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2010

# Changing Lives

Celebrating Hackney's voluntary and community sector

## HCVS and Team Hackney

Changing Lives has been organised by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) together with funding from Team Hackney.

HCVS is Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector (VCS) support agency.

We provide hundreds of local VCS organisations with the key skills, knowledge and resources to respond to the needs of local people.

Our vision is of an equal society where local people are empowered to tackle local problems and the contribution of all communities to civic life is recognised and supported.

For more information visit [www.hcvs.org.uk](http://www.hcvs.org.uk)

Team Hackney is Hackney's local strategic partnership which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for everyone in the borough by bringing together the key people in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Its aim is to deliver the goals of the Sustainable Community Strategy - Hackney's ten-year vision.

Team Hackney is chaired by the elected Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe.

For more information visit [www.teamhackney.org](http://www.teamhackney.org)



## Introduction

Welcome to Changing Lives, a celebration of Hackney's voluntary and community sector (VCS). There are over 1,800 VCS organisations working in Hackney and this is just a flavour of the innovative and exciting work which makes Hackney people so proud of their borough.

As you read through this booklet, we think you will be impressed as you find out about 12 local VCS organisations, the people who deliver this invaluable work and the communities whose lives are changed as a result.

HCVS commissioned photographer Katherine Green to document these organisations and Red Leader to design this booklet.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot of Hackney. Why not get involved? If you volunteer, work or have benefitted from support from a community project in Hackney, you can be part of Changing Lives. Call HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or for more information visit [www.changingliveshackney.org.uk](http://www.changingliveshackney.org.uk)

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## An Viet Foundation

An Viet Foundation was originally started by Mr Thanh Vu in 1982 to help thousands of refugees who had fled to London from Vietnam at the end of the 1970s. They provide advice on housing and welfare benefits, support, training, sports and social activities for Hackney's Vietnamese population.

The aims of the organisation include to advance the education of the Vietnamese community and the general public in Vietnamese history, culture and traditions; to relieve members of the community who are in conditions of need,

hardship and distress; to provide recreation facilities; to support and promote employment training and to promote good race relations.

Since 1998, An Viet Foundation has been housed in a former baths leased from Hackney Council. It has been transformed into a lively canteen, social enterprise and training centre.

They have also recently opened a library at their premises for the study of Vietnamese history and culture. The library contains over 2,000 books and journals.

As well as running projects, the Foundation regularly provides one-to-one support for their users. The centre has facilities for nail care and beauty training and runs ESOL classes; provides a luncheon club; dance classes and currently runs three major projects; the Welfare Project; Healthy Living Project and Skills for Life.

An Viet currently has one source of funding. In 2009 they received £41,000 to run The Healthy Living Project by Team Hackney through HCVS. The aim of this project is to help the over 50s live healthier

*“It changed my life because it made me happy. I come here and do lots of activities, play table tennis, learn dancing, talk with my friends and have a lovely meal”* - Tai Ngoc La, participant



Mah Jong players

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01

## > An Viet Foundation

and more active lives. There are dance and yoga classes, sports activities and health talks. Project manager Hien Nguyen says, “with the introduction of these projects, we’ve made a lot of positive changes to people’s lives, it means participants can live independently and become more confident”. They are looking to develop this into the Community Health Care programme and also introduce

alternative medicine.

Looking towards the future, the Foundation’s focus is on improving people’s employment opportunities, Hien says “we need to focus on jobs and training. It’s a particular issue in Hackney. We want to open a new training programme in computer repair and maintenance, not just for 16 to 25 year olds but for older people too”.

### Contact

T | 020 7275 7780 W | [www.anvietuk.org](http://www.anvietuk.org)

01 | Hien Nguyen, Mr. Thanh Vu and Lan Vu

02 | Luncheon club



02

## Body of Christ

Body of Christ works with the French speaking Congolese community in Hackney and beyond.

Iseke Bokoko founded the charity in 2002, having found the experience of settling in the UK isolating, and in response to the needs of this community. Iseke explains that this is a particularly vulnerable community “often at risk from people trafficking, drugs, prostitution, poverty, homelessness and crime” and that “members have often encountered horrific experiences at home and during their journey to the

UK”. The community therefore has a wide range of educational, social and psychological needs which Body of Christ aims to support.

