



2017-2018 Annual Report

Vision + Success

Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids.
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, coaching on essential life skills, educational guidance, and employment training.

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.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, work, learn and create is the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish People specifically the QayQayt First Nation.

Creating Community, Preventing Homelessness

For three decades Aunt Leah's has followed a simple approach. By modeling Canadian families, and surrounding youth with holistic supports – including housing, counselling, life skill development, education and employment opportunities – we have seen young people from foster care realize their potential and become independent adults connected to the community. Today, we know this work is an important part of preventing homelessness.

The first pan-Canadian study of young people who experience homelessness was complete in 2016, '[Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey](#)' found 58% of youth had experienced child protection services. The [2017 Metro Vancouver Homelessness Count](#) found 48% of homeless children had been or are currently in foster care.



In 2017, Aunt Leah's celebrated the Link program's 10th anniversary and its ongoing promise to extend supports for foster youth beyond age 19, creating equal opportunities akin to what parented children receive. In 2018, Aunt Leah's will celebrate 30 years of preventing children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children.

These decades of innovation and effort were recognized in 2017 with selection as one of [Canada's Top 10 Impact Charities for 2017](#) by Charity Intelligence (Ci). Just as a financial analyst researches potential stocks to find the best investment opportunities, Ci uses similar research methods to find exceptional charities for donors.

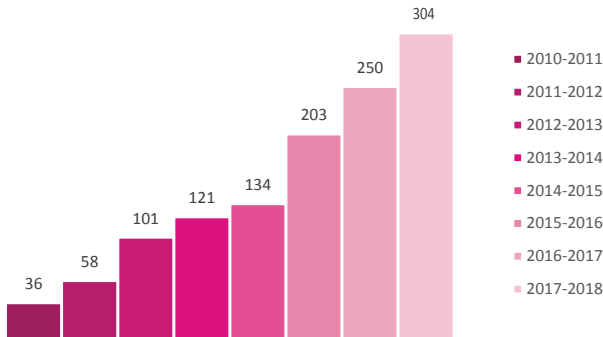
Investing in youth from care, using a family model, is an innovative and compassionate response to homelessness.



The Link

The Link acts as the umbrella for all of Aunt Leah's services and resources for former foster youth, offering youth in/from care an experience that is more akin to that of their parented peers. For youth in transition, The Link works 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.

304 The Link: Total Participants *Including Children and Dependents*



6364

Connections
*(e.g. Meetings,
Phone Calls, Emails)*



3333

Meals or Groceries
Provided to Link Youth

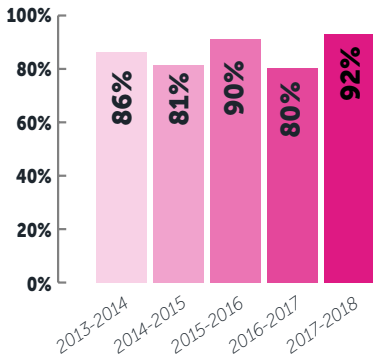


1760

Transit Tickets
Provided

This program is funded in part by Central City Foundation, BC Gaming, BC Housing, City of Vancouver, and Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund.

The Link: Participants Housed
Month Over Month Average



A Continuum Of Supports

The Link uses a variety of strategies to help keep participants housed. These include: homelessness prevention, landlord relations, tenancy education, shared housing, 2nd stage housing, mixed-income apartments, rent subsidies, damage deposits, apartment set ups, rehousing, and regular site visits.

Aunt Leah's Place and The Link operate as part of a Social Purpose Real Estate Project of Central City Foundation.



Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

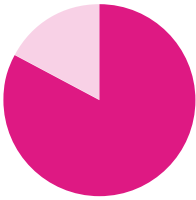
The past year has been a quiet one for the Aunt Leah's Youth Advisory Committee. Rather than taking on a big project of their own, the YAC decided to aid other various youth in/from care projects. These included supporting the first "Connect 2 Thrive" event hosted by [Collective Impact: TRRUST \(Transitions in Resources, Relationships, Understanding Support Together\)](#), as well as marching alongside [First Call BC](#) in Victoria for the Youth In/From Care Rally back in October. We look forward to furthering our advocacy work in 2018, and are actively looking for new friends to join us on our journey.

[Submitted by Shae-Lynn Noskye - YAC President](#)



Housing

Aunt Leah's Place provides housing, rent subsidies and homelessness prevention for youth from care and families at-risk of losing child custody. 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.



83% - Participants Maintained Housing 3 Months After Leaving a Residential Program

All Residential Housing Programs



185 - Youth, Moms & Children Housed

All Housing Programs, Housing and Education Link Program Subsidy (HELPS), BC Housing Subsidy, Housing First Emergency Housing Fund, Aunt Leah's Foundation.



Aunt Leah's House provides safe, supported housing for pregnant and parenting teen moms currently in government care. This year, the program supported five young moms and five babies. Aunt Leah's House helps give new families a healthy foundation by ensuring each mother and child is connected with a family doctor, natal health, counseling, dentist, an optometrist, mental health and counselling. Furthermore, **100% of moms attended all of their pre-natal medical appointments; 100% were attending school; and all these families secured housing after leaving the program.** The program also supports alumni families: 12 moms and 13 children were helped in areas such as housing, parenting, legal supports, social connections and employment.

