Room for one more?



We're looking for families with room for one more.

plea
COMMUNITY SERVICES

All you need to know about opening your heart and home to a youth in need...

About PLEA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PLEA provides services to children, youth, adults and families facing significant challenges in their lives. We adapt our programs to suit each individual's strengths, needs, and circumstances. We are known for helping them to grow and thrive.

We started by providing youth in need with a one-to-one worker and, where necessary, a safe, healthy family home.

We now use this model to deliver a number of programs and services. These range from preventative – helping children and youth make good choices under difficult conditions – to intensive – providing specialized care to youth with complex needs, and to adults who are unable to live on their own.

We have more than 236 staff, 194 volunteers, 181 respite caregivers, and 165 foster families and caregivers. The number of people we help every year is counted in the thousands.

We are looking for families with room for one more. Join our other 165 families by opening your home and your heart to a youth in need.

"Given the right support, every person can grow and thrive."



Our Vision: That everyone has the opportunity for a good life and everyone counts.

What is the opportunity?



This job is about providing a safe, nurturing home to youth in need, giving them a sense of belonging and assisting them to be successful.

Along with the support of our staff teams, your role will be to help the youth living with you with their day-to-day needs, to learn life-skills and to 'see what's possible'.

We will equip you with all the knowledge and skills you need to be successful in this role. You can choose to do the role full-time or to provide short-term cover for other foster families.



Who can apply?

The people who choose to take on this role come from a wide range of backgrounds and skill levels. They do not conform to any standard. What they do share is a love of working with youth, a desire to make a difference and an enjoyment of being part of a dedicated team available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Sound like you? Read more to find out how you can become an integral part of a dedicated team that works to support youth in need to grow and thrive.





Meet Tina,

she has been finding families since 2015. Here is what she has to say about their importance...



What have you learned from doing this over the years?

I've learned that a sense of belonging - that feeling of being home ... in a family .... is key to getting over the challenges we all face in life. It's important that everyone has at least one person they can turn to, and a home to go to. I am proud that PLEA is able to offer this.

What, in your opinion, makes our families so special?

Our foster families come in all shapes and sizes, from different backgrounds and they have such interesting lives to offer the youth we serve. It is this diversity that makes our families so special. It means we can find homes that are a good fit for the individuals we serve and vice versa. And that means we know, for the most part, it will work out for the long term; the best result for everyone concerned.

What do you think are the biggest barriers families face when doing this work?

Taking the leap to decide to do this work in the first place can be hard. It can seem like a daunting task. But someone is always on the end of a phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year should our families need advice or simply someone to talk to. We also provide a thorough orientation for those new to the role and ongoing training from then on. This means we, and our foster families, can be confident they have the knowledge and skills to be successful at it.

"The rewards are huge – knowing that each and every thing you do is helping someone else."

What do you think are the biggest rewards families get out of this work?

The rewards are huge - knowing that each and every thing you do is helping someone else.
I cannot think of many other roles where you get to make such a difference in the life of one person every single day.

What do you enjoy most about finding families for PLEA?

The best part for me is that first meeting. The first time the family, the young person that is about to move in with them, and the staff here at PLEA all meet one another. It's an exciting time for everyone; a time when you see everything everyone has been working towards become reality.

Meet Marie,

she has been providing care for youth in need for more than 15 years.

What brought you to PLEA?

I was attracted to PLEA's reputable presence within the community. I wanted an organization that actually supports the youth and the caregiver.





"Compassion and care are key in creating a safe home and allowing space for change."

What's involved in providing a home to youth in need?

Providing a home for a youth in need means creating space that allows for the youth to feel safe enough to use their voice. It is about providing non-judgmental support and meeting the youth where they are at. Compassion and care are key in creating a safe home and allowing space for change.

A lot of people come to this work with the hope of making a difference. How do you know when you have made a difference in the life of a youth?

Initially, when a youth arrives, we set attainable goals together. Over time, you can see the youth achieving results. I have remained in contact with many of of the youth who've lived with me over the years. Seeing them reconnect with family and doing great things with their lives is all the proof I need.

What have you learned is most important in working with youth?

I have learned to really listen to them. Getting input as to what works for them and what doesn't is the key. As caregivers, we are here to support and assist with an open mind. By allowing the youth to be the navigator of their life, they become empowered and achieve a level of success.

Do you have any advice for anyone interested in doing this role?