The organisation is made up of Iseke, as co-ordinator and chairperson, a committee and a team of volunteers, including teachers, mentors and 20 youth volunteers who play an active role in the decision making, planning and direction of the projects. Body of Christ currently serves over 450 people in Hackney and over 2,000 elsewhere in the UK.

01 | Iseke Bokoko

02 | Saturday school

01



02



## > Body of Christ

Their activities primarily focus on preventing young people engaging in crime and include family reading, supplementary school, football, swimming and school holiday activities.

The organisation receives referrals from various sources within the borough including the Hackney Youth Offending Team and the Police.

One of their current projects is Hackney Congolese Children & Young People Ceasefire for which they were awarded £5,500 by Team Hackney, HCVS and The

Learning Trust through the Believe to Achieve grants programme. This project focuses on children transferring from primary to secondary school to educate them about gun and knife crime, and to inspire positive life choices.

Overall, Iseke says the organisation has made an enormous difference to people's lives, providing activities for young people who were either involved with criminal activities or were at risk. "I'm really excited about our progress. Some of our members have gone to

University, we've got them off the streets, got them away from crime, we've changed their lives. They're no longer isolated, we have activities for them to do and places for them to go".

Despite these successes Iseke remains concerned about their future. "Last year we spent six months without getting any grants, we have a big problem with paying the rent - without funding, we cannot deliver our projects or activities. With a lack of financial support, I'm very worried we'll be forced to close".

### Contact

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*"I learnt how to improve my French and Maths. Today we've learnt about [the dangers of] gun and knife crime. We don't really see our culture much and it's nice to bring it back to the community"* - Naomi, participant, 13-years-old



## Great Nile Trust

Great Nile Trust was opened in 2001 to help women, children and young people from Africa.

Grace Kakaire, the project co-ordinator, says there was a particular need for a women's led African organisation to give women a voice and to address their needs particularly around gender and interpersonal relationships.

The group of women meet weekly and can access a range of services, as well as participating in cultural and social activities. Services include

family support and welfare, mediation, sexual health advice and counselling. Great Nile Trust run health promotion classes, training in a variety of skills and crafts from IT training to traditional basket weaving. For young people, they also run sports activities and after school programmes.

At the heart of their services is the support that the organisation gives to women suffering from domestic violence. The organisation and the regular gatherings provide a safe and supportive environment for

women; this includes offering them advice, a place to talk and practical help.

The service is advertised through HCVS, word of mouth and through leaflets. Although Grace says the biggest challenge is reaching the women who need the service most, "some women aren't allowed out and so it's really difficult to go to people's homes and tell them about us". When they are successful it's rewarding "we had one lady who was experiencing domestic violence, she couldn't come out,

*"I've been coming here for three years. I enjoy it very much, we learn new skills - you can't stop learning. I feel like I'm at home when I'm here and no longer miss Uganda"* - Lukiya, participant

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Dance lesson



01

## > Great Nile Trust

we managed to talk to her and she managed to break away and now she's very happy with her children. She can really speak for herself and go out freely".

Great Nile Trust has a small team which includes a chairperson, development officer, and volunteers who help with both the admin and running the activities. Previous funding from Team Hackney and HCVS has allowed them to

deliver their activities and projects including education projects around domestic violence.

In 2009, the organisation did not get any funding and they are currently filling out application forms "we need this in our community, for our children. As women we can survive in our way, but for the children, I don't think we can do without the funding", says Grace.

### Contact

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01 | Grace Kakaire with volunteer Maureen

02 | Jewellery making class



02

## Hackney Migrant Centre

01

Hackney Migrant Centre (HMC) is a charity, set up in 2008, that runs a weekly drop-in for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. During the once weekly drop-ins they offer free advice on immigration, housing and benefit problems as well as having a health advocate that can help with access to NHS services and GP registration.

Helen Hibberd started working for the organisation as a volunteer and is now the centre co-ordinator. Helen says "when I found out about the centre I

thought it was such a great idea. It offers a one stop shop where people can see an immigration advisor and a benefits advisor on one day. They get concrete advice and steps to take".

