

PRESS RELEASE

The Friendly Landlord Network: A Collaborative Solution to Housing Foster Youth Transitioning Out of Care

Metro Vancouver, B.C. – A new collaborative housing program is setting out to help foster youth transition out of care and alleviate one of the provinces most pressing social issues, youth homelessness. The program, called the Friendly Landlord Network, connects youth transitioning out of care directly with landlords. These youth are guided through the housing process by a local youth serving organization, who provide support, similar to what parented youth receive.

“There are numerous barriers that prevent youth in care from accessing housing, the network will help bypass these by creating a community of support and culture of understanding” - Christina Grammenos (Community Engagement Coordinator, Friendly Landlord Network)

In BC, 40% of homeless youth have been in the foster care system at some point in their lives. After turning 19, foster youth in BC no longer have housing, healthcare, regular financial assistance or access to a social worker (fosteringchange.ca).

“The Friendly Landlord Network project is a much needed integral part of the continuum of housing services and supports for our young people” – Kristine Kredba (Manager of Outreach and Transitions, Directions Youth Services)

The Friendly Landlord Network is currently working with a growing number of youth serving organizations and is actively searching for caring individuals and property managers with places to rent. Landlords who join the network receive market rent and tenancy support from a local youth serving organization. The network officially went live on January 6, 2016. For more information or to become a Friendly Landlord please visit: friendlylandlordnetwork.com

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Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

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, pre-employment training, and coaching on essential life skills.

Learn more about Aunt Leah's Place by visiting: <http://auntleahs.org>

vancouver
foundation

fostering
CHANGE

The Fostering Change initiative of Vancouver Foundation has a goal to make sure that every young person leaving foster care has the opportunities and support needed to thrive as adults.

Fostering Change supports this through youth engagement, shared learning, evaluation and research, and public engagement work to support young people leaving foster care, in addition to making grants.

Learn more about the Fostering Change initiative at: <http://www.fosteringchange.ca>



Gale Stewart

Executive Director, Aunt Leah's Place

Gale Stewart is the founder and executive director of Aunt Leah's Place. For over 25 years, Gale has been a strong advocate for young mothers and youth in foster care. The *Support Link*, Gales innovative housing program for youth in care, provides the framework for the Friendly Landlord Network.



Christina Grammenos

Community Engagement Coordinator, FLN
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Christina Grammenos is the lead coordinator of the Friendly Landlord Network (FLN). Christina has over 10 years experience in helping marginalized communities access education, employment and housing.

Additional Interview Contacts

Angelina Oates

Overseer (Landlord)

Overseer's are the Support Link equivalent of Friendly Landlords. They perform similar tasks for youth in care who are under 19.

Kristine Kredba

Manager of Outreach & Transitions
Directions Youth Services

Directions Youth Services is one of the Friendly Landlord Networks partnering organizations

Jon Garner

Manager, Communications
Vancouver Foundation | Fostering Change

Jon can organize interviews with Mark Gifford (Director of Grants and Community Initiatives Vancouver Foundation & Fostering Change) and Kris Archie (Project Manager for Fostering Change)

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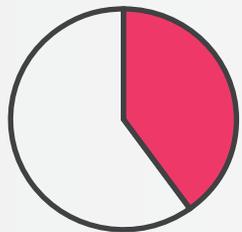
Friendly Landlord Network
AUNT LEAH'S PLACE

What is the FLN?

The *Friendly Landlord Network* (FLN) is a Metro Vancouver-wide network of home owners and property managers, who rent suites to youth transitioning out of government care. Friendly Landlords receive **market rent** and **tenancy support** from a network of experienced youth serving organizations.

This year more than 700 youth in care will turn 19 and “age out” of the government system.

In BC, 80% of parents who have 19-28 year-olds living away from home provide their



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children with some form of support. On the contrary, when a child in care turns 19, their government support is cut-off and they are deemed “aged-out” of the system. Without access to housing these youth immediately face homelessness. Be part of the solution and help

end youth homelessness by renting to a youth transitioning out of care.

Do You Have a Place to Rent?

Join the FLN & Help End Youth Homelessness in Your Community



How it Works: Friendly landlords who join the FLN can post their rental unit on a website that is searchable by youth from care and youth serving organizations. Landlords can also search youth profiles to find a good fit.

During the youth’s tenancy, these organizations will provide on-going support to you (the landlord) and the youth. The Networks partner organizations have a wealth of experience to ensure a positive, supported rental experience for home owners and property managers. They will be right by your side to make it a success!

5 Benefits of Renting to a Youth Aging Out of Care

- 1 Fill Vacancies Quickly**
Gain first access to a pool of tenants ready to be housed.
- 2 Regular Program Check-Ins**
Regular support visits help to ensure the safety of your suite
- 3 Tenancy Support**
Support from trusted youth serving organizations, help you keep long-term tenants
- 4 Financially Supported Tenants**
Financially supported tenants ensure that you get your rent on time
- 5 Help End Youth Homelessness**
Enhance your reputation and better your community by reducing youth homelessness



Get Involved

If you are a property owner or landlord that has a suite to rent and want to make a difference in your community, please contact us to be added to the Friendly Landlord Network. Your help is needed in providing a safe suite to a youth transitioning out of care. Be an agent of change and help us end youth homelessness in Metro Vancouver.

Christina Grammenos

Community Engagement Coordinator

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Key Numbers

Vancouver Foundation | Fostering Change

This year, more than 700 youth in care will turn 19 and “age out” of the government system.

40% of homeless youth have been in foster care at some point in their lives.

80% of BC parents who have 19 to 28 year olds living away from home, provide them with financial or other kinds of support.

University of Victoria

45% of foster youth will experience homelessness within 3 years after aging out of care.

Mental Health Commission of Canada (At Home/Chez Soi)

Each year, up to 200,000 people are homeless in Canada — at an estimated cost of seven billion dollars.



Tweetables | #FosteringChangeBC

The Friendly Landlord Network helps youth transition out of foster care secure housing, learn more at friendlylandlordnetwork.com

Own a basement suite? Help a youth transitioning out of foster care secure housing. Visit friendlylandlordnetwork.com #fosteringchangebc

The Friendly Landlord Network connects foster youth to safe & affordable housing. Learn more at friendlylandlordnetwork.com

45% of youth in care will experience homelessness within 3 years after aging out. Help end homelessness, visit friendlylandlordnetwork.com

This year more than 700 youth in care will turn 19 and “age out” of the government system. friendlylandlordnetwork.com #FosteringChangeBC