

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY



Bayleigh Marie spent her childhood in BC foster care.
PHOTO – WARD PERRIN, VANCOUVER SUN

Successful foster kids: Bayleigh Marie 📖

Bayleigh Marie lived in foster care all her life. She lived in 10 different foster homes. She lived in three group homes.

“When I turned 19, they gave me the boot,” said Marie. “They said I was grown up. Now go face the world on your own.”

Marie got help from Aunt Leah’s Place.

Aunt Leah’s is a not-for-profit organization. They help prepare foster youth to live on their own. They run a Link program to help them.

“The youth workers I’ve met through Aunt Leah’s are still a part of my life today. They’ve made a huge difference in my life and I’m a different person than I was four years ago.”

BAYLEIGH, 19 | AUNT LEAH’S LINK PROGRAM

PHOTO – COURTESY AUNT LEAH’S PLACE

“In my life, I really could have used that extra time to get on my feet, find a stable place and a stable job,” Marie said. “I could have really used it.”

Marie is now 21 years old. She rents a basement suite.

She is studying to finish grade 12. She works part time at Aunt Leah’s Place Thrift Store. She is learning the retail business.

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She wants to become a paramedic and then a nurse.

“I don’t have any money coming from my family. Everything I’ve ever had in my life, I’ve had to earn myself. It can be hard at times,” Marie said.

“I’ve got some big goals ahead of me, and I’m slowly achieving them,” Marie said.

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

What is the Link program?

Aunt Leah’s Place runs a Link program. Link programs are part of the Youth Employment Strategy. The Government of Canada pays for the program. The programs help youth leaving foster care.

They give youth:

- a transition worker
- pre-employment training
- emergency food and clothing
- help finding a job
- help getting back to school
- life-skills training

About this series

Successful foster kids is a series of four articles. You can read the other articles on our website:

www.thewestcoastreader.com

Links

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

Answer key

1. Bayleigh lived in foster homes and group homes as a child.
2. She got help at Aunt Leah’s Place.
3. Aunt Leah’s Place helps foster youth live on their own.
4. Bayleigh lives in a basement suite now.
5. Bayleigh works at Aunt Leah’s Thrift Store.
6. She is studying to finish grade 12.
7. She wants to be a nurse.
8. Aunt Leah’s Place offers a Link program.

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What and where questions

Choose the right words to put in each blank.

1. Where did Bayleigh live as a child?
 - a. Bayleigh lived in _____ as a child.
2. Where did she get help?
 - a. She got help at _____.
3. What does Aunt Leah's Place do?
 - a. Aunt Leah's Place _____.
4. Where does Bayleigh live now?
 - a. Bayleigh lives _____ now.
5. Where does Bayleigh work?
 - a. Bayleigh works _____.
6. What is she studying for?
 - a. She is studying _____.
7. What does she want to do?
 - a. She wants _____.
8. What program does Aunt Leah's Place offer?
 - a. Aunt Leah's Place offers _____.

foster homes and group homes	a Link program
Aunt Leah's Place	helps foster youth live on their own
at Aunt Leah's Thrift Store	in a basement suite
to be a nurse	to finish grade 12