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, and education & employment training.

Vision
Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

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

Why
In BC, when a child in care turns 19, their government support is cut-off and they are deemed “aged-out” of the system. Today, nearly half of these vulnerable youth experience homelessness. Aunt Leah’s Place is there to help support these youth, as they transition to independence and adulthood.

We believe every individual deserves to feel safe, cared for, and have a sense of belonging. And over the last 28 years, we have seen how support at this critical time can help these young people realize their potential while becoming resilient, independent adults.
Housing

Aunt Leah’s Place provides supportive housing for youth transitioning out of foster care and young mothers in need. Our programs are designed to offer a continuum of care, which provides opportunities and resources for foster youth at any stage to secure and maintain safe housing.

**Housing Programs**

- **Aunt Leah’s House**
- **Support Link**
- **Thresholds House**
- **The Link: Housing First**
- **Friendly Landlord Network**

This past year Aunt Leah’s Place continued to refine and expand its continuum of housing programs. Today the organization cares for more people and successfully houses them at a greater rate than ever before.

90%

Participants Maintained Housing 3 Months After Leaving Program

(All Housing Programs)

84

Youth & Children Housed

(All Housing Programs & Housing and Education Link Subsidy Program)

**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 four young moms and five babies. Beyond housing and general care for their children, Aunt Leah’s House has given these young families a foundation for a brighter future. 100% of the mothers completed FoodSafe training, 75% are attending school and 75% are now connected with a family doctor.

**Thresholds House** provides supported housing and services for new moms at risk of losing custody of their child. This past year the house helped bring security to 26 moms and babies in need. 100% of the mothers joined Aunt Leah’s Cooking Club and 75% attended school, and five children are now united again with their mothers. Thanks to the support of Thresholds House, one of these moms was able to regain custody of her two children after four years of separation.

**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 last fiscal year, the Aunt Leah’s Support Link staff helped 29 youth prepare for their 19th birthdays. 85% of youth secured safe housing three months after aging out and 70% of these youth continue to work with Aunt Leah’s through The Link program.

**The Link: Housing First** provides at-risk or homeless participants immediate access to housing and regular support services. The Housing First program ensures that youths in great need can enter difficult rental markets, avoid homelessness, and develop essential life skills. In its first year, Housing First helped safely house 11 youths in need. One individual, who had previously been in bouts of homelessness, has now been housed securely for over a year.

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

**The Friendly Landlord Network** is a Metro Vancouver-wide network of homeowners and property managers, who rent suites to youths transitioning out of government care. Aunt Leah’s pilot collaborative housing program this past year recruited and established a coalition of 12 youth serving organizations, to offer supports to former foster youth. The FLN also developed and launched the Network’s website - friendlylandlordnetwork.com
Life Skills

Our life skills programs and workshops provide participants with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate living on their own. Youths learn how to plan and prepare for independent living through community workshops and hands-on experience.

The Essential Skills program offers a variety of weekly workshops for all. These workshops not only help youth gain valuable life skills and connect socially but give them the opportunity to participate in creative and recreational activities. Workshops are conducted by both staff and community professionals, with topics including mental health, money management, nutrition, safety and the creative arts.

736
Program Attendance

49
Workshops

76%
Learned Something New

The Link

A True Continuum of Care, Youth Can’t Age Out From

As the umbrella program for Aunt Leah’s 19+ services, the Link connects youth with the social capital, life skills and resources needed to help them achieve their goals and become healthy, independent adults. And like a family, foster youth cannot age out of this support.

The Link staff this past fiscal year engaged in 2,944 individual meetings and the program provided 394 meals, and 1,320 transit passes. Most importantly 90% of the 203 Link participants maintained safe, independent housing (month over month average), an increase of 9% from the previous year. As the program moves forward, we aim to be responsive to the core needs identified by youth in the program.

