

FEBRUARY 2008



Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society

www.auntleahs.org

STAFF LEARN FROM YOUTH

In Aunt Leah's Training Program

Pamela Urquhart

Training Program Coordinator

I never realized the challenges the deaf encounter when trying to communicate with the hearing. Since I started teaching the Restaurant Training program to this group of deaf students, I have gained a greater understanding of this disability.

Our partnership with the Provincial School for the Deaf, located in Burnaby, started when we accepted two students into our Restaurant Training program. One of the students was hard of hearing; the other was completely deaf and also had Down Syndrome. Both students had their own interpreter. Most communication was done through the interpreters so I did not experience the challenge of direct communication with them. These two youth successfully completed the program with a certificate of participation.

Aunt Leah's was approached with the idea of having an entire class of deaf students participate in the training program. We had to find a solution to some of the obstacles that the youth would face. One challenge was being able to communicate what was on the menu, both to the students as well as the patrons who come to the community meal. I gave the school the menu that is used during the community meal and they made menu cards for each meal. These menu cards have visual and written descriptions of the menu choices for that day. The youth also made up menu pads that coincide with the meal for that week.

The patrons point to their desired selection and the students check it off on their pads. This has proven to be a very effective way for the students and the patrons to communicate with each other. This use of diagrams has also been a useful way for the students and staff to resolve any simple problems that have arisen, like table positioning or settings.

Initially there were several interpreters and teachers at each training session to assist the students. The number of staff needed has since decreased to one interpreter and one teacher per class. Furthermore, for one hour each session their support staff leave the site. This encourages the students to directly communicate with the program



Students from the School of the Deaf participating in Aunt Leah's Restaurant Training Program; Angelina Oates (Aunt Leah's training staff on the left), RJ, Natalie, Linnea, Braydon, Sarah, Patrick, Josh and Cody.

staff and vice versa. The students have become comfortable and confident with the new skills that they have learned that there are few problems when their support staff leaves.

I have received a lot of positive feedback from all the parties that are involved in the training program,

from parents to the church patrons.

It has been a challenging yet rewarding experience to be part of this adventure. Aunt Leah's partnership with the School for the Deaf has also been a success for our staff and the patrons, we are all learning a bit of sign language with great enthusiasm.

This partnership has definitely given me a different outlook on the challenges the deaf encounter on a daily basis. This experience has given me the opportunity to see past the deafness and encounter the individuals behind the sign.

Each of these youth is unique yet they are just

like the other teenagers that I have had the pleasure of working with.

I look forward to the continued partnership with the School for the Deaf and thank you for the opportunity. It has been a privilege.



Aunt Leah's Independent
Lifeskills Society
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Charitable No. 123 041 683 RR 000 1

Support Youth in Getting Their First Job!

Yes! I would like to help vulnerable youth learn important skills to get their first job.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$120 \$90 \$50 \$30 Other: _____

One Time Monthly Cheque - made out to Aunt Leah's Society

Visa MC Card #: _____ Exp _____

Pre-authorized Credit (attach void cheque) Signature: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____



LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND

6th annual benefit concert a great success!

Welcome to Aunt Leah's

Established in 1988, Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society is a non-profit, community-based social services organization. Aunt Leah's is dedicated to helping youth and families on their journey towards successful independent living. Aunt Leah's is mandated to provide the necessary practical supports to young people and families at risk, while challenging and encouraging them to take steps toward successful independent living. These supports include post-natal education, job training, lifeskills support and semi-independent housing.

Aunt Leah's has nearly 20 years of experience assisting young people through a number of residential and non-residential services. Aunt Leah's is a dynamic and caring organization that responds to the needs of youth within the context of community. Our flexibility and creativity often put the Society at the forefront of new and innovative services.

OUR PROGRAMS

SUPPORT LINK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

A residential semi-independent living program which integrates housing with lifeskills training and pre-employment opportunities.

THRESHOLDS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

A supportive housing and lifeskills program for moms who are working on establishing a positive community for themselves and their young child.

RESTAURANT TRAINING

Designed to provide marketable employment and lifeskills training through classroom and on-site learning at one of three Community Meal locations.

COOKING CLUB

A fun atmosphere for youth (ages 15-24) to learn new cooking skills and make food they can take home for the week.

RETAIL TRAINING

This program is designed for youth to receive skills, training and experience in the retail industry.

INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR FAMILIES & YOUTH

I.L.F.F.Y. - workshops designed to teach the basic skills toward living alone successfully.

