

Annual Report



2020-2021

auntleahs.org





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.

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, job training and coaching on essential life skills.

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.

Aunt Leah's Place, acknowledges, respects and celebrates the Indigenous Nations on whose territories we are fortunate to provide service on. Specifically the unceded, occupied, ancestral and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and Qayqayt Nations.

We entered the 2020-21 fiscal year with a plan to deepen our existing program delivery. What we have heard from the youth and moms we serve was a request for more time from our dedicated staff around housing, education, lifeskills and parenting supports on an individual level. What we realized with the development of COVID-19 and the pandemic is that the overall systems and services designed to support youth, families and our neighbors without homes in BC were shaken by the pandemic. Schools were closed. Families were faced with having to not go to work due to children not attending school. In person services were unavailable; however Aunt Leah's Place continued to provide housing, lifeskills, education and training supports throughout the year. Staff have been experts in their adapted Covid-19 roles as they have been working in their regular roles, with their continued focus



Director's Message

Sarah Stewart, Executive Director



Seymour Office, Vancouver

on preventing youth in and from care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. This deepening of service included expanding our Vancouver office in order to hire additional staff to provide increased programming in the Vancouver region. We have seen close to double the number of appointments and visits to our Vancouver office since this expansion. We also expanded our supportive housing programs for families and youth who have or are aging out of care with our Thresholds Program now having three supportive housing locations and our Lale House and Supportive Suites program expanding to three locations as well.

For the upcoming year, we are anticipating an increased need for service that has become apparent during the last half of the year. Our young people and families have endured

a challenging 18 months which has seen increased isolation, worry, loneliness and life goals being put on hold in order to manage the reality of the pandemic. As the Lower Mainland starts to open up more and more, so too will the lives of the folks we serve. Where education planning and goals were put on hold, we will be supporting and leaning in to get those plans back on track. Where overall emotional well-being and mental health was shaken, we will continue to work and connect with our dedicated partners at Dan's Legacy Foundation to provide care and support. We also look forward to working with Aunt Leah's Foundation as they build a new "Aunt Leah's House" to provide an updated beautiful space for our moms and their children.

The core value for Aunt Leah's Place that I am reflecting on for this upcoming year is "that success is fragile and must be tended to with care". It is with care that we enter this year, and it is with care that I praise the work of Aunt Leah's staff and in particular the Management team. I have a deep appreciation for the board members of Aunt Leah's who have been incredibly understanding and caring in their roles. I would also like to acknowledge all of those who supported Aunt Leah's last year by volunteering, donating, purchasing a tree at our tree lots (our busiest year ever), attending our virtual Gala and/or by sharing our work within their communities. Once again, Aunt Leah's community of supporters continue to show a huge amount of love for youth in and from government care and mothers in need.

Sincerely,



Sarah Stewart
Executive Director



Sarah Stewart at Aunt Leah's House

Top 10 Impact Charity

Aunt Leah's has been included in the Top 10 Impact Charities rated by Charity Intelligence since 2017. In 2020, Aunt Leah's Place had the honour to appear on two of Charity's Intelligence's lists of charities with top impact. Each list includes the 5 or 10 charities analyzed by Charity Intelligence that have demonstrated the highest value created per dollar spent in the given category.

- Top 10 Canadian Impact Charities, charities with high-impact programs in Canada
- Top 10 Impact: Canadian Youth Charities, charities creating high-impact results for youth in Canada



“Social impact is primarily about changing lives and Aunt Leah's is very cost-effectively changing lives in two main ways. First, it breaks the cycle of foster care by supporting young mothers and preventing their babies from going into foster care. And second, it helps bridge the gap for kids who “age-out” of the foster system with housing and finding jobs. Charity Intelligence finds Aunt Leah's to be a High Impact charity.”

Greg Thomson, Director of Research, Charity Intelligence

Who is Charity Intelligence Canada?

Charity Intelligence researches Canadian charities for donors to be informed and give intelligently. Charity Intelligence's website posts free reports on more than 800 Canadian charities, as well as in-depth primers on philanthropic sectors like Canada's environment, cancer, and homelessness. Today over 360,000 Canadians use Charity Intelligence's website as a go-to source for information on Canadian charities providing over 1.3 million charity reports. Through rigorous and independent research, Charity Intelligence aims to assist Canada's dynamic charitable sector in being more transparent, accountable, and focused on results.

CARF

Accreditation

In November 2020, Aunt Leah's successfully completed its three day accreditation survey with CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Aunt Leah's has successfully demonstrated compliance with international standards of practice in the following areas:

- *Quality Individualized Services and Supports*
- *Community Housing and Shelters (Children and Adolescents)*
- *Case Management Services/ Program Coordination (Children and Adolescents)*
- *Community Youth Development (Children and Adolescents)*
- *Governance Standards*

Aunt Leah's CARF surveyors provided valuable feedback to develop and grow Aunt Leah's programming and services. In addition, they highlighted some strengths:

“

True to its mission, Aunt Leah's provides wrap around services and supports to ensure the participants benefit from the same types of opportunities available to other youth living with their families. Stakeholders commented that the organization consistently demonstrates a positive regard for and unconditional, ongoing acceptance of all participants. The services provided are specific to the needs to each participant. The manner in which Aunt Leah's delivers services reflects its commitment to treat each episode of engagement with a participant as a person-centered experience. A staff member summed up this approach by saying, “no two days are alike. No two kids are alike. No two approaches are alike.

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Operational Data

April 1st 2020 - March 30th 2021

Our Impact & Who We Served

404 Youth, moms & children supported

Age Breakdown

10 In care (under 19)

314 Aged out (over 19)

80 Babies, children & dependents

Housing

97% Participants in safe secure housing for the entire year

Social Capital & Skill Development

8,910

One-on-one sessions & meetings with participants

58

Virtual Workshops/ Groups Offered:

- Sharing Circle
- Plates of Possibility youth-led workshops
- Mom and Baby Program
- Crafting With Dana
- Effective Study Tips



NS

2021 Leah Award Winner

NS has demonstrated unconditional love and support to those around her, specifically her two young daughters. NS's desire to provide a stable and loving home for her daughters during these challenging times was how she connected with the Threshold's program in October 2020. Although NS faced a lot of ups and downs, her determination and her unwavering love for her children gave her the strength to bounce back stronger than before. While in the Threshold's program, NS participated in programs such as Mom and Baby program and various cultural programs as well as being a very active member of her own cultural community. NS demonstrates a strong passion for achieving and keeping a healthy lifestyle and this is quite obvious through the nutritious meals she makes for her family. NS is a great role model for others who want to live a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families. NS's generosity and kindness to everyone around her, including her daughters was demonstrated through her stay in the Threshold's program. NS was observed by staff, celebrating the achievements and milestones of her daughters by encouraging their growth and instilling confidence in them.

The Leah Award

Unconditional Love and 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.

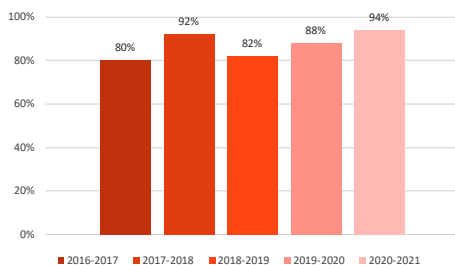
In Honour of Bruce Ambrose

In this past year, we have all had to learn how to adjust to life in a pandemic and NS has turned this experience into an opportunity for growth. When confronted with job loss because of the pandemic, NS chose to use this time to further her education. With help from the Aunt Leah's SEFFY program, she will be pursuing her education to become a Medical Assistant and plans to attend college in September 2021. NS's hardworking and caring spirit will make her an ideal candidate for this occupation. After residing in the Threshold's program for a few months, NS and her two daughters were able to find independent housing through Aunt Leah's Friendly Landlord Network. We are proud to present the Leah award to NS and she is proof that even the hard times in life are worth celebrating. Our community is better for NS having joined it.

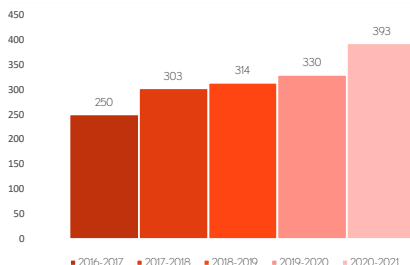
The Link acts as the umbrella program for all Aunt Leah's programs that connect former foster youth with housing, food security, life skills, health services, education, and employment opportunities – offering an experience that is more akin to that of their parented peers. For youth in transition, The Link program endeavours to provide a continuum of care and planning past age 19, by the same trusted people who cared for them before the age of 19.