The Link: Total Participants
(Annual Comparison)

What Support Youth Ask For
(*Based On Requested Meetings)

Housing 48%
Counseling 15%
Food 13%
Banking 12%
Employment 12%

*Top five requested topics
In its second year, the Supporting Education for Foster Youth (SEFFY) program doubled in size, from 41 to 83 youth. 78% of foster youth under 19 are enrolled in school and working towards completing their graduation, 57% of young adults over the age of 19 have or are on track to graduate this fiscal year, and 18% of 19+ participants are attending post-secondary schooling. Like a family, to help these youth achieve their goals, the program was able to award $19,794 in bursaries to ten youth and an additional $10,800 to nine youth in housing subsidies. Ultimately, the SEFFY program continues to prove that youth in care have an intrinsic desire to pursue their education and can accomplish their goals with great success when given the right support.
Sebrina Mikul

2016 Leah Award Winner

Sebrina Mikul was six months pregnant and living with her parents and siblings in a two bedroom suite when she moved into Thresholds this past August. Although Sebrina initially came across as shy, reserved and very independent, she took part in Aunt Leah’s Place Pride Parade float which showed a more adventurous and open-minded side of this young woman.

Once Leonardo was born, Sebrina started to become more engaged with the Aunt Leah’s support staff and the other mothers in the program. Sebrina was naturally a very gentle and nurturing mother although found it challenging to be separated from her boyfriend who wanted to be an active part of the child’s life. Therefore, she was determined to develop and demonstrate that she had the necessary life skills to move out of Thresholds and move in with her son and her boyfriend as a family.

Before Leonardo was six months, Sebrina had managed to realize her goals and is now living independently as a family. Currently, she is in the process of continuing her education with the goal of entering the Sign Language Program at VCC to become an interpreter. Sebrina has been a role model by demonstrating that determination and love can help one overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.

Debbie Bigattini

2016 Rona Award Winner

It has been an honour and pleasure to work with Deb Bigattini this past year in the Cooking Club. Deb brightens up any room with her cheerful smile and witty nature. You can’t help but be happy when she enters the room. Deb is a past Mom to the program who has come back to join the Cooking Club weekly. The other moms show her a great deal of respect, as she always displays kindness, compassion, empathy, courage and strength.

Deb has been a great help every week in the Cooking Club, whether by sharing her knowledge in the kitchen, teaching new recipes or showing support to the moms having a bad day. She volunteered weekly as a “train the trainer” at Aunt Leah’s House, helping from last Fall until Christmas. Having her there was a tremendous support to the young moms, myself and the house staff. Deb showed great initiative and never hesitated in lending a helping hand. She was able to recognize where help was needed and jumped right in. It was amazing for me to see how well she worked with the young moms.

Despite her busy school schedule, Deb was always there ready to help. I appreciate the effort and time she gave to her peers. Deb exemplifies the qualities we look for in the Rona Award, and she has been a source of inspiration for myself and all the moms at Aunt Leah’s House.

-Written by Shelly Steiner

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 -

The Rona Award

Kindness, Compassion, Strength & Pride

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 -
Volunteer

Volunteers are critical to the success of our Programs and to the lives of the young people we care for. 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.

Volunteer Hours

7,137

= $74.5k

Our volunteers provided $74,582 worth of labour (set at BC's minimum wage)

Volunteers

707

Down the Fun!
Volunteer at Aunt Leah’s Place

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 -

Austin Papin

2016 Jeremy Wright Award Winner

When we first met Austin Papin, he was very shy and reserved. Shortly approaching his 19th Birthday and “aging out” of care, Austin was apprehensive about the changes happening in his life. We quickly discovered that Austin had a fierce drive to become an independent working adult. He found himself a home and a full-time job, and as he started to come out of his shell, he had regained hope.

Austin began engaging with the SEFFY program regularly, working diligently towards becoming eligible for ACCESS funding so that he could attend the British Columbia Institute of Technology’s Welding Program. He even came to Aunt Leah’s on a Sunday to refine his fraction skills! Austin is also working towards becoming a certified scuba diver, another step in attaining his ultimate career goal, as an Underwater Welder.

Pushing past adversity and barriers, Austin continues to work with his head held high and a priceless smile on his face. A goal oriented individual, once his mind’s set, he has shown that nothing can stop him.