THE LINK

The Link is a community outreach program for former youth in care, and former residents and participants of Aunt Leah's programs

CONTACT LIST

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Phone: 604-264-7238 Fax: 604-266-9947

Executive Director: Gale Stewart

Newsletter Editor: Tracy Sherlock

Newsletter Design: Theresa Olson

Aunt Leah's Burnaby Office Moves to New Westminster

Our new address is: 668 Carnarvon Street, Unit 200, New Westminster, BC, V3M 5Y6. Our new phone number is 604-525-1204 & our fax is 604-525-1295. We are hoping to host an Open House in the new year. Our Vancouver office and Thrift Store remain at the same location: 675 SE Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5X 2T5, Phone: 604-264-7238.

Aunt Leah's 6th annual Lonely Hearts Club Band benefit concert was a roaring success!

We raised almost \$6,000 in ticket sales, over \$4,000 on the auctions, nearly \$700 on the 50-50 and over \$1,500 in cash donations. That's a total of \$12,113 plus matching funds for a grand total of \$24,226.

After expenses, our profit for the night was \$20,628 - all going to our Thresholds Program for moms and babies.

Thank you to the amazing team that made this happen: Lonely Hearts Committee, MC's, Performers, Volunteers, Ticket Sellers, Silent Auction Donors, Donors and Decorators of the Mini Trees, Sponsors, and our Anonymous Matching Funds Donor.



Jim Byrnes



The Beauties: Charlie Kerr, Spencer Christenson, Sam Rutledge, Oliver Mann, Hasan Altintas



Mike Lochen and Rachel Chatoor from SOL



Joan Zumpano, Kim Koch, Lara Kroeker, Megan Bradfield, Arland Mark from Attics and Cellars



Drew Stewart from Jazzberry Ram

Third Annual Golf Tournament

We are proud to announce that Aunt Leah's Third Annual Golf Tournament has been set for Friday July 11th at Country Meadows. With our 20th Anniversary happening on July 18th this promises to be a very exciting event. Please contact Sterling Aurel at 604 264 7267 or saurel@auntleahs.org for further information. Reserve space for your team early.



AUNT LEAH'S INDEPENDENT LIFESKILLS SOCIETY

Aunt Leah's Tree Lots bust through their profit goals for another year

The Tree Lots raised \$35,137.09 in profit this year, funds which go toward our Training Program for youth and moms including the Restaurant Training Program and Community Meals, Cooking Club, ILFFY Workshops (Independent Living for Families and Youth) and a new program starting in 2008 at Aunt Leah's Thrift Store - a Retail Training Program.

Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of this venture. This year we had 216 volunteers who worked 1,074 hours! They raised an average of \$33 per hour for Aunt Leah's.

TREE LOT OUTCOMES:

Total Profit:	\$35,137.09
Vancouver Lot Profit:	\$30,247.17
Burnaby Lot Profit:	\$4,969.96
Gross Income:	\$88,438.79
Total Expenses:	\$53,301.70
Income from trees:	\$77,675.17
Total # of trees sold:	1,496
Merchandise sales:	\$6,356.00
Sponsorship income:	\$2,678.00
Donations:	\$1,729.62



Michael Cowhig and Dianna Smith



Kevin Gallagher, Joey Thompson, Arlene Gallagher



(From the left) Liz Glowacki, Lionel Friess, Mike Stobie, Colin Stobie, Harry Ng, Paul Stewart, Stephen Stewart, Mathew Chow, Peter Hicks, Jeal Paul Bouchard.

Thank you to our Tree Lot Sponsors



**GRANVILLE & AVERY
AUTOMOTIVE**

711 Food Store (Royal Oak & Kingsway)
Action Lock & Safe
Burnaby Store-All
Cellular Solutions West
Henneken Auto Sales
Hudson's Landing Pub
Northern Building Supply

A special thanks to St. Stephen's United Church in Vancouver and All Saints Anglican Church in Burnaby for hosting our Tree Lots on their grounds.

Tree Lot Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you to All Saints Anglican Church for letting us use your space for the volunteer appreciation dinner! Nearly 100 people attended the dinner and we had a great time celebrating and contributing ideas for next year. Awards were presented to volunteers for "Going The Extra Mile."



Lionel Friess and Herman Ouellette



Jan Lovick and Lisa Dragon

Aunt Leah's Thrift Store

The Thrift Store has been open for one year at 675 SE Marine Drive and is a valuable source for helping us meet the needs of our program participants. Your household donations have saved the program nearly \$20,000 this year. Please visit Monday 12-5pm, Tuesday -Thursday, 10 am-5 pm, Friday 12 -7 pm and Saturday 10 am-5 pm. Good luck with your Treasure Hunting!



Thank You!