The 2020-21 fiscal year was dominated by a global pandemic which had a very significant impact on service delivery. In spite of the restrictions and modifications to service delivery (such that the office was partially closed for two months), the total number of adults ultimately served increased by 10% from the previous year.

- **1192** Transit tickets provided
- **2015** Meals and/or groceries provided to Link Youth
- **1724** Connections (e.g. meetings, phone calls)



94% Participants continuously housed



393 Total participants including children and dependents

46 Link participants who resumed their education with Aunt Leah's Education Program

57 Link participants who re-engaged with the labour force

This project is funded by the BB Wise Fund - held at Vancouver Foundation, BC Gaming, BC Housing, Cavelti Family Foundation at Toronto Foundation, City of Vancouver, Community Foundations of Canada (ECSF), Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, The Marty Cutler Foundation, Trevor Linden Foundation, and the Vancity Community Foundation.

Partnership Highlight



Youth Resource Hub Kitchen

CENTRAL CITY FOUNDATION

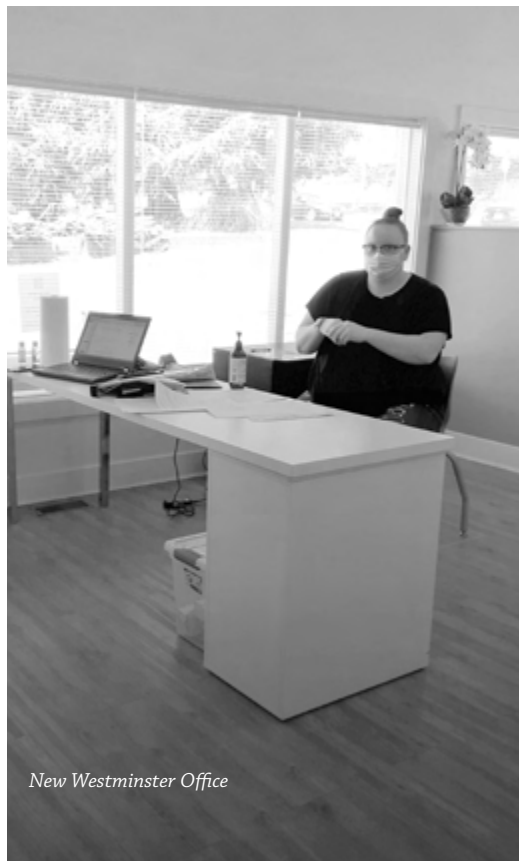
Central City Foundation invests in community-led solutions that help people in the inner city improve their lives. The foundation's capital is mobilized for good through investments in Vancouver-area social purpose real estate, grants and programs that support a diverse array of community-led solutions. Central City Foundation currently owns five properties in BC that help provide low-income housing, support for families, Indigenous-led programs, addiction treatment programs, support for Social Enterprise and a home for Aunt Leah's Place.

“

Our goal is to build a resilient, caring and inclusive community where it is possible for all people to overcome injustice, participate and thrive. We strongly believe in Aunt Leah's mission to strengthen families by supporting young mothers and youth in the foster care system. We very much value our longstanding relationship with Aunt Leah's and look forward to continuing to invest in all the wonderful things they do.

”

*Jennifer Johnstone, President & CEO,
Central City Foundation*



New Westminster Office

Partnership Highlight



We were excited to move into a larger space in Vancouver to provide increased office space for staff and the ability to serve our participants who reside in Vancouver. Thanks to the support of the City of Vancouver, who provides us with a heavily subsidized unit at 1101 Seymour Street, we have been able to expand our outreach to families and youth who prefer to visit us in Vancouver.

Seymour office, SEFFY programming space

The total number of participants who accessed supports from our Vancouver office essentially doubled, from 33 individuals to 65 individuals, during the pandemic. We are incredibly happy to be in our new space and the folks we work with seem to like it too. We are looking forward to providing more services over the upcoming year as COVID-19 restrictions ease, offering more in person/group programming.



Seymour office, LINK programming space



Aunt Leah's Foundation

The Foundation is excited to announce that we have begun the process of rebuilding Aunt Leah's House; the house that "started it all" in the late 1980's. The innovative design for a modern group home is complete, and we are awaiting building permit approval to begin construction. We expect to begin construction this year and are hoping to complete construction by 2022. We look forward to welcoming new moms into the newly built home in 2022. We have begun a capital campaign to fund the building of this new house and are looking for donors, large and small.

We are also excited to welcome Jacqueline Dupuis, the new Executive Director for Aunt Leah's Foundation this year. We would also like to welcome Nancy Hill, Tom Lancaster and Megan Halpin as Aunt Leah's Board members. We are excited by the vision, energy and dedication that they bring to the Foundation and the board. As we begin our strategic planning process in September, we are excited about what the future holds.

We look forward to many more years of working hand in hand with Aunt Leah's Place to provide homes for young people as they age out of care, and young families in need of shelter.

Homes within Aunt Leah's Foundation housed a total of **23** moms and **26** children. The Telford building housed a total of **7** young people.

Housing

Aunt Leah's Place provides housing, rent subsidies and homelessness prevention for youth from care and families at-risk of losing custody of their child(ren). Our programs target the entry and exit points of the foster care system, with a goal of providing supports, resources and opportunities similar to those provided by average Canadian families.

Programs



Thresholds



Support Link



The Link: Housing First



Friendly Landlord Network



Lale House



Housing and Education Link
Program Subsidy

Overall Impact

97% of Participants maintained housing 3 months after leaving Aunt Leah's Housing Programming

152 Youth, Moms & Children Housed

Aunt Leah's House

In the fall of 2020, Aunt Leah's House shifted its focus of work. With the Ministry of Children and Family Development no longer requiring a residential program for teen mothers, Aunt Leah's House was able to shift their services to work with adult mothers and their children to become a part of Aunt Leah's Threshold's program. Programs and services for women and their children have seen an increased demand with the development of the pandemic. Strides that have been made to increase women's rights and safety were shaken by COVID-19 with increased gender violence, women having to stop work in order to be with their children with school closures and increased risk of contracting Covid-19 with women representing a large population of front line workers. The need for increased supportive housing for adult women and children connected to Aunt Leah's was evident and in January, thanks to the support from the Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness strategy, Emergency Covid-19 funding and the Community Foundations of Canada, we were able to open the doors of Aunt Leah's House to three families looking for a safe and supportive home.

Thresholds

Thresholds is a family reunification program that provides supported housing and services for adult moms at risk of losing custody of their child(ren).

In response to the housing need, Aunt Leah's House was opened as the third house for the Threshold's program. Aunt Leah's House currently supports 3 mothers and their children. With a total of 4 housing programs, including a lane-way house, the Threshold's program

provided safe housing and security to a total of 25 mothers and children; **92%** maintained custody of their children and **98%** secured safe housing upon exiting the program. Furthermore, the program connected the families to **33** community programs and resources, creating a strong sense of community when the families exited the Threshold's program

This program is funded by Andrew Mahon Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada (ECSF), Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Moffat Family Fund held at The Winnipeg Foundation, Nitikman Chan Trust, Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, Taylor Irwin Family Fund at Toronto Foundation, Winifred Searle Memorial Fund for Aunt Leah's Place, held at Vancouver Foundation, Wolrige Foundation.

Support Link

Support Link provides transitional housing for youth aged 16 to 18, currently in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development who would like to live independently and develop essential life skills before aging out of foster care. During this past year, Support Link staff helped 10 youth prepare for their 19th birthday. Approximately, 90% of Support Link youth worked with programs within Aunt Leah's such as SEFFY and/or Bootstraps to update their resumes to pursue employment opportunities in the community. Upon exiting the program, **100%** of Support Link youth secured safe housing within three months after aging out of care.

For some youth, direct care hours increased with the pandemic and on average, each youth received approximately **120** hours of support each month. Opportunities for building positive peer relationships were encouraged through virtual workshops supported by staff and physical wellness was promoted by facilitating creative at home workouts and one-to-one socially distanced walks in the community.

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

The Link: Housing First

Housing First provides homeless participants immediate access to permanent housing and regular support services. A total of **39** Housing First youth who were previously homeless or at imminent risk of being homeless, were housed or rehoused. A total of **58** youth were supported with their housing in 2020-21.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.

