aunt Leah’s House during her pregnancy. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Emilie, on March 27 2010. Throughout her time in the program, Chelsea learned and practiced parenting skills while also attending school and working towards earning her Grade 12 Diploma.

Chelsea also worked during the summer at the Museum of Anthropology at UBC as a Museum Tour Guide. She showed great determination as she took on all of these challenges.

Chelsea has achieved all of the goals she set out for herself when she began the program. She has done an amazing job and is very determined to provide a healthy life for herself and her daughter.

Chelsea was chosen for this award because she has demonstrated unconditional love for her daughter and for her determination as she works to enhance her life.
The Jeremy Wright Award

“Follow Your Bliss”

Aunt Leah’s presents this award in memory of Jeremy Wright, a Support Worker who was very special to us. 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”. The award is based on character and determination.

2011 Recipient of the Jeremy Wright Award

Jessica Orrin

Jessica was a participant in our Support Link Program who took advantage of many opportunities while she was with us. Jess was described by an Aunt Leah’s staff member as a young woman who “took her weaknesses and turned them into strengths.” She is not one to let anything get in her way.

Jess participated in our Landscape Maintenance Program and impressed us with her willingness and ability to learn. She took pride in her Nordic heritage and that same pride was evident in her work in landscaping as well. Because of her attention to detail, work ethic and willingness to learn, Aunt Leah’s hired her as one of the managers for our Burnaby Christmas Tree Lot. She was our youngest manager yet, and she did a superb job.

Jess is also a talented artist. She exhibited some of her paintings at Aunt Leah’s Donor Appreciation event last fall and sold several of her works that night. She also has a passion for travel and has just returned from a trip to Norway. She embarks on a new adventure with Katimavik later this summer.

Jeremy would have admired Jess for her creativity and for following her bliss and would have been proud to see her receive this award.

The Rona Award

This award is presented in honor of Rona Castagner, 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: kindness, compassion, strength and pride.

2011 Recipient of the Rona Award

Jessenia Rodriguez

Jessenia entered the Retail Training program because she was frustrated with school and wanted to get a job. The first time she was in training she was eager to learn but needed the structure of the training program to learn some valuable skills. She earned Worldhost Certification, was a graduate of the Retail Training Program had improved a great deal but even with her new skills, she was unable to secure a job. She decided to enter the program a second time.

In her second time in the program, Jessenia worked on mastering her retail skills—customer service, sales and cash handling, restocking, merchandising and display. She also worked on organization, efficiency, following directions, taking initiative and working independently. When she was finished she had a good resume, practiced interviewing, and showed great improvement overall, but still could not find a job.

Jessenia decided she needed to work on her education and she returned to school. While in school, she achieved her goal and also got a part time job at Ikea. She works there after school and on weekends and she loves working there.
LEAD GIFTS:
John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation,
Timothy C. Kerr Family Foundation, and Theanon Foundation

THANK YOU
TO OUR NEW BEGINNINGS DONORS:

Hugh Alley
Evelyn Anderson
Joan Andrews
Joan Andrews
Brooke Anthony
Bruce Avery
Barbara Barron
Bina Bawa
BC Social Venture Partners
Don and Alma Bealle
Gillian Beattie
Linda Bentley
Heather Bowen
Shirley Brayne
Elizabeth Brosseau
Lorna Brown

Bev Bullen
Dorothy Calvert
Betty Cameron
Jane Carrothers
Sharon Connaughty
Karen Cormack
Ariel Creighton
Eileen Cruikshank
Lynda Cumming
Sarah Curtiss
Donna Davies
Krisztina Dics
Margaret Dinwoodie
Antonio Dominelli
Betty Done
Jean Dunnett

Janice Dyson
Lilian Elliott
Corky Evans
Susan Ewing
Charlie Floris
Daphne Francis
Marlene Franks
Rae S. Fraser
Lionel Friess
Terese Frymire
Anne Gartshore
Gail Gatehouse
Elizabeth Gautschi
Sara Getz
Leon Getz
Marion Gillett
Laura Godwin
Alasdair Gordon
Megan Halprin
Carol Hemrich
Walter Hill
Denise Hodgins
Betty Hunter
Shirley Ireland
Kristen Jamieson

John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
Timothy C. Kerr Family Foundation
Theanon Foundation

LEGACY GIFT:
Bruce Ambrose, March 12, 1948 - March 16, 2010

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Catharine J. Moody
Lillian Moreton
Margaret Morgan
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Audrey Neumann
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Rob Weaver
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Elizabeth Williams
Florence Wilton
Elias Woytkiw
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Hugh Young
Donald Zarowny
Thank you to everyone who became a member of our Kindness For Kids Initiative. The Kindness For Kids Initiative is a new way of looking at our financial planning for the future. Pledges and monthly donations contribute to a regular flow of funds which helps us in planning our programs for youth and families. This provides us with a source of undesignated funds which can be used where they are needed most and promotes long-term sustainability for the organization. Thank you to the following people for their support of vulnerable youth and families into the future.