There are many ways you can make a difference at Aunt Leah’s Place. If you are interested in volunteering with us, fill out our Online form or contact us at 604-525-1204.
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.

Celebration is essential to a successful life.

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

Entrepreneurial spirit builds individuals and organizations.

Community building ensures that we all have a place to go when we need support.
Aunt Leah’s Trees

Join the Tradition - Give Kids a Home

Aunt Leah’s Trees once again had another banner year. Aunt Leah’s largest fundraising effort set another sales record, increasing it’s net value by 20% this past year. Both the Coquitlam and North Vancouver tree lots grew substantially, each selling out of trees days early. Seven youth also completed 432 hours of Retail Training at our Burnaby tree lot.

We want to send warm thanks to the 467 volunteers who helped operate our tree lots and made this year so successful. As always, 100% of the proceeds from this social enterprise will be used directly to fund Aunt Leah’s programs, providing youth in care and young mothers access to the support they need.

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.

In its fifth year of operation, Urban Thrift saw only modest growth. To help drive awareness and sales, during the last quarter of the year, Aunt Leah’s Development Team conducted a hands-on audit of the store and created new promotions, such as the Love to Give Music Night. As a result, sales and awareness quickly began to increase.

Aunt Leah’s would like to thank the 210 dedicated volunteers who helped staff the store and warehouse weekly. Thank you for your support.

2015 Tree Lot Sales Figures

Gross Revenue

$325,564

Trees Sold

4,607

Volunteer Hours

2,467

467 Awesome Volunteers Helped Run Our Tree Lots

Urban Thrift: Average Monthly Revenue

(Annual Comparison)

2011-2012 $2,563
2012-2013 $4,220
2013-2014 $8,462
2014-2015 $11,450
2015-2016 $12,393
Events

In house and 3rd party events comprise another important source of revenue for Aunt Leah’s Place. These events also help us raise awareness and develop meaningful community partnerships.

Aunt Leah’s 2015 Trivia Extravaganza and silent auction once again eclipsed over $10,000 and was attended by over 100 people. The next Trivia Night will take place in the Spring of 2017, we hope to see you there.

Aunt Leah’s Place is thankful for all of the individuals and organizations who stand by foster youth and support the organization’s mission. This past year people raised money through a variety of ways including benefit concerts, quilting, chili cookoffs, video game competitions, dancing, running and biking.

Sponsors

Corporate & Foundations

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

[List of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]

[Photo of sponsors]
Individual Donations

510

Thank you to the 510 people who made a donation to Aunt Leah’s Place this past year. Your contributions provide foster youth & young mothers with needed programs and a supportive community.

Aunt Leah’s Place would like to recognize and individually thank those individuals who donated over $1,000 this past year.

Ann Gartshore
David Helliwell & Nancy Hill
Dennis Black Matching
Estate of James & Anne McCullum
Georgeann Glover
Gordon McCulligh
Henrietta Szakun
Joanne Woehrle
Jolene Lansdowne
John Pope
Lisa Sturgess
Mark Hiebert
Megan Halprin
Kevin-Neil Klop
Rob and Debra Mitchell
Verlon Otto

Finally, we would like to thank the many organizations who have made in kind donations to Aunt Leah’s Place. These donations fill specific needs and provide invaluable experience & knowledge to our organization.