The Friendly Landlord Network (FLN)

FLN is a Metro Vancouver-wide network of homeowners and property managers who rent suites to youth transitioning from government care, along with the support of 16 local youth-serving organizations and 12 friendly Landlords. FLN housed a total **13** youth from care last year.

This program is funded by the City of Vancouver and the Victoria Foundation.

Lale House & Supportive Suites

Lale House and the three Supported suites provide safe, affordable, supportive housing for young people aged 19 to 27 transitioning out of foster care. Lale House offers shared or communal living for 4 to 5 former youth in care, whereas the three supportive suites are semi-independent private basement suites with a friendly landlord living above providing arms length support. The goal of this housing program is to provide enough stability for participants to continue with their education, employment and life goals as they age out of

care and to not have their planning disrupted due to being under housed and/or under supported.

Lale House and the Supportive Suites offers social capital through peer-to-peer and staff-to-participant relationships. Like a family model, Aunt Leah's understands not every youth is fully ready to venture out "on their own" at 19. Furthermore, the current economic climate makes it difficult for young people to secure adequate housing and reach financial independence at the same time. Lale House and Supportive Suites Program works with the participants in establishing a service plan that is individualized to the participant's needs and goals, while offering guidance, support and coaching to maximize their success.

This program is funded by the Osprey Tree Foundation and Anonymous Foundation.

Partnership with City of New Westminster

Aunt Leah's Place is excited to continue with it's **"Good Neighbour Agreement"** and partnership with the City of New Westminster this past year. We applaud New Westminster's leadership in this area of supporting youth in and from government care by permitting single detached housing in New Westminster to be used to provide a continuum of housing and support for participants of Aunt Leah's Place. The themes of the Good Neighbour agreement fits with the values and model of care at Aunt Leah's, where former youth in care have the opportunities to connect, learn and live in their community.



Friendly Landlord Network Housing



Friendly Landlord Network Apartments

Food Security

Aunt Leah's food based programs help ensure that youth from care and young mothers have access to food and are taught the skills to make nutritious and affordable meals. Aunt Leah's food security programs include the Cooking Club, Emergency Food Cupboard, Mom and Baby Fresh Food Program as well as homemade meals prepared on Wednesdays and Sundays in conjunction with the Essential Skills Workshops and the Sunday Haven program.

Programs



Sunday Haven



Cooking Club



Mom & Baby Fresh Food Program

“

Aunt Leah's is my safety net when I don't know where to get food and it is much appreciated

”

M, Aunt Leah's Participant

Stew cooked for participants' hot meals

Fresh Food Network

The Fresh Food Network helps stock food programs by collecting and re-distributing foods that previously were for sale on store floors at full price. This is made possible because of our partnership with Dan's Legacy and Save-on-Foods, where produce from multiple stores are collected every week and distributed to non-profit organizations across the Lower Mainland. Dan's Legacy serves **13** organizations including Aunt Leah's Place.

In this last year, Aunt Leah's Food Network provided a total **714** fresh grocery bags to approximately **110** participants, some of which highly depend on the food through Aunt Leah's as a main source for their groceries. The grocery bags are also accompanied with a nutritious hot meal which is available on a weekly basis.

\$148,000 - Amount of food collected and donated by Dan's Legacy

Cooking Club

This 12-week program provides moms with the cooking skills and experience in preparing food. Each mom leaves the program with experience in the kitchen and food safety as well as a set of recipes to use in their homes for meals with their families.

During the pandemic, the resources for this program were directed to increase the food distribution days for all participants in the office.

2 Moms participated

This program is funded by BC Gaming.

Mom & Baby Fresh Food Program

During this year, the Mom and Baby Fresh Food Program provided programming for mothers and their children online through Zoom, every Monday afternoon. This program provided mothers with fun and creative activities to do with their children and allowed the moms to discuss a variety of topics such as self-care, self-compassion, recipes to cook meals at home, and the sharing of ideas around fun activities to do with their children at home. While participating in the Mom and Baby Fresh Food Program, the moms received packages of arts and crafts to complete with their children, as well as grocery gift cards and on occasion, tickets to participate in activities in the community with their children at Science World, Central City Fun Park, the Art Gallery and PNE.

356 Gift certificates and packages

29 Participants
36 Workshops

This program is funded by Aunt Leah's Place.

Sunday Haven

During the pandemic, instead of the traditional sit-down family dinner that our youth and moms were used to, Sunday Haven provided youth and moms with a healthy take-out dinner. Staff are also available during "Sunday Haven" to connect and help participants with their individual needs and requests for support.

Our friends at Dan's Legacy prepared **\$20,800** worth of surplus food last year.

751 dinners served to **94** individuals

This program is funded by Dan's Legacy and Aunt Leah's Place.

“

I loved how they gave out packages every week. My daughter enjoyed the activities and I like to get help with gift cards during COVID

”

Aunt Leah's Participant

Taco salad made for BC Child and Youth in Care Week at the New Westminster kitchen



One of our participants making bannock

Food Security During the Pandemic

Aunt Leah's continued to adapt throughout the year, focusing our programs to deepen our delivery of support. We increased food security by distributing food 4 times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays). Wednesday's continued to be one of our busiest days of the week at the office with an average of 15 to 20 participants dropping in to pick up groceries and a hot meal.

In 2020-21, Aunt Leah's served food to over 110 young people in need. These distribution days made it possible to stretch the budgets of our families and youth but also gave them access to essential items that the youth required without anxiety and allowed them to maintain a connection with others during this isolating time. The drop - in days have also given youth access to more fresh foods and nutritious ingredients, incorporating healthier recipes and life style. These supports provided an opportunity for Aunt Leah's staff to connect and support participants with their basic needs and essential life skills just as an average family would.

Cookies baked by staff for the participants



Fresh produce distributed to participants



Packed food for participants



Fresh grocery bags packed for participants



Participants' food cupboard at the Seymour office



Hot dogs being grilled for participants



Groceries distributed at Aunt Leah's Youth Resource Hub



Fresh bannock prepared for participants



Cupcakes made for BC Child and Youth in Care Week



Cynthia Kollie

2021 Rona Award Winner

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 Place. 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 participant from one of Aunt Leah's Training Programs who has shown the characteristics that Rona appreciated the most.

In Honour of Rona Castagnier

Cynthia Kollie is a woman that represents the traits of the Rona award everyday: her strength, compassion and kindness are unrelenting. Cynthia joined the SEFFY and Bootstraps Program in 2019 and despite being severely set back by the COVID-19 pandemic through education, employment and personal health, Cynthia continuously demonstrates the incredible willingness to garner the strength and mental fortitude to continue her education and find means of employment.

Cynthia has greatly enjoyed being part of the Bootstraps online retail training where she has gained valuable skills, particularly with online marketing. Cynthia's desire is to start her own business; contributing to her community with the mission of 'wanting women to feel comfortable in their own skin.' Cynthia does not hesitate to share her kindness with women within the community who wish to have an opportunity for a makeover. Some of the women may not have the means to pay for such services, but Cynthia is willing to bypass that and make their 'make-up' desires come true.

Cynthia is the perfect example of 'preaching what you practice.' She is comfortable in her own skin and wants to share that with others. Cynthia's ability to have love, kindness and compassion within herself allows her to share that with the broader community. After completing her training at Blanche MacDonald in July 2021, Cynthia hopes to venture out to start her own business. Cynthia's training experiences from the retail training program will only further enhance her ability to set foot in the beauty industry. Cynthia definitely encompasses a key Aunt Leah's core values, in which she exemplifies entrepreneurial spirit in hope of building herself and community.

Life Skills

Aunt Leah's life skills programs provide valuable resources and teach participants the essential skills needed to navigate living on their own. Youth and mothers learn through community workshops, hands-on experience and expert counsel.

Programs



Branches



Essential Skills

Branches

Branches is a life skills program for former youth in care wishing to pursue life skills, including training, education and/or employment. Participants receive an individualized program using classroom based training and one-to-one mentorship in the areas of interpersonal skills, employment, housing, education, health and wellness and financial literacy. This program was designed to increase the number of former youth in care with accessing the post majority funding, called Agreements with Young Adults. Branches ensures former youth in care are able to access services they are entitled to and have the supports of caring and dedicated staff.

The total number of youth enrolled in the program from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 was **56**.

90% of participants saw an increase in their income when they started to receive AYA funding

This program is funded by Vancity Community Foundation and Anonymous Foundations.