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



Thresholds Program provides supported housing and services for adult moms at risk of losing custody of their child. In June 2017, a second Thresholds home opened, effectively doubling program capacity to keep moms and babies together and preventing another generation from entering the foster care system. This year the house brought security to 32 moms and babies; **80% maintained custody of their children and 92% secured safe housing upon exiting the program.**

This program is funded in part by Vancouver Foundation, John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation, Seedlings Foundation, Moffat Family Fund, Peter Gilgan Foundation, Adera Foundation, Wolrige Foundation, SAM Foundation, Coast Capital Savings, Andrew Mahon Foundation and Vancity Credit Union.



Support Link provides transitional housing for teens in foster care who want to live independently, yet continue to receive supports in order to develop essential life skills before 'aging out' at age nineteen. This year staff supported 29 youth prepare for their 19th birthdays and adulthood. **Nearly 3/5 of these young people continued to receive Aunt Leah's support through the Link program after having 'aged out',** mirroring the types of supports that average Canadian youth currently receive through early adulthood.

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



The Link: Housing First provides homeless participants immediate access to permanent housing and regular support services. This year the program **permanently housed 17 homeless individuals and re-housed another five individuals.** Since entering the program, **six of these youth are now enrolled in education and training programs, and 14 are employed.**

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)



The Friendly Landlord Network (FLN) is a Metro Vancouver-wide network of homeowners and property managers who rent suites to youth transitioning from government care, with the support of 19 local youth-serving organizations. **FLN housed 13 youth from care and 4 children this year;** added three new youth-serving partner organizations to the network; held a Landlord Appreciation Night which was attended by 13 landlords, and began tenancy education & training workshops in partnership with Ready to Rent.

This program is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and Lagnippe Foundation.



Aunt Leah's Foundation

This year, Aunt Leah's Foundation provided housing for 15 moms and their babies. In addition, through its small apartment building, 6 more young people were able to establish themselves by living independently in bachelor apartments operated by the Foundation.

Laneway Housing Project



Aunt Leah's Foundation has begun development of a new-build laneway house at a location acquired in partnership with BC Housing in June 2017. This housing resource will become Second Stage Housing for families transitioning from communal living through Thresholds Program. This is believed to be the first laneway development under the City of New Westminster's new Official Community Plan (OCP) that will be used for affordable housing.



Youth from care are at heightened risk of early pregnancy and loss of child custody to the child welfare system. Thresholds works preventatively at the 'entry' point of the foster care system by giving pregnant & parenting young women from care the skills and resources they need in order to become successful parents, thus barring a new generation of children from entry into foster care.

Housing & Service Expansion

This year Aunt Leah's Place expanded its family model of care, and provision of more housing, services and resources to youth and moms, by opening two new spaces for programs and operations.



Thresholds House 2.0

Last summer, through the support of many generous donors, Aunt Leah's opened up a second Thresholds House in partnership with BC Housing and Aunt Leah's Foundation.

Aunt Leah's estimates that over 115 participants and their children will be provided with supportive, affordable housing over the next decade through Thresholds.



Aunt Leah's Vancouver

In February 2018, Aunt Leah's opened a new youth resource and office space in downtown Vancouver, through an innovative partnership with the City of Vancouver. This project brings Aunt Leah's model of care to Vancouver, geographically expanding The Link, Aunt Leah's umbrella program for youth who have "aged out" of care and mothers in need of additional support. Many generous partners contributed to the setting up of this new space.

This was funded in part by City of Vancouver, Seedlings Foundation, Central City Foundation, Frank & Sandra Low-Beer Memorial Fund, NextPhase Moving & Downsizing, Vancity Savings, Green Standards, Sierra Systems, Jennifer Shah, HSBC and MNP.



Life Skills

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

Essential Skills


 **582** Wednesday Program Attendance

 **52** Wednesday Workshops

The Essential skills Program offers a variety of weekly workshops called Essential Skills Workshops (ESW). ESW has become a tradition that our young people and families rely on to gain valuable life skills, connect socially and enjoy a healthy meal together as well as have an opportunity to participate in creative and recreational activities.

Sunday Haven

 **1040** Sunday Program Attendance

 **52** Sunday Workshops

Our special service partner, Dan's Legacy, expanded this service to include weekly Sunday evening meals, workshops and counseling. This Sunday Haven is an important weekend support, mirroring the typical family Sunday dinner and expanding care beyond Monday to Friday, 9 to 5.



In partnership with Fraser Health, Aunt Leah's weekly on-site clinic and nurse practitioner provided services to 26 youth, moms and babies.

These programs are funded in part by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and John Hardie-Mitchell Family Foundation.



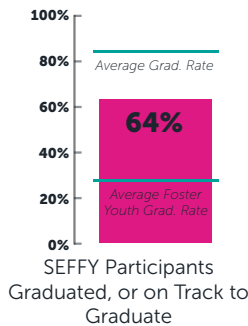
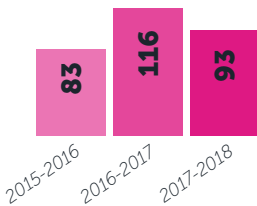
Education

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.

Our education program 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 (H.E.L.P.S.) and provide in-house bursaries to cover the cost of supplies and tuition.

SEFFY: Total Participants



35

Youth Financially Supported Back to Education



18% Post Secondary - 18% of SEFFY participants 19+ years old are enrolled in Post Secondary School.