The centre was developed by a local campaign group, Hackney Refugee and Migrant Support Group, who took up the cases of individual asylum seekers. The group wanted to set up a centre to serve a wider population of refugees and migrants, with the ability to offer legal and benefits advice in one place. After

02



01 | Helen Hibberd, centre co-ordinator

02 | Advice session



## > Hackney Migrant Centre

two years of fundraising, the centre opened in St Mary's Church in Stoke Newington. It was initially run by Rayah Feldman on a voluntary basis until they got funds for Helen's two day per week job.

HMC is now able to welcome asylum seekers, refugees and migrants from any nationality or immigration status every Wednesday.

HMC has a volunteer base of approximately 35 people. Helen

says "I think there's something about an organisation which is volunteer led that continues to have a lot of energy about it, new people bring new ideas and because the organisation is new it can be developed".

"What excites me is going there every week and seeing people's progression, particularly people who have been given their refugee status. It's very rewarding when you're able to reunite a family as this can take a long time. Last year we saw 56

different nationalities".

HMC received a Grassroots Grant for £5,000 from HCVS, which has helped secure their future for a few months and demonstrates to other funders that they are sustainable.

The biggest barrier the organisation faces is securing long term funding. Helen hopes "that eventually we would secure enough funding to open more, be accessible to more visitors and offer more advice sessions".

*"I've got a difficult immigration case and have been in this country waiting for a decision for 11 years. Before I found HMC, I found it very difficult to find advice about my situation"* - Benjamin, service user

### Contact

T | 07504 332 706

W | [www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk](http://www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk)



## Hands Inc

In 2001, therapists Eileen Bellot and Rebecca Bruce founded Hands Inc which provides complementary therapies and art therapy to Hackney residents for free, or at a subsidised rate. Hands Inc's core beliefs are that a holistic approach to wellbeing encourages sustainable health and healthier communities and that these services should be available to people who would not usually be able to access or afford them.

Hands Inc's services include Massage, Acupuncture,

Reflexology, Art Therapy, Stress Management, exercise classes, Wellbeing@Work and health awareness events. They partner with other VCS organisations and statutory groups to deliver services to their service users and staff or to signpost to other providers in the borough. They also collaborate with Hertfordshire University offering work placement opportunities to Art Therapy students.

Hands Inc works with diverse communities. From art

exploratory programmes with youth offenders, refugees and migrants to Massage, Yoga and Reflexology with the over 50s at Northwold Estate's monthly health awareness programme.

Hands Inc can measure their success in both the short and long term. Eileen says "If you see the faces of people when they've had their treatments, you know you've had an immediate impact, and long term, we know we're having an impact because people are coming back and wanting



*"When I first started teaching this older age range in lower income sectors, I was really struck that there are far more significant health issues and problems than people in a higher income bracket. That's why it's so important to work exactly where it's needed"* - Madelaine, yoga teacher, Northwold Estate



01

## > Hands Inc

more of our services”.

Hands Inc got involved with HCVS at an early stage. They started the business from home but HCVS encouraged them to get an office space. “It was a huge leap of faith. We had enough money to pay for only six months rent. But since we moved, our growth has been phenomenal. I doubt this would have been possible without the move” says Eileen.

Hands Inc received over £80K from Team Hackney through HCVS between 2008 and 2010 for a number of programmes. This has enabled them to grow and invest in the organisation, as well as create a salaried post for a core business development officer. Through this, Hands Inc continues to work towards attracting more diverse streams of funding and helping to influence policy that affects the VCS.

### Contact

T | 020 3051 8626

W | [www.handsinc.co.uk](http://www.handsinc.co.uk)

01 | Ular Germain, Eileen Bellot, Kerry Jervelund, Maria Galvez, Rebecca Bruce and Honey

## Little Troll Productions

01

Little Troll Productions is a Hackney-based educational theatre company for four to eight year olds which started in 2005. Their multi-media productions promote health.

Ragga Gudmundsdottir is the founder, producer and co-ordinator of Little Troll Productions. Having trained as an actor, she founded Little Troll with the aim of doing something for others particularly around children and health. Ragga says “I’ve always thought

children were the most honest audience”.