Potatoes grown by participants in New Westminster office's herb and vegetable garden



Essential Skills

The heart of the Essential Skills Workshops was that every Wednesday, our young people and families could come together at the office and connect with one another socially, enjoy a healthy meal, gain the valuable life skills by participating in various fun and creative workshops as well as participate in recreational activities. This past year, with the pandemic, we made sure that our doors were still open, especially on a Wednesday. Although our in-person group activities/ workshops were put on hold, the focus of the program shifted to social connections by providing one to one support and food security in which hot meals were provided on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's.

730 Wednesday Workshop Meals were provided

510 Monday and Friday workshop meals were provided

This program is funded by the John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation.

Health

When young people 'age out' of the child welfare system, they often also 'age out' of pediatric medical and mental health services as well. Through strategic partnerships, Aunt Leah's offers accessible onsite clinical counselling and health care supports past age 19.

Partners

Fraser Health, Indigenous Primary Health and Wellness Home Program

Dan's Legacy

Programs



Connections

Fraser Health Authority Clinic Partnership Highlight

In partnership with **Fraser Health, Indigenous Primary Health and Wellness Home Program**, Aunt Leah's participants have weekly access to an on-site clinic and nurse practitioner who both treats and refers our young people to other health services.

For part of the year, our nurse practitioner was re-deployed to respond to COVID-19, which put the on-site clinic at Aunt Leah's on hold, however we are now happy to report, the clinic has resumed.

41 Visits **24** Individuals

Dan's Legacy Counselling Program Partnership Highlight

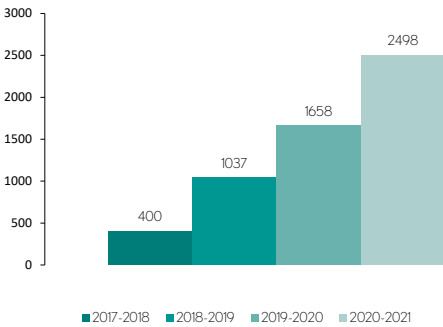
Since the start of COVID-19, there has been a significant spike in the number of youth accessing emergency mental health support services. Conditions created by COVID-19 for young people facing mental health challenges necessarily strengthened the partnership between Aunt Leah's and Dan's Legacy. By joining forces, laptops, cellphones and data plans were provided to youth who were being pushed to social distance due to the pandemic; this allowed youth to have easy access to virtual services at the height of Covid-19. Aunt Leah's and Dan's Legacy have worked together to increase availability of immediate crisis care through virtual counseling, increasing the number of counselors available, and the addition of a social worker to address immediate essential needs.

158 Participants
2,498 Counselling sessions

Annually serving **158** youth receiving services through Aunt Leah's, this number reflects approximately 60% of participants opting into therapy with Dan's Legacy this year which is a significant increase from previous years.

74% of Link participants accessed therapy with Dan's Legacy Foundation

Total Counselling Sessions



This program is funded by Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, Dan's Legacy, and Aunt Leah's Place.

Website: danslegacy.com

Connections

The Connections program is dedicated to permanency planning and increasing cultural connection for youth and families attached to Aunt Leah's Place. The Connections Program provided support to **58** individuals last year. There was a total of **40** Sharing Circles facilitated with topics ranging from "isolation effects on our well-being", "teachings about Indigenous Day" and "Experiencing Racism during Covid-19". The program provided one to one/outreach support to **31** individuals. Outreach support was primarily directed around advocacy in navigating government systems.

This program is funded by the Community Foundations of Canada (ECSF) and the Ministry of Finance.

Participants Stories about the Sharing Circle:

"The sharing Circle has been a tremendous emotional support for me each week, having a place to share my thoughts and experience during the pandemic. I have also really appreciated the weekly food supports through the gift cards."

"One of the few places that I can communicate and talk."

"My connection to the world, when the world would not connect back."

Medicine pouch kits prepared for a workshop



Nargis Rezaie

2021 Champion Award Winner

The Champion Award

Creating Positivity

In 2017 Aunt Leah's community lost a dear friend, Jennifer McFarlane. Jennifer was the Human Resources Coordinator for Aunt Leah's. Jennifer established connections with everyone at Aunt Leah's using humour, laughter, thoughtfulness and appreciation. Jennifer loved that her work in Human Resources was part of a mission to work proactively at the 'entry' and 'exit' points of the foster care system, helping low-income families maintain custody of their children and supporting foster youth aging out of foster care.

Jennifer had a deep appreciation for the community of support established at Aunt Leah's Place and the services provided. In honour of Jennifer, Aunt Leah's is providing an annual award to an individual who has been active in championing for positive change for youth and families affected by the foster care system.

In Honour of Jennifer McFarlane

In 2017, Nargis Rezaie joined the SEFFY program at Aunt Leah's Place, and Aunt Leah's has since been with Nargis on her journey to pursue education. This summer, Nargis will graduate from South Hill Education Centre in Vancouver, and will be starting her studies in Business Administration with Langara College in the fall; her ultimate goal is to become an accountant. We are confident that Nargis will meet her future goal, as she is undeniably tenacious, resourceful, and hardworking.

Nargis would look into different resources to obtain what she needs or wants; this can be in a form of signing up for tutoring to improve her grades or joining a sewing social club to start an entrepreneurial interest. When a part-time administrative assistant opportunity arose at Rise Women's Legal Centre, through connections with Aunt Leah's Place, Nargis went to the interview fully prepared and engaged, consequently impressing her future employer; Nargis takes full advantage of every opportunities that comes in her way.

Nargis has a propensity to support her fellow peers. For example, when her fellow peers have needed supports, she refers them to programs at Aunt Leah's Place, then sits with them through the process to act as a translator and as a peer support. Nargis has previously done some volunteer work at a Women's Shelter, where she feels a sense of pride to be able to contribute to a meaningful and rewarding experience for all involved.

Nargis is a determined, resourceful, kind and caring individual, who also displays a positive attitude and leadership skills. She is a reflection of the spirit of the Champion award, as someone who would find a way to attain their goals, while reaching out to lend their supportive hands to bring up others along the way.

Education

Aunt Leah's 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 Housing Education Link Program Subsidy (HELPS) and provide in-house bursaries to cover the cost of supplies and tuition.

Partners

Frontier College

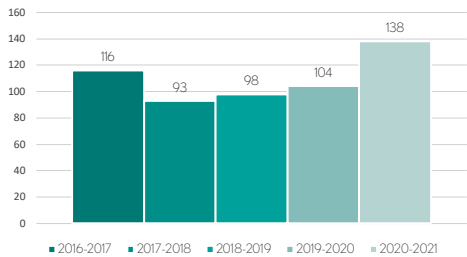
Programs

Supporting Education for Foster Youth (SEFFY)

Supporting Education for Foster Youth (SEFFY)

SEFFY supports long-term education planning and outcomes for former and current foster youth, creating 'educational permanency' by providing financial planning supports once they leave foster care.

SEFFY: Total Participants



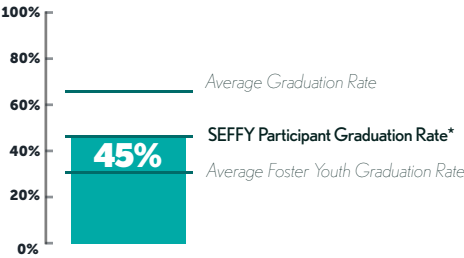
- **89** Youth were financially supported to return to school or to continue their education - supports ranging from application fees, assessment fees, text books, school supplies, living expenses and tuition fees, through the High Need Advancement Fund generously donated by Trevor Linden Foundation
- **31%** Enrolled in post-secondary; 6 graduated from post-secondary (SEFFY participants 19+ years old)

Participants pursued education at various accredited private and public post-secondary institutions in BC. Some of the most common institutions of choice for SEFFY participants are: Douglas College, Langara College, and Vancouver Community College.

Skill upgrades such as driving lessons and various vocational training courses such as Forklift training, Responsible Adult (early childhood education training), Hairdressing (coloring), First Aid and Food Safe certification are also popular choices.

- **52** Education awards distributed: 9 bursaries, 26 Skill and Development Grants, and 17 Housing Education Link

SEFFY Participants Graduated or on Track to Graduate from High School



**Note: The graduation rate was lower this year because many participants chose to defer their education due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and the virtual requirements being unsuitable as a learning environment.*

This program is funded by Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy, Buchanan & Peter Haldenby, Scotiabank, Trevor Linden Foundation, and Vancity Community Foundation.