42 Education Awards - SEFFY provided 11 Bursaries, 12 Skill & Development Grants and 19 Housing & Education Link Program Subsidies (HELPS) – distributing over \$38,000. Participants pursued education at schools such as Kwantlen & Simon Fraser Universities, and Douglas and Vancouver Community Colleges – plus skill upgrades such as driving & language lessons and various vocational training courses.

This program is funded in part by HSBC, Seedlings Foundation, and Community Foundations of Canada.

Counselling Program



We're proud to partner with Dan's Legacy whose counsellors provide therapy and life-skills support to our youth and families. During 2017-2018, weekly counselling availability has doubled. The Sunday Haven dinners have been a catalyst for success, creating trust within the group of youth who are introduced each week to the concepts of therapy in a non-confrontational way. Building on the core concepts of healthy diet and mindfulness, Dan's Legacy has added a weekly physical fitness program that operates 2 days per week, with a certified instructor to its life-skills programming.



42 Participants
+400 Counselling Sessions

Recreation & Trips



Aunt Leah's partnered with Out BC and provided more opportunities for youths to access outdoor activities, such as camping, hiking and kayaking. These activities give youth an understanding and appreciation of their environment on how to enjoy the outdoors in a sustainable way. Participants and support workers worked on physical health and emotional health by doing trauma informed yoga, Pilates, swimming, small walks in the park, skiing, a family camping trip and Tough Mudder.



85 Participant Recreation Trips



Top 10 Impact Charity 2017

For a second time, Aunt Leah's Place has been selected as a Top 10 Impact Charity by Charity Intelligence (Ci). Ci found that investing in Aunt Leah's is likely to produce over \$600 in value from a \$100 gift and is one of the most effective Canadian charities in combating issues such as hunger, homelessness, health, and improving education.

"Aunt Leah's Place is a small front-line charity with impact among the highest in Canada. It delivers more "bang for the buck" for donors than Canada's largest, big-brand charities. Aunt Leah's is achieving best in Canada results through its housing and education supports. By breaking the cycle of children in foster care, Aunt Leah's work today will benefit future generations"

- Kate Bahen, Managing Director, Charity Intelligence

Who is Ci?

Charity Intelligence Canada is a team of volunteers and a few paid staff. Charity Intelligence is funded entirely by donors and our work is for donors. And unlike other charity accreditations, Charity Intelligence does not receive any money from the charities they rate or funds from the government.



Food Security

Aunt Leah's food based programs help ensure that youth from care and young moms along with their families avoid hunger and are taught the skills to make nutritious, affordable meals. The Food Network helps stock these programs, by collecting and re-distributing foods that only hours previously were for sale on store floors at full price.

Aunt Leah's Food Network



\$52,000 - Retail value of food collected by Dan's Legacy & ReFood from 12 grocery retail suppliers and distributed through Aunt Leah's Place; \$35,865 directly supported Aunt Leah's programs.



33 - The Food Network helped deliver food to 33 different community based organizations, serving over 1900 different people in need throughout our region.



Sunday Haven - Gathering over a hot meal is something many of our youth and young moms look forward to each week at our Sunday dinners. Our friends at Dan's Legacy and their volunteers prepared and distributed over \$26,000 worth of surplus food last year, closing the gap on food insecurity and providing a welcome space to socialize and stock up on groceries for the week ahead.

Cooking Club



6

Cooking Club Graduates



36

Participants
(22 moms & 14 Children)

These program are funded in part by the United Way Lower Mainland and BC Gaming.

Mom & Baby Fresh Food Program



90

Groceries/Gift Certificates
Provided



34

Participants



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. But youth from foster care often do not have these adult allies to create vital early employment experience. We respond to this systemic issue by connecting foster youth with community-minded employers and the wrap around supports of Aunt Leah's Place.

Bootstraps



13

Job Placements
with Community
Employers

Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift



3

Program Participants

Aunt Leah's sources external job placements through its Bootstraps program and – like a family – hires youth internally through its two 'family' businesses: [Aunt Leah's Trees](#) and [Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift](#).

The Bootstraps program was funded in part by Vancouver Foundation and Government of Canada's Skills Link Program.

Spoons Up



Spoons Up is an online guide of accessible, free and low-cost food resources in the Lower Mainland designed with youth leaving care in mind. Each location has been personally visited by allies with lived experience and has been included because it offers quality food and is safe and welcoming for youth. Spoons Up helps to ensure food security, combat isolation and provide information about youth-specific resources for young people from care. A longer term goal is to raise awareness and understanding regarding the importance of food security for youth in care, and youth aging out of care.



19 - Listings of free and low-cost food resources in Metro Vancouver



6 - Youth Researchers



Spoons Up is funded by Aunt Leah's Place & the Vancouver Foundation's Fostering Change initiative.

Alyssa Kelter

2018 Leah Award Winner



Alyssa moved into Aunt Leah's house in 2016 and gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy. Alyssa has always been observed to be a loving and caring mother towards her son and the attachment that they share with one another is a wonderful thing to witness. Despite all of the barriers and challenges Alyssa faced in her young life she made it her priority to do whatever it takes to put her son's needs ahead of hers and provide a happy and healthy future for herself and her son.

Alyssa is now living independently with her son, has set a goal for herself to graduate from high school and is completing her last year at a local learning center. With the recent passing of her mother, Alyssa has committed to help co-parent and be the best big sister for her 3 year-old brother. Alyssa continues to attend Aunt Leah's House weekly programming with her son. Her presence and engagement in programming is a welcoming peer support for the other participants in the program.