If you have the desire, compassion and willingness to really want to make a difference in a youth's life, this role is for you. It is not always easy, but I always feel supported by the PLEA team – you are never alone in this role.

Questions We Get Asked

What will I be doing?

This role is about providing a safe, nurturing home to a youth in need, giving them a sense of belonging and assisting them to be more successful.

What support will I get?

We have an extensive orientation process that will prepare you for your new role.

Once you join us, you will receive support from a Service Coordinator and a member of our team will be available whenever you need them, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. As well, the youth will have a youth worker who will spend time with them regularly each week.



Questions We Get Asked

What is the time commitment?

It depends. Some families open their home for 2-5 years; others have been with us for 10 years and more.

How long will a youth stay with us?

Again, it depends. Sometimes youth live with families for a month or two, some for six months and some for many years.

Can I provide care to more than one youth at a time?

Yes you can, up to a maximum of two youth at a time. However, you must be able to provide each youth with their own bedroom. Your home must also be able to comfortably house two youth in addition to the persons already living there.

Can I do this role on an occasional or short-term basis?

Yes. We need people able to provide care in the homes of our full-time foster families when they can't be there. We call this type of support 'respite'. The selection criteria, requirements and access to training and support for those providing respite coverage are the same as those fulfilling this role on a full-time basis.

Who are the youth I will be expected to work with?

We provide services to youth who have not experienced success in other settings and who face significant challenges in their lives. Just like our families, they come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Most require a range of services and resources.

We have a successful track record of working with these youth because of our experience in providing and coordinating services according to their individual strengths and needs, and doing so in strong collaboration with the families with whom they live. We value the significant time and energy our families devote to meeting the day-to-day needs of the youth in their care – and make sure that they have all the support they need to effectively manage difficulties when they arise.

If you'd consider opening your heart and home to a youth in need, we want to hear from you!

Questions We Get Asked

What information will I be given about them before they move into my home?

We will have extensive conversations with you about them, their circumstances, and the services our staff team will provide and coordinate before they move into your home.

Can I work outside the home or remotely and be a foster caregiver?

Caregiving is a full-time job, but caregivers can also work outside the home or remotely should they choose. In your absence, there must be another PLEA approved adult to provide care, as needed, to the youth. Many people share their responsibilities with their partners, or other adult members of their families. Others access our pool of respite caregivers.

If working remotely from home, your work must be flexible enough that you can meet the needs of the youth(s) as they arise.

Most importantly, remember the needs of the youth(s) always comes first.

What happens if I want to go on holiday?

Someone you know (i.e., an adult friend or family member) who has been approved by us to provide you with respite coverage would move into your home and care for the individual in your absence.

What will I be paid?

Our foster families and caregivers can earn from $4,800 to $10,000 per month.

Is there any other training or support provided?

Yes, extensive training and certification is provided to all caregivers. These include first aid, privacy training, naloxone and medication administration training, cultural training and more.

Is there any funding to help get my home ready?

Yes. If any necessary improvements or adjustments are needed, we offer $1,000 to cover these costs.

How is all my personal information protected?

All information gathered as part of this process, and any further information we collect while you are working with us, is treated in the strictest confidence and in compliance with privacy standards and legislation. Records are maintained in secure files.

Ready to Apply?

Application Process

What are the requirements for the role?

At a minimum you must:

- be over 21 years of age.
- be eligible to work in Canada and have lived in Canada for at least one year.
- be financially stable.
- own or rent your home.
- be able to provide each youth with their own bedroom.
- be fluent in English.
- be able to provide three references.
- provide a medical report from your doctor.
- have no more than five children/ youth living in the home.
- have no international students or clients from other agencies living in your home.

What are the steps I need to go through to provide a family home to a youth in need?

STEP 1: **When you first contact us, we will collect some basic information about you over the phone or via email**

STEP 2: **We will invite you to an information session where you will learn more about the caregiving role and the youth we support. We will also answer any questions you may have. This session is mandatory and is offered on-line and in-person.**

STEP 3: **We will ask you to complete an application* so we have a little more information about you, your family and your home.**

STEP 4: **We will contact you to review the form and to make arrangements to visit you in your home.**

*Because you will be in a position of trust, there are several other steps to our assessment process. Together they take a few months to complete.

Call us: (236) 333-2682 or email careathome@plea.bc.ca



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