Frontier College Partnership Highlight

Frontier College is a national charitable literacy organization that works with volunteers and community partners to give people the skills and confidence they need to reach their potential and contribute to society. Frontier College has been supporting Aunt Leah’s education programs since 2012 by providing trained volunteer tutors, educational resources, and professional development opportunities for staff.

The unexpected nature of the COVID-19 pandemic offered a unique opportunity for the SEFFY program to work with Frontier College to facilitate an online platform for online tutoring supports. During this year, there were 4 tutors offering over 75 hours of tutoring support for 11 participants; one tutor also offered a peer workshop on study tips for students and 2 additional participants attended the workshop. In summary, the influx in youth accessing tutoring support is a surprise but a welcomed consequence of the pandemic, as more youth were able to access support services that contributed to their school success.

Website: frontiercollege.ca

Employment

Jobs are the primary mechanism for alleviating poverty in society. Very few young people are given first job experiences due to merit – instead, adult allies mentor and integrate them into the workforce. Often, youth from care do not have the social and familial network to get these vital first job experiences. We respond to this systemic issue by connecting foster youth with community-minded employers and the wrap around supports of Aunt Leah's Place.

Partners

Aunt Leah's Social Enterprises

Programs



Bootstraps

Bootstraps

This program aims to remove barriers to employment and enable Aunt Leah's youth with the opportunity to explore and advance their skills to find meaningful & sustainable employment. Bootstraps takes a holistic approach to addressing barriers to employment, while also coaching critical employability skills. **56** youth accessed Bootstraps employment services and connections with youth were made primarily by phone or video calls due to COVID-19.

Retail Training

Aunt Leah's, like a family, hires youth internally through its two "family businesses": Aunt Leah's Tree Lot and Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift to help them gain the skills, experience and to obtain a reference.

9 youth participated in retail training in the last year. Retail training transitioned to a primarily online format due to COVID-19 restrictions and the Urban Thrift Store closing for relocation. **3** youth completed online training and workshops, while one on one training shifts with retail trainers were done at the Aunt Leah's Donations center. A total of six participants took part in our Tree Lot training opportunity.

In 2020, we hired **2** youth and both are currently employed with Aunt Leah's, beyond the Canada Summer Jobs term.

The Bootstraps program sources external job placements and supports youth with job searching and securing employment related to their field of interest. **25** individuals had started jobs with community employers. Participants had to adjust to virtual interviews and COVID-19 protocols. Participants completed resumes, cover letters and interview preparation online or by phone with support staff.

The Bootstraps program offers opportunities for youth to gain skills and certifications that can lead to employment through certifications (First Aid, Food Safe, Serving-It-Right) and occupational training (forklift, security officer, bartending and traffic control person training). **21** Youth participated in skills training.

This program is funded by the Vancouver Foundation, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

Social Enterprises

Self-generated income from Aunt Leah's Social Enterprises support programs, plus provide employment and training opportunities for participants. All profits from Aunt Leah's two social enterprises – Aunt Leah's Thrift Store and Aunt Leah's Trees – help prevent youth in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children.

A very special thank you to All Saints Anglican Church (Burnaby), Eagle Ridge United Church (Coquitlam), Lonsdale Quay Market (North Vancouver), and St. Stephen's United Church (Vancouver) for providing the physical space to sell the trees and provide retail training to participants.

6 youth participated in retail training at the tree lots in the last year.

Initiatives



Aunt Leah's Thrift



Aunt Leah's Trees

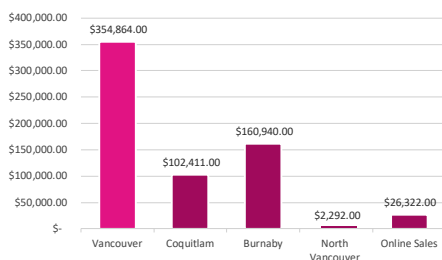
Aunt Leah's Trees

One of Aunt Leah's largest fundraisers is selling quality Christmas trees across Metro Vancouver. Thousands of customers make Aunt Leah's part of their annual tradition and help give kids a home.

\$649, 073 Total sales

- **350** Volunteers gave **2,100** hours
- **6,164** Trees sold

In addition to our 4 permanent locations, we had a very busy season with our online store.



- **6** youth participated in retail training last year at the Tree Lots

Thank-you to sponsors: Action Glass, Dr. C.M. Knight Optometric Corp, Fix Enterprise Ltd., New Westminster Firefighters Charitable Society, Progressive Sealing Inc, McGee Foundation, McLean Group, and Vancouver Film Studios.

Aunt Leah's Thrift

Covid -19 significantly affected Aunt Leah's Thrift store; our store closed in March, our employment-training program was suspended, and our donation centre exclusively supported program needs. Plans to move the Thrift store continued with the Thrift Store moving out of the Broadway and Main location at the end of its lease in November 2020.

2021 is an exciting year of change and growth for Social Enterprises. Headlining this change is the launch of our [online thrift store](https://www.thrift.auntleahs.org) and the re-opening our brick-and-mortar store in a new location in the Fraser and Kingsway area of Mt. Pleasant. Follow us on social media to hear about our grand opening in the Summer of 2021. We can't wait to see all our customers again.

\$30,923 given to our own Aunt Leah's Programs and participants

Environmental Impact

 **900** Bags diverted from Landfill

Come Visit Us!

3328 Fraser St, Vancouver

Monday - closed

Tuesday - 11am to 5pm

Wednesday - 11am to 6pm

Thursday - 11am to 6pm

Friday - 11am to 6pm

Saturday - 11am to 6pm

Sunday - 11am to 5pm

[thrift.auntleahs.org](https://www.thrift.auntleahs.org)



Get Involved

Besides providing financial support, there are numerous ways in which community members make a real impact on the lives of local youth in care and mothers in need.

Despite the challenging conditions, hundreds of supporters were able to contribute to Aunt Leah's success by volunteering, attending our virtual Gala, organizing social-distanced fundraisers, becoming landlords, employing youth and leaving a gift in their will.

Volunteers

Last year was a challenging year for our volunteer program as we had to put many positions on hold due to the pandemic. We were thrilled to be able to welcome some volunteers who contributed in safe and meaningful ways. We were able to shift our Tutoring Program and Board activities to a virtual space and our kitchen and Tree Lot volunteers were able to participate with stringent safety measures in place. We are very much looking forward to welcoming more volunteers as it becomes safe to do so and thank everyone who contributed over the past year.

Tree Lot: 350 volunteers, 2,100 volunteer hours

Tutoring: 3 Volunteers, 75 hours

Kitchen: 3 Volunteers 48 hours

Board: 8 Volunteers, 157 hours

Total: 364 volunteers, 2,380 hours

\$46,410 Value of Volunteer Time
(based on Vancouver living wage of \$19.50 per hour)

“

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

”

Margaret Mead

Emily Ramsay

2021 Jeremy Wright Award Winner



Emily embraced the Support Link program with a sense of responsibility, respect and compassion. Emily has a creative spirit and possesses an unwavering willingness to learn. In the short 9 months that Emily was in the Support Link program, she set and achieved many goals and was able to reach out for support when needed. In the last year, Emily graduated from high school and attained her driver's license. Emily spent a great deal of time with her Support Workers developing skills and participating in recreational activities facilitated by the Support Link Program. Emily participated and completed the "Ready to rent" course to support her in the search of securing safe housing and ensuring she understood her rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

In 2020, Emily completed the Aunt Leah's Place Bootstraps Retail Training program and continues to participate in programming to further develop her employment skills. Emily maintains a strong sense of self and is forging a path to adulthood that is representative of her values while staying true to herself. In recent months, Emily moved onto independence and is working towards applying to Post Secondary education to passionately pursue a career in the beauty and spa industry. We celebrate Emily and her success as she looks to the future and continues to follow her bliss.

The Jeremy Wright Award

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

Awareness Work

One of Aunt Leah's strategic goals is to "Raise Awareness of the issues that foster children and families at risk face and show Aunt Leah's Place as addressing those issues". Over the past three years, Aunt Leah's has partnered and collaborated with Fostering Change, BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness and Feminists Deliver to raise awareness and advocate to increase support for youth in and from government care and mothers at risk of losing custody of their children

BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness

In 2017, the BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH) was founded by Katherine McParland and Fred Ford, with the purpose of leading the development of a provincial plan to end youth homelessness in BC. The BCCEYH is a coalition of over 40 organizations across the province that seeks to magnify the voices of youth with lived experience by developing reports on various provincial ministries' roles and priorities related to youth homelessness. These reports are used to work collaboratively with the Office of Homelessness Coordination and provincial ministries towards our goal of preventing, reducing and ending youth homelessness.