Alyssa has shown great determination, unconditional love and support to her son, sibling and loved ones around her. She strives to be a positive role model and peer support to all the mothers at Aunt Leah's House.

The Leah Award

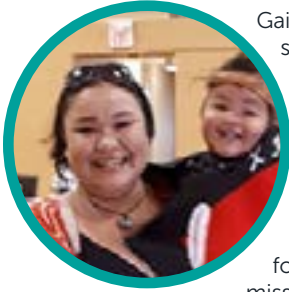
Unconditional Love & Support

Bruce was a friend and long-time supporter of Aunt Leah's who passed away on March 6, 2010. It was important to Bruce to be more than a donor. He also gave his time as a volunteer and shared his wisdom, helping Aunt Leah's in various fundraising endeavours. Bruce was known among his family for giving them his unconditional love and support and was always proud of their achievements.

- In Honour of Bruce Ambrose -

Gail Jack

2018 Rona Award Winner



Gail Jack joined the Cooking Club program a year ago and has successfully completed the Cooking Club program. She is currently transitioning into a Train the Trainer position to help mentor the new moms and provide support as they integrate into the kitchen.

Gail was at first reluctant to try new ingredients, but her curiosity keeps expanding over time. Gail loves to cook and has also always been open and willing to share her own food with others in and out of programming. If someone is missing an ingredient for their recipe, she doesn't ever hesitate to offer her produce or hot sauces.

Gail has also been highly engaged in suggesting creative meal ideas. She has always been open to share her story and thoughts with others during the program therefore allowing her surroundings to feel comfortable in discussing matters of the heart. Gail's journey through the Cooking Club program has encouraged her to stay positively engaged while encouraging others to participate.

Gail has been working diligently on her own personal development and growth, she is currently enrolled in school while raising her beautiful baby boy. She has recently expressed the pride she feels in how far she has come.

Gail is a proud indigenous young lady with a strength, determination, perseverance and a fierce love for her children. She has an open and welcoming spirit and is very kind and compassionate towards others, often taking on a leadership role with new participants.

The Rona Award

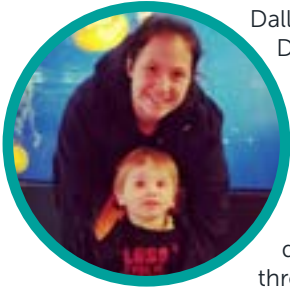
Kindness, Compassion, Strength & Pride

This award is presented in honour of Rona Castagnier, a long time co-worker and friend of Aunt Leah's Society 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 student from one of Aunt Leah's Training Programs who has shown the characteristics that Rona appreciated the most.

- In Honour of Rona Castagnier -

Dallas Harris

2018 Jeremy Wright Award Winner



Dallas Harris moved into the Support Link program in 2016. Dallas' goal to achieve independence, reunite with her family and regain full custody of her son was her focus during her stay in the program.

Dallas established a cozy household ensuring there was a large area devoted to a play space for her son during his visits. Dallas worked through her own personal development and enjoyed getting to know her own self through the process. She found ways to celebrate and enjoy life, including planning special events like birthday parties for her child.

Dallas is a fierce advocate for her own rights and those of her child's. She is extremely resourceful and is able to find and do what she needs, utilizing her network of family and friends, and has a keen awareness of any other resources available to her.

In 2017 Dallas regained full custody of her child. This was the outcome of her focus, care and attention on all things related to her child's care and her own well-being.

Dallas also achieved full independence, as she completed her own housing search. With the determination to reunite with her family, she moved into the same community in which her family resides. She and her son are now surrounded with continued love and support.

Dallas is currently enrolled in school completing her high school diploma and continues to strive for the balance of parenting and continued self-development recognizing her family unit always deserves a brighter future. Dallas' accomplishments were achieved through dedication, hard work and love. She is an example of one who strides to achieve her "best" and follow her "bliss".

The Jeremy Wright Award

Character & Determination

The Jeremy Wright Award was created to honour the memory of Jeremy Wright, a Support Worker, who was very special to the organization. The award is to recognize and support a Support Link youth with goals that they have set and are actively working towards. It is presented to a youth living in the Support Link Program who has strived to achieve their personal best and who most "follows their bliss."

- In Honour of Jeremy Wright -

Devon Greening

2018 Champion Award Winner



Aunt Leah's Management Team is honoured to have selected Devon Greening to receive the first annual Champion Award.

Over the past year Devon created and developed "[Spoons Up](#)". Devon's Spoons Up is an online guide of accessible, free and low-cost food resources in the Lower Mainland designed with youth leaving care in mind. Each location has been personally visited by allies with lived experience and has been included because it offers quality food and is safe and welcoming for youth. Spoons Up aims to ensure food security, combat isolation and provide information about youth-specific resources for young people from care.

If you ever find yourself in a conversation with Devon, he will share any new resource or connection that he has discovered that has been of benefit for himself. He is extremely resourceful and has an amazing ability to connect.

Devon has always recognized that sharing knowledge and resources is one of the best ways to support young people aging out of foster care. He took his skills of knowledge sharing and finding resources and scaled them up with the Spoons Up Project. The combination of his resourcefulness, ability to connect and share, makes Devon an amazing champion for youth aging out of foster care and for mothers in need.

Aunt Leah's hope for Devon is for him to continue to share his knowledge and skills to help youth in the community.