### Kindness For Kids Pledges

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<tr>
<th>Bruce Adams</th>
<th>Kathy Parmley</th>
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<td>Christine Baerg</td>
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### Monthly Donors

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### Individual Donors

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Peter Mercer
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Janet & Stephen Mitchell
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Galt & Gerda Wilson
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Elias Woytkiw
Marge Wright
Carolyn Wyngaards
Sheron Yandle
Isabela Zabava

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- Aurora Celebration Choir
- Beta Sigma Phi, Laureate Zeta
- Douglas College
- Elk's Club of New Westminster
- I.O.D.E. Lower Mainland
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Rotary Women's Association
- The Royal Canadian Legion No.2
- Ulster Association
- University of British Columbia, Employee Campaign
- Vancouver Odd Fellows Lodge No.90
- VCC Faculty Association
- West Coast Science Fiction Association

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- VanCity Community Foundation
- Vancity - Kruger Community Branch
- Westminster Savings Foundation

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- St. Faith's Anglican Church
- St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church
- St. Mary's Anglican Church, Kerrisdale
- St. Mary's Embroidery Guild
- St. Stephen's United Church, Vancouver
- St. Thomas Anglican Church Women

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Andrew Mahon Foundation
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Face the World Foundation
Hamber Foundation
KMC Foundations
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- British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development
- BC Gaming Commission
- AMJ Campbell Van Lines
- Burley Brothers
- Burnaby Store-All
- Canada Safeway – Marpole
- Choices Market Kerrisdale
- E.B. Horsman and Son
- Flipside Creative
- Guy Almog – IT Mobility
- Hemlock Valley Resort
- Henneken Auto Sales & Service Ltd
- Kelvin Physiotherapy
- Modu Loc Fencing
- Northern Building Supply
- Thunderbird Press Ltd
- Western Equipment Ltd

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- Face The World Foundation
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- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Vancouver Foundation
- Westminster Savings Credit Union

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- PRECISION IMPRESSIONS LTD.
- PROGRESSIVE SEALING

- AMJ Campbell Van Lines
- Burley Brothers
- Burnaby Store-All
- Canada Safeway – Marpole
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- E.B. Horsman and Son
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- Hemlock Valley Resort
- Henneken Auto Sales & Service Ltd
- Kelvin Physiotherapy
- Modu Loc Fencing
- Northern Building Supply
- Thunderbird Press Ltd
- Western Equipment Ltd

For more information, visit: www.kidsupfrontvancouver.com

Did you know we are a partner agency with Kids Up Front Foundation (Vancouver)? Thanks to Kids Up Front, our kids have the opportunity to experience a variety of sports, recreation and arts & cultural events that otherwise would not be possible. Since 2004, Kids Up Front has been providing quality entertainment and educational experiences to kids and families across Greater Vancouver by redistributing unused event tickets and by creating special events to help heal, bond and unite. Thanks Kids Up Front!
Volunteers and Special Friends:

We’d also like to thank all of our volunteers, silent auction donors, and those of you who have given items for the youth and moms in our programs or to Aunt Leah’s Thrift Store. You are too numerous to name here, yet still an important part of the Aunt Leah’s community. Thank you for your generosity over the past year.

Community Partners

- All Saints Anglican Church
- BC School for the Deaf
- Down Syndrome Research Foundation
- John Oliver Secondary School
- Kids Up Front
- Landscape Training Customers
- Marpole Oakridge Community Centre Youth Group
- St. Mark’s Anglican Church
- St. Stephen’s United Church
- Vancouver School Board

☑ Yes!

I would like to donate!

☐ $35  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $200

☐ Another amount ____________

☐ I would like to be a MONTHLY DONOR, hereby authorizing Aunt Leah’s Society to make automatic monthly withdrawals from my bank account or credit card as indicated. I have enclosed a cheque marked “void” or provided my credit card information.

☐ Cheque (made out to Aunt Leah’s Society)  ☐ Visa  ☐ MC

Card # ________________________  Exp. ______
Signature _______________________

☐ My donation is to be anonymous.

Please make all donations payable to:

Aunt Leah’s Society
668 Carnarvon Street, Unit 200,
New Westminster, B.C.  V3M 5Y6

To donate online:
www.auntleahs.org
How You Can Help

Aunt Leah’s Independent Lifeskills Society depends on your support to provide programs and services for vulnerable youth and families. Please call us at 604-525-1204 ext 224.

Donations - Make a donation, become a monthly donor or a multi-year pledge donor by calling us today! Brook Calvert bcalvert@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 222. Donations can also be made online at www.auntleahs.org

Host a Fundraiser - Host a fundraising event with your friends or co-workers and raise money for Aunt Leah’s. Ask us for our helpful event kit full of helpful tips and suggestions. Karin King, kking@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 228

Christmas Tree Lots - Buy a tree at our Burnaby or Vancouver Christmas Tree Lots. Paul Stewart pstewart@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 225

Lonely Hearts Club Band - Attend our annual music benefit featuring local artists performing their favourite Beatles songs. Theresa Olson tolson@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 224

Sponsorship - Promote your business in the community through sponsorship of an event or program. Theresa Olson tolson@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 224

Volunteering - Sign up to volunteer at one of our upcoming fundraising events, tree lot locations or to assist with our letter campaigns and mail-outs. We could really use your help! Theresa Olson tolson@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 224

Welcome Baskets - Help us provide a warm welcome to the new youth and moms who move into our programs. A donation of $30-50 buys a Welcome Basket filled with items for their apartment, snacks and gift cards. Cathy Finley cfinley@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 234

Link Food Bank - Drop off some non-perishable food items for the emergency supply for youth in our Link Program. Cathy Finley cfinley@auntleahs.org, 604-525-1204 ext 234