In December of 2020, the BCCEYH lost its visionary leader Katherine McParland. The passing of Katherine was heartbreaking to the coalition. In honour of Katherine, BCCEYH has continued her work to help inform a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. It is thanks to Katherine's passion and dedication for youth of British Columbia that we are now seeing coordination between ministries to have a unique youth housing plan.

"A Way Home Kamloops", the organization that Katherine founded, has been the backbone agency for the BCCEYH. On behalf of the coalition members, thank you for your support. We look forward to continuing our work with "A Way Home Kamloops", focusing on Katherine's vision, to end youth homelessness.

Kira Cheeseborough
Co-Chair

Sarah Stewart
Co-Chair

See the reports at: awayhomekamloops.com/reports

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Fostering Change

Fostering Change seeks to improve public policy for youth 'aging out' of government care in BC. We are a youth-led, youth-centered campaign. Our team of 130 youth advocates join us with courage, passion and lived expertise.

In the past four years Fostering Change and Aunt Leah's have very intentionally shared time in attendance between programs and initiatives. As a community, we strengthen and lift each other up in capacity-building and youth development.

Countless youth from Aunt Leah's programs have contributed invaluable advocacy time with their attendance at the 19th Birthday Party, Policy Solutions Day at the BC Legislature and other campaign activities. We have worked together on capacity-building community consultations that contributed to the implementation of the interim measures for the Agreements with Young Adults Program that have positively impacted youth's lives during the pandemic.

Website: fosteringchange.ca





Feminists Deliver

Aunt Leah's has been an active member of Feminists Deliver, a grassroots collaboration of BC-based Two-Spirit people, non-binary folks, Indigiqueer, trans women, lesbian women, and cis women and girls, and the organizations that support them. Feminists Deliver centres intersectional feminism (Kimberlé Crenshaw), anti-oppression and decolonization.

The past year had been especially challenging as COVID-19 exposed pre-existing structural inequities that people who have been marginalized face. Feminists Deliver lead urgent conversations featuring community leaders in BC and globally to instigate deep reflection and action from intersectional feminists worldwide focusing on:

- Resistance and Resurgence: Unpacking Asian Heritage Month
- Resistance and Resurgence: Confronting Anti-Black Racism
- Resistance and Resurgence: Decolonization at a Time of "Reconciliation"
- Toward Liberation: Toward Liberation: Evolving Beyond 21st Century Capitalism
- Leading Transformative Changes as Acts of Resistance

Feminists Deliver also published A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19, highlighting recommendations that ensure a just recovery centering underrepresented women, girls, femmes, non-binary folks, 2SLGBTQQIA+ folks who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Find out more information at feministsdeliver.com.

Events

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restriction around social gathering, our fundraising events could not take place in it's traditional format. In the spring, our very popular Trivia Extravaganza was cancelled but by the fall, we were ready to host our first ever Virtual Gala and connect with our extraordinary community of supporters.

Thanks to the generosity of 68 donors who provided financial gifts in lieu of attending Trivia, we raised over \$14,000 of much needed funds to help the youth through the initial stages of the pandemic.

Our virtual Gala was a success and we were overwhelmed with the support received.

+500 views

\$163,706 Raised from our Virtual Gala

Third Party Fundraisers

Aunt Leah's Place is thankful for all of the individuals and organizations who went the extra mile and found creative ways to raise funds to support foster youth and the organization's mission in a particularly challenging year. Funds were raised through virtual events, bake sales, pancake breakfasts, holiday fundraisers and birthday donations through Facebook.

We are also grateful for the organizations that have chosen Aunt Leah's to be part of their on-going giving back initiatives.

Top Fundraisers (By Revenue)

- 100 Men Who Care
- Kiewit Ledcor TMEP Partnership
- Vancouver Couple and Family Institute
- Seaforth Elementary School
- Full Circle Furniture

+\$16,300 Total raised

Thank you to all the individuals, groups & businesses who organized and participated in a third party fundraiser in support of the young people at Aunt Leah's Place.

*To become a third party ally, visit our website at ***auntleahs.org/takeaction****



COVID Supporters



Aunt Leah's would like to thank ALL of our friends and supporters who went above and beyond providing emergency funding during and throughout the pandemic! We were able to adapt and shift all of our programs so that we could continue to support youth and moms in need during an extraordinary year. Thank you to each and every one who donated to Aunt Leah's!

We are incredibly grateful to all of our friends and supporters who generously gave to Aunt Leah's throughout the pandemic so that we could adapt and keep programs safe for our participants. The gracious donations of hand sanitizer, cloth masks, plexiglass, personal protective equipment, and emergency funding made it possible to keep our youth and staff safe and connected

Masks donated for staff and participants



Donated masks and hand sanitizer at the Seymour office



Donated masks and hand sanitizer at the New Westminster office

Supporters

We acknowledge the many levels of government, companies, community groups, and foundations who help fund and contribute to Aunt Leah's work.

Thank you to the many anonymous donor organizations who support our work.

100 Men Who Care Vancouver
13th Ryerson Scout Group
Action Glass
Adventurer Foundation
Al Roadburg Foundation
Alan Mario Cosgrave Inc.
ALF Software Inc.
Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy
Ames Family Foundation
Andrew Mahon Foundation
Andrew Sheret Limited
ASQ Building Ltd
Averbach Family Foundation
B.E. Digitally Hip Corporation
BB Wise Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
BC Gaming
BC Housing
Brent Wolfe Professional Corporation
Buchanan & Peter Haldenby
Byram Family Foundation
CAF Canada (Cybergrants)
Can Ridge Industries Queenswood Farms
Cavelti Family Foundation at Toronto Foundation
Charitable Gift Funds Canada Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of Canada
Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation
City of Richmond
City of Vancouver
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
College of Physicians and Surgeons
Community Foundations of Canada (ECSF)
Costco Wholesale - Richmond
Cosulich Group Investments Inc.
Danica/Now Designs

David Nairne & Associates Ltd
Derek and Barbara Smith Foundation Fund, held at
Vancity Community Foundation
DHX Media Ltd
DP World
Dr. Ann Worth Charitable Foundation
Dr. C.M. Knight Optometric Corp
Dragon & Phoenix Designer Consignments Inc.
Earl Holdings Ltd.
Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
Face the World Foundation
Fix Enterprise Ltd.
FortisBC
Full Circle Furniture
Gage Foundation Fund through the Victoria
Foundation
George & Donna Battye Fund, held at Vancouver
Foundation
Gilmore Park United Church
Gloria Petrina Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private
Giving Foundation
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Coquitlam
Good Shepherd Women
Guo Guo Investments Inc.
GVRD Employees' Union
Hardy Sales Ltd
Helmut & Gerda Fandrich Gifting Fund, held at
Abundance Canada
ICBC
Intact Logistics
Jacob & Mechthild Kroeker Gifting Fund, held at
Abundance Canada
Jessie F Gordon Chapter IODE
John and Pauleen Anatooshkin Legacy Fund, held at
Vancity Community Foundation
John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
Kiewit Ledcor TMEP Partnership
Kingwave Enterprises Limited
Kinsmen Club of Langley
Knelson Family Foundation
L MacPherson Ltd.
Lagniappe Foundation
Lahiffe Family Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
Landmark Law Group
Lo Studio Architecture Inc.