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 -

Events

Public events are an important source of revenue and sustainability for Aunt Leah's programs and participants. Events also help raise awareness and build community among hundreds of supporters. Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who stand with children and youth in care through public support of Aunt Leah's mission!



Our two major annual events **Trivia Extravaganza** and **The Birthday Party Gala** helped raise over \$82,000 this year.

Third Party Events

Many individuals, community groups and organizations raised money and awareness through a variety of events including benefit concerts, lip syncing competition, Christmas parties, gingerbread house decoration contest, recycling, dance recitals, cycling races and golf tournaments. Thank you to all the organizers and attendees!

Top 10 Events

ACL Services Ltd.

City of New Westminster

Fraser Valley Quilters' Guild

Gilmore Park United Church

Kids in Motion

Nacc Fitness

North Shore Girls Soccer Club under 10

Regional Recycling

Royal Bank of Canada

TransCore Link Logistics



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



Aunt Leah's Trees

Join the Tradition - Give Kids a Home

Aunt Leah's Trees is a seasonal social enterprise that sells quality Christmas trees in five locations across Metro Vancouver. All profits go to helping prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children.

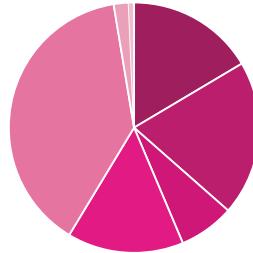
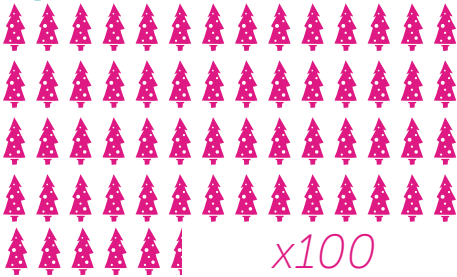
2017 Tree Lot Sales Figures

576 Volunteers Gave **3,500** Hours

\$515,137 Total Sales



6,150 Trees Sold



- Burnaby
- Coquitlam
- New Westminister
- North Vancouver
- Vancouver
- Online Sales
- Pop up Lot ★

* Aunt Leah's first ever, one day "Pop-Up" tree lot!

Thank you Luppulo Brewing Company who provided promotion, staff, volunteers and their parking lot.

49 trees were sold and \$3530 raised to support mothers in need.



This enterprise is sponsored by Dawson Service Ltd., Fix Enterprise Ltd., IT Mobility Inc., Lonsdale Quay Market Corp., Marpole Optometry Clinic, New Westminister, Firefighters Charitable Society, Vancouver Film Studios, Eagle Ridge United Church, St. Stephen's United Church, All Saints Anglican Church, and Wesik Construction

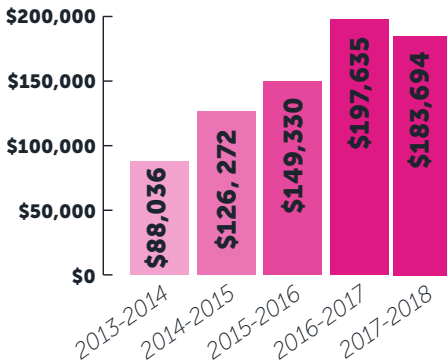


Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift

Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift features quality "pre-loved" clothing and accessories as well as a variety of furniture and household items. All profits go towards preventing children in foster care from becoming homeless, and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. In addition, donated clothes & furniture are distributed to Aunt Leah's participants and programs.

2017/2018 Store Sales Figures

Annual Sales



\$16,814 provided to participants at Aunt Leah's Place



11 Successful Music Nights



262 Volunteers gave 3,560 hours.

This year, a new Point of Sales (POS) system helped improve financial tracking and sales strategies, allowing us to better see the 'social' aspect of this Social Enterprise. With help from hundreds of generous in-kind donors last year, Urban Thrift was able to give way **\$47,629** worth of free product to people in need in the community.

Aunt Leah's various programs received **\$16,814** of free items including interview clothes, work boots, office furniture, graduating decorations, event displays, and household set-ups of furniture and housewares, which all supported young people aging out of foster care and mothers in need. In addition, we processed, donated or recycled over **1651** bags or boxes of items – with an estimated value of **\$30,815** – to local charities, schools, and non-profit organizations.

Come Visit Us!







177 East Broadway (@ Main St.), Vancouver, BC
Open 7 days a week, 11:00 AM-6:00 PM

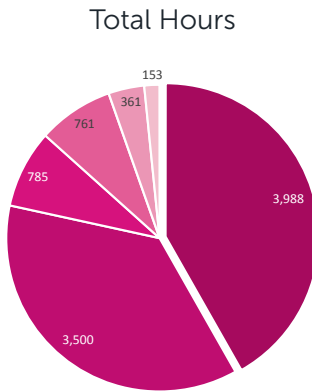


Volunteer

Volunteers are vital to the success of the organization. This year, over 800 volunteers selflessly gave their time and expertise to benefit the lives of foster youth, moms, and babies in Aunt Leah's Programs. Our volunteers do everything from working at our social enterprises, teaching workshops, cooking nutritious family-style meals, leading yoga classes, tutoring, helping at fundraising events, packing Christmas hampers, and much more. We held a volunteer appreciation party during the fall season to celebrate all of the donated hard work.

We are honoured to have such an amazing community of individuals dedicated to Aunt Leah's Participants and mission. Thank you.

