Aunt Leah's

Aunt Leah's Theory of Change

Long-Term Impact

Youth from care and vulnerable families **live with dignity, rooted in community, surrounded by support, and empowered to thrive** — with **safe homes**, **meaningful work**, **strong relationships**, and **lifelong well-being**.

Ultimate Outcomes

- Youth aging out of care **build safe, lasting homes — not just housing — and avoid the trauma of homelessness**.
- Young families at risk of child welfare involvement **stay together and grow stronger, supported by community and care**.
- Participants **develop a strong sense of self, purpose, and belonging — building lives of well-being, independence, and connection**.

Intermediate Outcomes

- Youth and families **find and keep safe, stable housing — laying the foundation for everything that follows**.
- Participants **gain the skills, tools, and confidence to pursue their education and employment goals**.
- Youth and families **form lasting, trusted relationships with caring adults who walk beside them**.
- Participants **become better equipped to navigate complex systems** — from housing to health care to justice.

Immediate Outcomes

- Participants **access holistic, wraparound supports that meet them where they're at**.
- **Housing becomes more stable and secure** through a range of supported options.
- Participants **grow in confidence, emotional regulation, and the ability to make empowered decisions**.
- Youth and families **are connected to training, school, and meaningful work opportunities**.
- **Parents feel seen, supported, and strengthened** in raising their children and advocating for them.
- **Children are able to stay with their families in nurturing, supported environments**.

Inputs

- **Skilled, caring, and trauma-informed staff and peer mentors**
- Transitional and supportive housing (Thresholds, Lale House, Support Link)
- Affordable housing for youth from care and vulnerable families (Telford, East Pender, Marine Way)
- Support to access private market housing (Link, rental subsidies, Housing First for Youth)
- Employment and life skills programming (partnerships, employment navigation, Resource Centre)
- Education supports (scholarships, tutoring, navigation)
- Parent support programs (Mom & Baby, Transitional Housing, Fresh Food and Cooking Clubs)
- **Generous donors, committed funders, and government partners**
- **Evidence-informed, person-centered practice**

- Partnerships (MCFD, Fraser Health, Ministry of Poverty Reduction)

Activities

- Provide transitional and long-term housing supports
- **Offer life skills training and career development that builds confidence and hope**
- Support education through navigation, financial aid, and tutoring
- Run parenting and family-strengthening programs
- Provide 1:1 support, peer mentoring, and mental health referrals
- **Advocate for a better system — one that truly supports youth from care and vulnerable families**
- Operate a welcoming Resource Centre where participants access support, build community, and find a sense of belonging
- Deliver services based on **where people are developmentally — not how long they've been in the program**

Assumptions

- **Caring relationships are the heart of healing and resilience**
- Youth leaving care need **consistent, non-judgmental support — the kind families provide their children**
- Safe, secure housing is **a launchpad, not just a roof**
- **Flexible, holistic support meets people's full range of needs**
- Systems often fail young people; Aunt Leah's steps in to **bridge the gap with care and integrity**
- Youth and families are **motivated to grow, plan, and lead their own lives — when given the right support**
- A **livable income is a foundation for stability** for former youth in care and families

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External Factors

- Availability of affordable housing
- Changes in child welfare and housing policy
- Economic and labor market conditions
- Structural racism and inequity
- Access to mental health and substance use supports
- Shifts in funding priorities and nonprofit sector capacity