<i>Loadlink Technologies Corp.</i>	<i>St. Peter's Catholic Women's League</i>
<i>Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation</i>	<i>Steeves Brothers Holding Inc.</i>
<i>Main Street Law Group</i>	<i>Taylor Irwin Family Fund at Toronto Foundation</i>
<i>Mealshare Aid Foundation</i>	<i>The Amir Malekyazdi Foundation</i>
<i>Megan Ellis & Company</i>	<i>The Aune Foundation</i>
<i>Mel and Geri Davis Charitable Trust</i>	<i>The Gauthier Family Charitable Fund, held at Gift Funds Canada</i>
<i>Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training</i>	<i>The Giustra Foundation</i>
<i>Ministry of Finance</i>	<i>The Gordon Family Fund, held at The Benefaction Foundation</i>
<i>MNP LLP</i>	<i>The Karuna Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation</i>
<i>Moffat Family Fund held at The Winnipeg Foundation</i>	<i>The Malicious Cartel</i>
<i>Monique Shebbeare Law Corp.</i>	<i>The Marty Cutler Foundation</i>
<i>Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative Association</i>	<i>The Royal Canadian Legion No.2</i>
<i>N&E Properties</i>	<i>The Taylor Taliesin Foundation, held at Canada Gives</i>
<i>New Westminster Firefighters Charitable Society</i>	<i>The Ultan Patrick Byrne Family Education Trust Fund</i>
<i>Nitikman Chan Trust</i>	<i>The Walsh Foundation</i>
<i>Osprey Tree Foundation</i>	<i>TMX</i>
<i>P.A.I.D. Foundation</i>	<i>Traction on Demand</i>
<i>PayPal Giving Fund Canada</i>	<i>Trevor Linden Foundation</i>
<i>Peter & June Young Legacy Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation</i>	<i>UFCW</i>
<i>Peter and Melody Anderson Foundation Fund, held at Vancity Community Foundation</i>	<i>Unifor BCRC</i>
<i>Peter Gilgan Foundation</i>	<i>United Way Greater Toronto</i>
<i>PG Wilcox MD, FRCPC Inc.</i>	<i>United Way of Calgary and Area</i>
<i>Pratt-Johnson Family Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private Giving Foundation</i>	<i>United Way of the Lower Mainland</i>
<i>Progressive Sealing Inc</i>	<i>Unity of New Westminster</i>
<i>Provincial Employees Community Services Fund</i>	<i>Urban Impact Recycling Ltd.</i>
<i>Push Operations</i>	<i>Vancity Community Foundation</i>
<i>PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.</i>	<i>Vancity Credit Union</i>
<i>Quinchun Lu Accounting Ltd.</i>	<i>Vancouver Couple and Family Institute</i>
<i>Randy and Lori Buckoll Endowment Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation</i>	<i>Vancouver Film Studios</i>
<i>RBC Capital Markets</i>	<i>Vancouver Foundation</i>
<i>Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy</i>	<i>Victoria Foundation</i>
<i>Reardon Capital Group Inc.</i>	<i>Waldman/Shnier Charitable Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation</i>
<i>Ronald & Elin Beall Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation</i>	<i>Western Communities Foundation</i>
<i>Roy and Grace Tong Ltd.</i>	<i>Wholeness Health Clinic</i>
<i>Scotiabank</i>	<i>Winifred Searle Memorial Fund for Aunt Leah's Place, held at Vancouver Foundation</i>
<i>Seaforth Elementary School</i>	<i>Wolrige Foundation</i>
<i>Smith S.H.A.R.E. Foundation, Inc.</i>	<i>Young Foundation</i>
<i>St. George's School</i>	<i>YourCause</i>
<i>St. Mary's Kerrisdale</i>	

Individual Donations

Thank you to the 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.

Thank you to our many anonymous donors for your generous contribution.

A. Pauline Marshall	Ann-Marie Heino	Bryce Davis	Christopher Carlisle
Aaron Schroeder	Ann Seddon	Bryce Gill	Cicely Bryce
Abhishek Vatsa	Anshu Arora	C. J. Canam	Cindy Buchanan
Abigail Webb	Anthony Chan	C. P. Murray	Claire Rushton
Abraham Sela	Anthony Ciardullo	Camille	Claire Sadarangani
Adam Hyslop	Anthony Trister	Hombrebueno	Clare Waters
Adelard Haroon	Antoni Wodzinski	Camille Vernet	Claudia Dudzevich
Adelene Tse	April Shaw	Campbell Perry	Clayton Derocich
Adrienne Bridgeman	Ardyth MacQuarrie	Carel Ballard	Cliff Wong
Agnes Kunic	Arianna Coles	Carla Graebner	Clint MacDonald
Agnes Chan	Arlene Sutherland	Carlos Felipe Velasco	Colin Gray
Ahmad Aziz	Armando Igari	Fuentes	Colleen Donald
Alaa Sifate	Sinsato	Carl Wiebe	Colleen Holub
Alan Cheuk	Artem Zuev	Carol-Anne Briand	Colleen Murphy
Alan Mitchell	Audrey Coutts	Carole Roberts	Colleen Semple
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Bowerman	Autumn Moreno	Carol Hames	Corinna Hagel
Alastair Roberts	Babs McLaren	Carol Hillier	Corinna O'Neill
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Alexandra Kay	Barbara Duff	Carol Sogawa	Crystal Brouwer
Alexandra Moulton	Barbara E Lyon	Carol Lavallee	C Shannon Watson
Alexandra Rodriguez	Barbara Gauthier	Carol Tarnowsky	Cullen Johnston
Alia Mason	Barbara Tarris	Carol Weinstock	Cynthia Eddy
Alia Eastbrook	Barbara Wernick	Carol Willyatt	Cynthia Jones
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Alisa Hrbicnik	Barkha Nagpal	Carolyn MacDonald	Cynthia Tretiak
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Alison MacDonald	Tessier	Carson Ling	Daiga Alksnite
Allan Dion	Barry Drummond	Cassandra Hanson	Dale Duguid
Allan Harvey	Benjamin Diven	Cathal O'Donnell	Dan & Janette
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Alynn Fong	Bernice & Fergus	Catherine Insley	Dana El-Takkale
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Analyn Perez	Beverley Dakin	Celia Rice-Jones	Darlene Turchansky
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Andrea Mullin	Bill Brooks	Cheryl Tyler	David & Penelope Cyr
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Andrew Murray	Bonnie Olsen	Chloe Perrin	Elizabeth Gauschi
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Anne Hope	Bruce Leavitt		
Anne Marie Proznick	Bruce Taylor		
Anne Montgomery	Bryan Miller		
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			Debra Niemi
			Debra Preston-Boll
			Deepk Jaswal
			Delaney Wicken
			Denise Foster
			Denise Townsend
			Denise Wasko
			Derek Pope
			Devan Vance
			Dhalie Patara
			Plischke
			Diana Kao
			Diana Klein
			Diana McPherson
			Diana O'Grady
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Brighter Future

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Rick Schneider



Board Chair Technical Director Sierra Systems Group (Retired)

Like so many care giving organizations across the country, Aunt Leah's has faced the daunting challenges of the pandemic with courage, tenacity and passion. In the face of the additional stresses of providing service on the front line of the pandemic, Aunt Leah's staff have remained resolute and continued to provide very high standards of compassion and care to the young people and families who, as part of the Aunt Leah's community, are growing stronger and more self sufficient every day.

My colleagues on the board and myself are honoured to be involved with Aunt Leah's and humbled by the strength and perseverance of Sarah and her team, as well as the youth and young mom's served by Aunt Leah's. The Board and Management team have collaborated to build a bridge plan to act as a guide as Aunt Leah's emerges from the pandemic. This will position Aunt Leah's, in the post-pandemic world, to continue to be a leader in advancing and protecting the interests of our youth both in care and aging out of care.

The Board would like to make a special shout out to:

- Aunt Leah's generous donors, who have continued to support Aunt Leah's during this pandemic, and whose donations make this work all possible. Your support is essential to Aunt Leah's.
- The Aunt Leah's Foundation, who works closely with Aunt Leah's Place to secure and maintain the housing and accommodation essential to the services we provide.

In closing, we highlight the recognition that Charity Intelligence has, for the fifth straight year, designated ALP as one of the top 10 Impact Charities of 2020.