-  Hampers
-  Events
-  Program
-  Interns, Professional & Board Hours
-  Tree Lot
-  Urban Thrift/Warehouse



9,548

Volunteer Hours



826

Volunteers

Aunt Leah's Trees

7

Youth from Care
Volunteers

26

Shifts

Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift

4

Youth from Care
Volunteers

Volunteer Highlights

A Decade of Service

Pay-It-Forward Club:

For the past 10 years Eudora Cheng, Susan Vo, and the Pay-It-Forward Club have prepared a gourmet Christmas dinner for Aunt Leah's Participants. Eudora is the first person we call when we need a helping hand and her club does an amazing job of supporting the organization at all of our major annual events.

Eva Beda & Bella Maud:

Eva and Bella have been some of Aunt Leah's most dedicated volunteers. For over 10 years they have been sorting donations and volunteering weekly to support Aunt Leah's mission. They are a vital part of our Urban Thrift team and we honoured to have their support.



\$199,648

Donated Labour
(set at Vancouver Living Wage)

Supporters

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

1988 Investments Ltd.
Abundance Canada
Accurate Lock & Safe Co. Ltd.
ACL
Adera Foundation Society
Al Roadburg Foundation
Ames Family Foundation
Andrew Mahon Foundation
Aunt Leah's Foundation
Automation One
Averbach Family Foundation
Bandali Rise Enterprises Limited
BB Wise Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation
BC Gaming
BC Housing
Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd.
Central City Foundation
CFUW Richmond
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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.

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Board Message

Omar Kassis, Board Chair



A year ago Aunt Leah's was undergoing and celebrating a few major changes at the same time: the retirement of our founding Executive Director Gale Stewart, the major expansion of our work through Aunt Leah's Foundation's acquisition of two new properties, and the hiring of our capable new Executive Director, Sarah Stewart. Now, after a year of changes, we are entering a new period of sustained growth.

With the newly acquired housing, our revenue stream is strengthened for the future. New funds continue to come in and new staff are being hired. Long term stability of funding and programming is increasingly becoming a reality, thanks to the hard work of our Development team and our partnership with Aunt Leah's Foundation. As well, Aunt Leah's is growing in the recognition our programming earns. The world is starting to catch up to the huge relevance of the work that Aunt Leah's has been diligently doing for 30 years.

As the organization grows, so do the young people to whom we have always been dedicated. Aunt Leah's has slowly been expanding the age range of people we are reaching out to. The Link, SEFFY, and Sunday suppers are examples of how Aunt Leah's is in the forefront of recognizing that young people require support long after their 19th birthdays.

At a Board level, I am in awe of the dedication of my fellow volunteer Board members. We have a very strong team of individuals who are passionate about the success of this dynamic organization. A big growth area for your Board has been the parcelling out of work to Committees that solve problems in their own specific areas, then work to collaborate with the larger Board, thus increasing efficiency and individual expertise. Megan Halprin, Rick Schneider, Colleen Murphy, Dana Osiowy and Cam Sylvester and I have all served for at least a year. In the last months we have also been privileged to be joined by Tracy Sherlock, who used to work for Aunt Leah's, and Sharon Kearney, who is learning the ropes with agility! It's a privilege and a pleasure to serve such a fine organization with such fine people. At the heart of our sense of sustained growth is the skilled leadership of our new Executive Director, Sarah Stewart. From the Board's point of view she is a delight to work with, and staff feel very comfortable answering to her. It is good to have such excellent hands at the tiller as we enter our 30th Anniversary year.

Once again I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for the hard-working staff who really make this organization tick. I am glad that Aunt Leah's is moving toward being a living wage employer; our staff all deserve to be well rewarded for their dedication and diligence. And lastly I am grateful to live, work and play on the unceded, traditional and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish people.

Sincerely,
Omar Kassis

3-Year Strategic Plan

Goal 1:

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

Goal 2:

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

Goal 3:

Enhance organizational capacity and stability.

Goal 4:

Achieve financial independence.

Board of Directors

Omar Kassis

Board Chair

*Vancouver School Board Teacher
Cedar Walk Program*

Megan Halprin

Board Treasurer

*Chief Financial Officer
Snowflake Trading Corp. Ltd.*

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Board Member

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*Executive Director
New Westminster Family Place*

Rick Schneider

Board Member

*Technical Director
Sierra Systems Group*

Sharon Kearney

Board Member

Lawyer

Tracy Sherlock

Board Member

Journalist/College Instructor



Back Row: Rick, Colleen, Sharon, Dana, Omar.

Front Row: Cam, Megan, Tracy.

Aunt Leah's Staff

41 Staff Dedicated to Serving Our Regions Youth

Ali Andeku

Thrift Store Manager

Amanjot Mohem

Assistant Supervisor

Andree Richer

Support Worker

Angelina Oates

Director of Training &
Social Enterprises

Autumn Moreno

Coordinator of Aunt Leah's
House & Thresholds Program

Avis Lam

SEFFY Coordinator

Awa Faye

Family Support Worker

Bayleigh Patron

Assistant Manager

Braydon Chapelas

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Assistant

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Support Worker

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Ciara Connolly

Link Drop-In/Outreach Worker

Cindy Defazio

Support Worker

Cindy Reinhold

Support Worker

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Cooking Club
Coordinator

Clete Hanson

Communications &
Development Coordinator

Danielle Jang

Family Support Worker

David Savory

Link Coordinator

Drew Stewart

Director of Development

Dumi Owane

Donor Relations Officer

Emma Mc Garry

Youth Housing Engagement
Worker

Gisselle Vivanco

Team Lead

Hope Rayson

Volunteer Coordinator &
Fundraising Specialist

Jason Preece

Peer Specialist

Jessy Pinsent

Family Support Worker

Jodie Ortega

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Justine Mathieu

Support Worker

Karen Sorenson

IT Coordinator

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Communications &
Development Lead