Brighter Future

Monthly Donor Community

Adah Crawford
Angelina Oates
Anne Garthshore
Ariel Creighton
Arlene Gallagher
Brian Watts
Bridget Orford
Bruce Adams
Carol Bassinthwaighe
Carole MacKay
Catherine J Moody
Catherine Schindell
Cindy Johnson
Clete Hanson
Colleen Whitehouse
Corinne Durston
Corrie Chow
Darlene Cathcart
Dean Strugnell
Diane Newton
Don & Judi Curtiss
Donna Treptow
Don Sturgess
Doreen Stephens
Elizabeth Williams
 Erlene Woollard
 Fran Tanner
 Gale Stewart
 Galt Wilson
 Gary Tennant
 Georgeann Glover
 Gerda Wilson
 Ginger Virginia Shaw
  Helen Hama
  Irene Harvalias
  Jane Power
  Janet Mitchell
  Janet Prowse
  Janis McCaffrey
  Joan Sangster
  John Stone
  John Ingram
  John Lenaghan
  John Mosca
  Jolene Lansdowne
  Jonathan McCleery
  Judith Bain Dampier
  Karen Madeiros
  Katrina Pacey
  Kevin Gallagher
  Kimberly Carol Tough
  Kira Gerwing
  Kyle Morton
  Lauren Tittley
  Lia Crown
  Lisa Harris
  Lisa Sturgess
  Lois Walker
  Louise Sturgess
  Margaret Gallagher
  Mari Brown
  Marja Karelia
  Mark Hiebert
  Megan Halprin
  Molly Caron
  Muriel Caron
  Nancy E Barker
  Nancy Maranda
  Pam Costello
  Patricia Cooper
  Patricia Joyce
  Paul Stewart
  Penny Mcleery
  Penny Nation
  Rachael McKendry
  Ralph Sabey
  Sandra Hoath
  Sarah Stewart
  Shaelyn Bayduza
  Shar Silveira
  Sheila Kelton
  Shirley Hammond
  Shirley Stone
  Shoni Field
  Sondra Marshall
  Tammy Munro
  Tia van Deventer
  Todd Sakakibara
  Tracy Craig
  Tracy Sherlock
  Trevor Simpson
  Verlon Otto
  Vic Martens
  Zona Macdonald
This year the Board of Directors continued the important task of strategizing and planning for the future of Aunt Leah’s Place. We began in the fall by completing the sale of our Boundary Street and Boyne Street properties to the newly formed Aunt Leah’s Foundation. The Board also passed a motion to transfer our social enterprises to another entity. We are grateful for Marty Frost’s continued expert counsel during this time.

Aunt Leah’s is also heading into its last few months with Gale Stewart as its Executive Director. The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Sarah Stewart as Aunt Leah’s Executive Director effective December 1, 2016. Sarah has been a member of the Aunt Leah’s family for almost 20 years. Her creativity and strategic insight has advanced Aunt Leah’s as a leader in its field and solidified the organization’s reputation as a dynamic innovator on youth social justice issues. We warmly welcome Sarah to continue her work as a prominent advocate for children in foster care and to build on Aunt Leah’s legacy. Sarah will be replacing the founder of Aunt Leah’s, Gale Stewart, who after almost 30 years as Executive Director, is retiring. The Aunt Leah’s Board of Directors wishes Gale Stewart all the best in her retirement and recognizes her profound contribution to the health and well-being of foster youth.

I would like to thank the members of Aunt Leah’s Board - Omar Kassis, Megan Halprin, Katrina Connors, Joan Spence, and Elana Mignosa - for their dedication and valuable contributions. We are saying goodbye to Joan Spence and wish her much success in Kelowna. Her contribution to the Board will be missed. We will be nominating two new members to the board, Rick Schneider and Colleen Murphy at our AGM in June. We look forward to working with them. We are truly grateful for the leadership of Gale Stewart and are thankful for the Leadership Team and staff who continue to deliver valuable programming and support for foster youth and young moms. And we are encouraged by all of the volunteers, donors and friends who continue to support Aunt Leah’s Place.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Christine Baerg
Board Chair
Dear Friends,

As we steadily approach the end of this Fiscal year, I come to the end of my time as Executive Director of Aunt Leah’s Place. Thank you to those who have shared part or all of the last 28 years in supporting this great cause. Many times I have wished I could pick up the phone and invite you to chat over coffee, but the nature of the work often didn’t provide this kind of time. I hope as I move on to my “next chapter,” I can check in with you for this overdue conversation.

During my time as Founder and Executive Director, I think I have always seen myself in the parenting role – always bumping up against the question of why children who have suffered so much do not minimally receive what parented homes provide. So I guess it follows that the organization’s programs and outreach focused on a family model of care. Sometimes this has occurred unknowingly, but in the last decade, our planning has become more intentional as we consider how parents in mainstream homes provide for their children.