November & December 2007 Donations:

Individual Donors:

Scott Ainscough, Bruce Ambrose, Evelyn Anderson, Anonymous (4), Anne Anthony, Bruce Avery, Angela Barr, Barbara Barron, Noelle Baxter, Barbara Ann Beall, Don and Alma Bealle, Gillian Beattie, Ursula Bell, Linda Bentley, Anne Beveridge, Cheryl Billingsley, Heather Bowen, Rick Bradburn, Jessica Bratty, John and Deborah Breen, Anne Broadfoot-Crombie, Lorna Brown, George and Phyllis Brown, Sheila Bush, Chris Cameron, Marion Campbell, Jane Carrothers, Ankie Carswell, Debra Castagnier Wall, Margaret Cool, Ivy Crawford, Tom Crowe, Eileen Cruikshank, Judi Curtiss, Phyllis Darling, Judith Davis, Geraldine Deacon, Ann Dodd, Jean Dunnett, Corinne Durston, Marjorie Dyson, Maret Erickson, Helmet Fandrich, Tiffany Fassnidge, Charlie Floris, Paula Foran, Heather Forbes, Marlene Franks, Rae S. Fraser, Lionel Friess, Jim and Vicki Galley, Anne Gartshore, Leona Giffin, Jocelyn Gifford, Samantha Gill, Marion Gillett, Peter Gilpin, Laura Godwin, Annie C Goodyear, Alasdair Gordon, Jane Grafton, Mary Greenwood, Chris Hall, Megan Halprin, Shirley Hammond, Sonia Hargas, Charles & Marilyn Harris, Alison Hart, Ralph Hart, John and Sybil Hartley, Jocelyn Hill, Susan Holmes, Lindsay Horwood, John Hoy, Doreen Ingram, Kathleen Jones, Carl Jonsson, Anne Kassis, Myra Kelsey, Esther Kelt, Helen Kelton, Sylvia Kerr, Muriel Kerr, Addy Kgomo, Karin King, Sylvia Krainer, Susan Kroft, John Lambie, Godfrey Lamble, Doug & Evelyn Little, Rosemary Lowe, Kit Man Luk, Barbara E Lyon, Helen MacDonald, Carole MacKay, Patricia Macmillan, Sidney Madden, Lynn Manrell, Shelley Mason, Jim McCullum, Tracey McGrogan, James McKendry, Lois McPherson, Maureen Meikle, Peter Mercer, Susan Mezzaroba, Naomi Miller, Katharine Mirhady, Janet & Stephen Mitchell, Pat Monahan, Catherine J Moody, Lillian Moreton, Margaret Morgan, Jean Mussellam,

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Monthly Donors:

Ariel Creighton, Alex Currie, Rita De Raadt, Jean Dunnett, Shoni Field, Lionel Friess, Bonnie Fulton, Margaret Gallagher, Kira Gerwing, Susan Grattan-Doyle, Greater Vancouver Pranic Healers Association, Megan Halprin, John and Sybil Hartley, Laurie Hunsberger, John Ingram, Patricia Joyce, Magdalena Kassis, Omar Kassis, Anne Kassis, Karin King, Steven Lam, Clair Lee, Maggie and Michael Lister, Carole MacKay, Anne MacLachlan, Pamela Manson, Anne McCullum, Karina Olliver, Theresa Olson, Bridget Orford, Mary Reitsma, Ginger Shaw, Joni Sherman, Vivian Smith, Snowflake Trading Corporation, Gale Stewart, Sarah Stewart, Stephen Stewart, Lisa Sturgess, Louise Sturgess, Bryan Twells, Lois Walker, Todd Walter, Elizabeth Williams.

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Launette & Michael Reib, Todd Sakakibara, Paul Stewart, Don Sturgess, Nancy Tait, Erlene Woollard.

Grants and Foundations:

Al Roadburg Foundation, Andrew Mahon Foundation, Catherine Donnelly Foundation, KMC Foundation, Loyal Protestant Association, Mackenzie Financial Charitable Foundation, Timothy C. Kerr Family Foundation.

Community Groups & Churches:

Douglas College, False Creek Womens Book Club, Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dancing, Lynn Valley United Church, Parish of St. Timothy Anglican Church, St. Mary's Embroidery Guild, St. Mary's Outreach Committee, St. Mary's Outreach Committee, St. Mary's Outreach Committee, St. Philip's Anglican Church, St. Stephen's United Church Women, Vancouver Central Lions Club, Western Institute for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing.

Canada Safeway Commercial & Broadway Store Picks Aunt Leah's!



The "We Care" Fundraising Campaign is underway and Aunt Leah's will be the recipient of funds raised at the Canada Safeway Commercial and Broadway store.

Three fundraising events are being held at the store: "Miles Bring Smiles" Day on January 26th, "Eating Right" Charity Checkout Day on February 9th and "We Care" Day on March 1st.

Please come to the store and support Aunt Leah's with the "We Care" Campaign!

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