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Natalie Dalgamo

Thresholds Family Support
Worker

Nubia Mancilla-Reyes

Thresholds Family Support
Worker

Pam Costello

Director of Operations

Roshine Morrison

Program Director

Saira Bradley

Human Resources Generalist

Sarah Stewart

Executive Director

Shari-Lyn Rougeau

Team Lead

Sinclair Aitken

Handyman & Property
Maintenance Worker

Tarah Falkenhagen

Support Worker

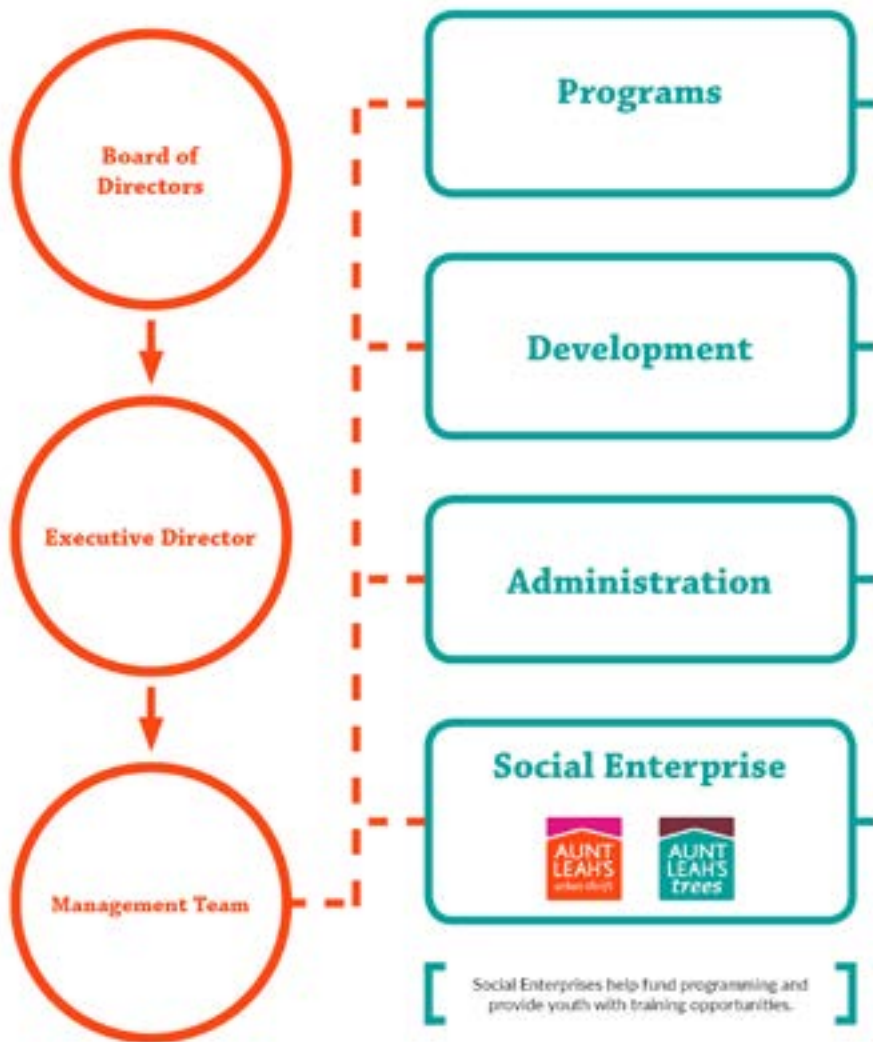
Yasmin Tang

Warehouse Manager & Job Skills
Coordinator

Governance



2017-2018 Organizational Chart





Participants



The Link

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

Housing

Youth Participants

Adult Participants



Support Link



Aunt Leah's House



The Link Housing First



Thresholds House



FLN

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

Life Skills, Food Security & Health



Essential Skills



Cooking Club



Sunday Haven



Clinic



Spinning

Education & Training



SEFFY



Retail Training



Bookstrogan

Stakeholders



Aunt Leah's Foundation



Youth Advisory



Program Partners



Funders



Program Evaluators



Government

Programming

Operational Data

Our Impact & Who We Served

345

Youth, Moms & Children Supported

Age Breakdown

96

Babies,
Children &
Dependents

41

In Care
(Under 19)

208

Aged Out
(Over 19)



76%

Participants in Safe Secure Housing

24% Experienced some form of homelessness, including couch surfing.

Social Capital & Skill Development



10,801

One-On-One Sessions &
Meetings with participants



338

Workshops Offered

Director's Message

Sarah Stewart, Executive Director



Aunt Leah's moved into some new spaces this past year, which has allowed us to expand our supportive housing and outreach programming which supports our belief that young people connected to the foster care system and moms in need have a continuum of care that is not disrupted by age or lack of housing. Key ways that we ensure this continuum of care is provided is by having drop in supports connected to food, housing, health, education, parenting and emotional support. Young people and families know they can come to Aunt Leah's New Westminster Hub on Wednesdays and Sundays and have a healthy meal, connect with friends and/or staff and know there's a place where they are always welcome.