In these last few years, it has been very satisfying to see the media along with individuals, foundations and the business sector raise awareness on what foster children face while in the system and how little they have for support after their 19th Birthday. In those early years, we experienced young people returning to us for help, and we offered what support we could off the sides of our desks. Today, Aunt Leah’s has The LINK program dedicated to providing a continuum of care to young people after they have aged out of the foster care system. In the last two years, we have also created the SEFFY Program, which provides education and career supports to former foster children. Just like parented homes, Aunt Leah’s staff are nurturing opportunities that all youth need to succeed.

In this, my final annual report, I would like to state once more that it has been my privilege to participate with a group of young people who have given me a living picture of what courage looks like and led me from a very sheltered place in life to one of hope.

My resignation date is November 30th. Beginning in September, I will transition as out-going Executive Director and Sarah Stewart will start her role as incoming Executive Director. Sarah has worked in all areas of the organization for over 20 years, and this experience along with her unique wisdom will advance this family model of care and move the organization to new, creative accomplishments. Life is good.

In the spirit of Leah,

Gale Stewart
Founder, Aunt Leah’s Place

Gale Stewart 
Executive Director
Sarah Stewart
Program Director
Angelina Oates
Director of Training & Social Enterprises
Roshine Morrison
Link Coordinator
Drew Stewart
Development Officer
Pam Costello
Operations Coordinator
Autumn Moreno
Aunt Leah’s House Supervisor
Chloe Dunn
Volunteer Coordinator
Dumi Owane
Administration & Database Coordinator
Clete Hanson
Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Michelle Roque
Support Link Coordinator
Brittany Timmons
Support Worker
Justine Mathieu
Support Worker
Tarah Falkenhagen
Support Worker
Cindy Defazio
Support Worker
Amanjot Mohem
Family Support Worker
Cindy Reinhold
Family Support Worker
Danielle Jang
Family Support Worker
Awa Faye
Family Support Worker
Shari-Lyn Rougeau
Residential Family Support Worker
Andree Richer
Residential Family Support Worker
Julie MacSween
Residential Family Support Worker
Angie Myers
Link Support Worker
Rachel Wuttunee
Link Support Worker
Nina Poljak
Youth Housing Engagement Worker
Shaelyn Bayduza
Peer Specialist
Jason Preece
Peer Specialist
Avis Lam
SEFFY Coordinator
David Savory
Education Specialist & Support Worker
Ali Andeku
Thrift Store Manager
Kristiina McKenzie
Warehouse Manager
Jennifer McFarlane
Human Resources Coordinator
Karen Sorenson
IT & Administration
Sinclair Aitken
Handyman & Property Maintenance Worker
Shelly Steiner
Cooking Club Coordinator
Christina Grammenos
Community Engagement Coordinator
Karin King
Sponsorship & Event Coordinator
Bridget Orford
Purchasing Manager
**Operational Statistics**

**Our Impact & Who We Served**

- **229** Youth, Mothers & Children Supported

**Age Breakdown**

- **44** Babies & Children (Under 19)
- **33** In Care (Under 19)
- **152** Aged Out (Over 19)

- **90%** Participants in Safe Secure Housing

**Social Capital & Skill Development**

- **6,635+** One-On-One Sessions & Meetings with participants
- **733** Workshops Completed

---

**Financial Report**

**Operations Budget**

**Revenue**

- **$2,749,959** Total Revenue
  - **Fee for Service** $1,134,611 (41%) (MCFD & Metis)
  - **Grants** $581,477 (21%)
  - **Donations** $442,695 (16%)
  - **Projects & Fundraising** $292,491 (11%)
  - **HPS** $209,686 (8%) (Homelessness Partnering Strategy)
  - **BC Housing** $88,999 (3%)

**Expenses**

- **$2,788,336** Total Expenses
  - **Housing** $1,772,235 (64%)
  - **Life Skills & Training** $290,290 (10%)
  - **Education** $115,990 (5%)
  - **Fundraising** $310,013 (11%)
  - **Administration** $299,808 (10%)

For the Complete 2015-2016 Audited Financial Statements please visit auntleahs.org