Rick Schneider



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Care and Youth Justice,
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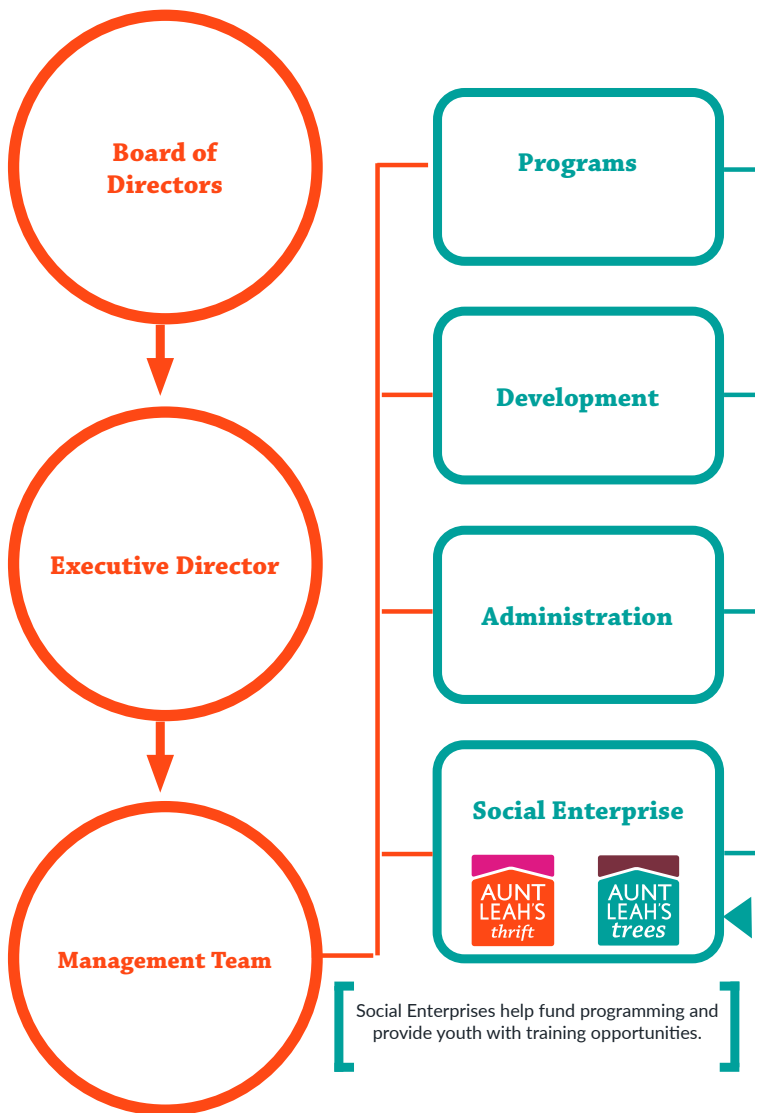


Lucie Fournet
Board Member
Consulting Associate
Director
NTT DATA Services

Governance



2020-2021 Organizational Chart





Youth, Moms and Children



The Link

Aunt Leah's umbrella program, linking all participants (19+) with support workers and programs, specific to their needs.

Housing

Youth Participants



Support Link



Aunt Leah's House



The Link Housing First



Thresholds House



Friendly Landlord Network



LALE House & Supportive Suites



Housing, Education, Link Program, Subsidy

Aunt Leah's participants also access housing subsidies through 3rd party partners like BC Housing.

Life Skills, Food Security & Health



The Link-Drop In & Outreach



Essential Skills



Cooking Club



Sunday Haven



Clinic



Counselling Partnership



Plates of Possibility



Branches AYA



Connections



Mom & Baby Fresh Food

Education & Training



Retail Training



Bootstraps



SEFFY

Stakeholders



Volunteers



Aunt Leah's Foundation



Youth Advisory



Program Partners



Funders



Program Evaluators



Government



3-Year Strategic Plan


2018-2021

Goal 1



Deliver responsive programming that reduces risk and increases protective factors for foster children and families at risk.

Goal 4




Find housing solutions in collaboration with the Aunt Leah's Foundation

Goal 2




Enhance organizational capacity and financial stability

Goal 5



Raise awareness of the issues that foster children and families at risk face and show Aunt Leah's Place as addressing those issues

Goal 3



Listen to and meaningfully engage with the voice of youth and moms to enhance Aunt Leah's Programming.



Aunt Leah's Staff

97 Staff Dedicated to Serving Our Regions Youth

Aunt Leah's Place would like to take a moment to extend our appreciation to our amazing staff. This past year more than ever, Aunt Leah's staff went above and beyond to connect, support and provide care and understanding for the young people and families that we serve. During a year when we all felt a bit more vulnerable, isolated and alone, the presence of Aunt Leah's staff was critical. Their work showed an innovative spirit and understanding around the precarious place that society has put youth in and from care and mothers in need. Wonderful creative ways to safely connect and care for our families and youth were discovered. We know that this year coming up will continue to have pandemic challenges that make the lives of our families and youth harder and therefore our work harder. Sometimes the best statement of appreciation and renewal of energy to continue our work comes when we hear from the individuals we serve.

“...I would love to thank each and everyone of the staff who have interacted with me both positive and negative. Each of you have helped me grow into someone I am finally starting to slowly become proud of. Those are words I never thought I'd say. I also never thought I'd learn unconditional love but that's all I have been shown since becoming a part of the Aunt Leah's family. Thank you guys for all the hard work you put in. Thank you for handling the ugly situations and being there for each and everyone of us no matter how low we are .

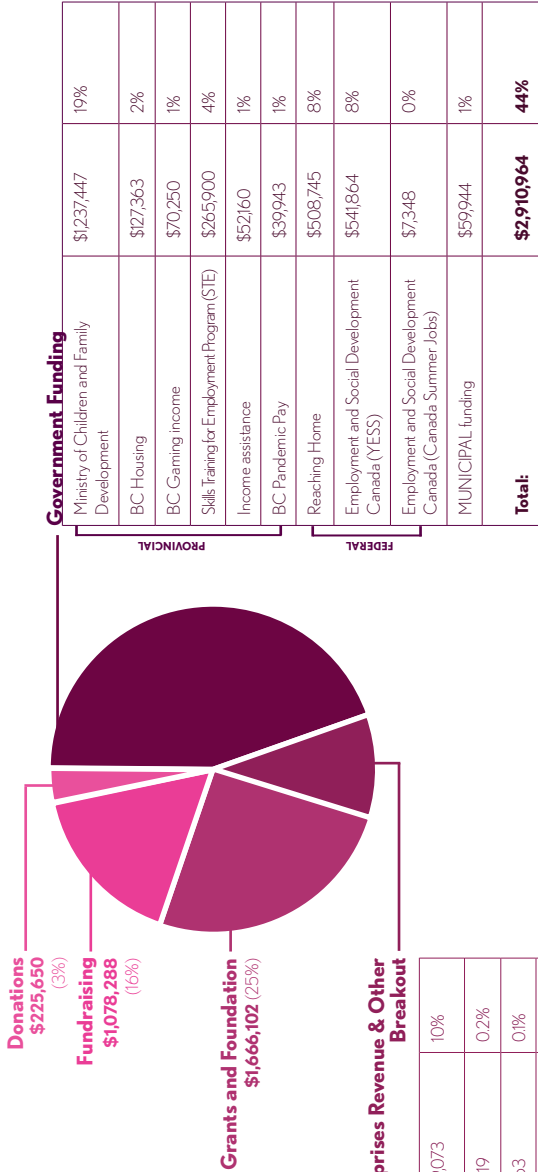
Former youth in care connected to Aunt Leah's Place

We are extremely proud of the passion, dedication, and innovation with which our staff delivered, and continue to deliver, exceptional service to the youth and families that we serve.

Financial Report

How We Raised and Allocated our Resources

REVENUE \$6,550,859



Social Enterprises Revenue & Other Breakout

Aunt Leah's Trees	\$649,073	10%
Aunt Leah's Thrift	\$13,819	0.2%
Other (Memberships, Interest, Misc.)	\$6,963	0.1%
Total:	\$669,855	10%

EXPENSES \$5,994,251

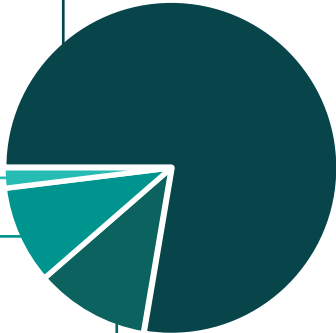
General and Administration
\$116,855
(2%)

Fundraising

Operating expenses	\$39,299	1%
Wages and benefits	\$377,670	6%
Administration and overhead	\$149,237	2%
Total:	\$566,206	9%

Social Enterprises

Operating expenses	\$343,922	6%
Wages and benefits	\$186,812	3%
Administration and overhead	\$124,704	2%
Total:	\$655,438	11%



Programming

Wages and Benefits	\$2,768,163	46%
Operating Expenses	\$1,249,149	21%
Reaching Home	\$413,093	7%
Administration and overhead	\$93,344	2%
BC Housing	\$132,003	2%
Total:	\$4,655,752	78%

Revenue Over Expenditures: \$556,608 (9.4%)



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