Our new Vancouver space, through which we will strive to replicate the services offered out of our New Westminster Hub opened in February 2017. A special thanks to the City of Vancouver for their support of our work by providing the Vancouver location. In addition a special thanks to Central City Foundation for their assistance in establishing walls at the Vancouver space but also with their ongoing support in providing the New Westminster Building at below market rates. This has provided Aunt Leah's with a solid foundation for our continuum of care that is based on a family model of support.

Aunt Leah's Thresholds Program, which is a supportive housing program for moms in need, saw the opening of a second house. Thanks to the support of BC Housing and Aunt Leah's Foundation we were able to move into the house and provide support for moms and their children in the spring of 2017. This program builds on our passion to provide a continuum of care by increasing our ability to provide safe and supportive housing for moms over the age of 19.

This past year was full of exciting expansions as well as some challenging moments. Aunt Leah's lost a dear colleague, Jennifer McFarlane. Jennifer was very passionate about the mission of Aunt Leah's Place. We will strive to have this passion continue by creating an annual participant award in honour of her. Not only was Jennifer passionate about the youth and families connected to Aunt Leah's she was a huge fan of her colleagues and their work. I have to agree. Thank you to all the staff, board and volunteers who worked tirelessly and passionately this past year.

Our future plans include our continued work with Aunt Leah's Foundation to provide a continuum of housing options for our families and youth. We will continue to provide lifeskills based services within a family model of care that works to ensure youth aging out of the foster care system have a continuum of support similar to their parented peers and that moms at risk of losing custody of their child have access to a community of supports that work to keep families together.

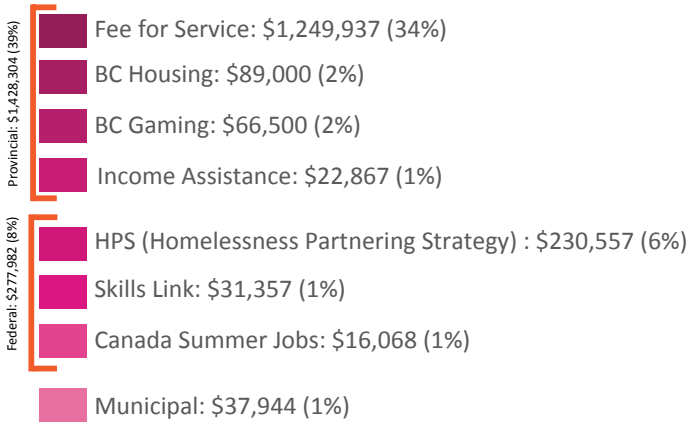
Sincerely,
Sarah Stewart
Executive Director

Financial Report

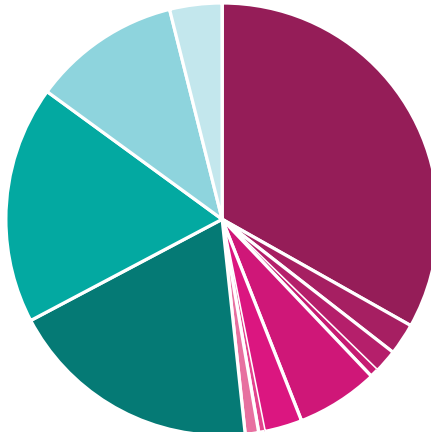
How We Raised & Allocated Our Resources

Revenue: \$3,692,586

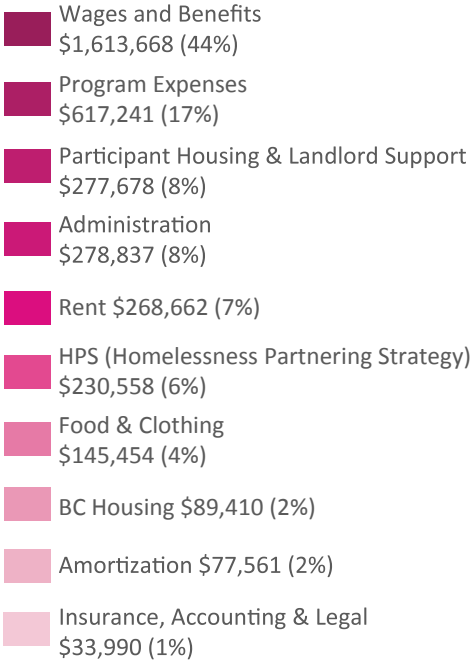
Government: \$1,744,230 (47%)



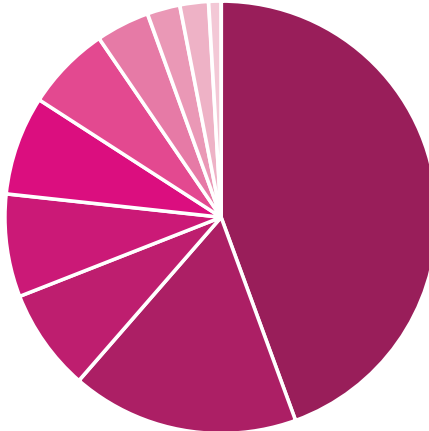
Private & Non-Governmental: \$1,948,356 (53%)



Expenses: **\$3,633,059**



Excess of Revenue over Expenditures: **\$59,527**





Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

**Aunt Leah's Youth Hub &
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