Leah Angel Daniel owns a nonprofit organization called Fostering Greatness, Inc., which assists foster care youth, young adults, and those transitioning out of the foster care system. She wants to create housing and space for services to support fostered youth and transitioning adults. Leah is an alumni of the foster care system and grew up on the East Side of Buffalo.

Could you tell us about your building/project/goals?
I'd like to develop a building into a mixed-use facility with transitional housing and on-site supportive services for young adults who are leaving the foster care system and aren't quite ready to be on their own yet and foster care alumna who may have children or younger siblings in their care. I want to provide housing with community services so that East Siders will be able to thrive, access needed resources and really feel like their neighborhood is safe, stable, and affordable.

What are you hoping to accomplish?
We will utilize the wrap-around model and framework to assist young adults and families. That entails promoting and connecting people to community resources that will help them enroll in school or workforce development programs or find child care. There are a lot of older family-based establishments in this neighborhood, too, such as a fish fry spot, an old car wash, and a couple of churches. We'll work to connect people to these.

How will your project benefit the neighborhood/East Side community?
This will address a major community issue. It will bring new services in, support businesses that are already there and will help youth become more of a part of the positive things happening on the East Side.

What is your vision for the East Side?
My vision for the East Side is for it to be revitalized like a lot of other neighborhoods and commercial districts – and that love, attention, and money are put into the East Side of Buffalo. Once these things are obtained, I hope the citizens who live there will continue to keep it up and keep it beautiful.

For information about the East Side Avenues’ Community-Based Real Estate Development Training program, visit: www.EastSideAvenues.org