Their current multi-media production is about the importance of dental health. The story is of Karius and Baktus, which is a classic story in Scandinavia and countries all around the world. Its unique quality lies in telling a captivating story while focusing strongly on dental health education at the same time. Ragga says “There is a link between bad dental health and bad

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01 | Ragga Gudmundsdottir and Uriel Emil, co-founders

02 | School audience

>

## > Little Troll Productions

health in later life. So we're working as a preventative project". The show is fun and interactive, aiming to "teach rather than preach".

The show is currently touring, Ragga says "we're doing 20 shows in Hackney, they were booked up within two days and we have a long waiting list". Ragga is particularly passionate about Hackney. "We're very proud of having worked with Hackney children to develop the project. Hackney is a very diverse

borough, many of the children don't speak English, it's meant that we've concentrated on the visual impact of the play and use projections. We've also had our support material translated into eight different languages".

HCVS helped them to set up, Ragga says, "before HCVS I used to run into a lot of walls, at HCVS they give you a lot of information".

Little Troll recently received £5,000 core funding from

Grassroots Grants from HCVS. "It's helped by allowing us to concentrate more on the work of Little Troll Productions and allowed us some space to strategically plan where we want to go with the project and to find time for writing funding applications".

But core funding is rare and Ragga says "whilst we're excited about where the project goes next, I'm most concerned about being able to find funding, I need to be able to get a salary!"

### Contact

T | 07946 739 037

W | [www.littletrollproductions.com](http://www.littletrollproductions.com)

*"As part of the play everyone gets a toothbrush, the most memorable response was from a five year old who said 'thank you, this is my first toothbrush and I can't wait to go home and brush my teeth'"* - Anna, actress, Karius and Baktus



## MDMD Arts & Sports

MDMD Arts & Sports are based on Nightingale Estate, Hackney and provide arts and sports activities for those on the estate.

MDMD stands for 'Making Dance Music and Drama' and was set up by brothers John 'Nardo' and Elroy Bailey. Their ethos is to encourage young people to learn the crafts of music, dance and drama to enable them to perform and give them the potential of a long term career in the entertainment industry. They

offer tuition in keyboard, bass, percussion, vocal training, dance classes, keep fit and football as well as having a fully equipped music recording studio available.

MDMD supports a wide age range from five to 21 and they now serve parents and sometimes senior citizens. They also support young people from a wide cultural and social background, including young people in care and those that are homeless.

The organisation relies on

volunteers to deliver its activities, Nardo says "when people realised what we were trying to achieve and when parents saw their kids changing we got a lot of people offering help".

Their recent grant for £48,417 from Team Hackney and HCVS allowed them to open a youth club on the estate, to start a keep fit class and continue a dance class. Nardo says "it's made a world of difference, by opening us up to a whole new audience".

*"I love dance. I've been dancing since I was nine and I like teaching people what I know. Teaching has definitely boosted confidence and problem solving abilities. If this didn't exist, I'd probably just be at home"* - Rymel, dance teacher, 17-years-old



Dance class with Rymel Lawrence



01

### > MDMD Arts & Sports

The area has seen a fall in crime and anti-social behaviour and Nardo puts this down to “the innovative approach of Hackney Council and the ‘joined up’ approach of youth projects in the area which HCVS has been instrumental in”. HCVS have also been helpful in MDMD’s development, “when we lost our first premises, HCVS were there to negotiate and secure another one”.

#### Contact

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01 | Elroy and John Bailey

02 | Drumming lessons at Nightingale Estate



02

## NLMCC

North London Muslim Community Centre (NLMCC) was first started in 1980 in the basement of a church as a response to a need for activities for young Muslim people in the area. The centre now has 22 staff and delivers a wealth of activities and services from premises leased from Hackney Council.

The core community provisions such as advice, support and advocacy are delivered across several of their projects which include an Advice Surgery; a Mental Health Liaison Project; a Youth Centre Project;

01 | Haroon, youth sports development manager

02 | Mohammed Amejje in the new hall

Positive Activities for Young People; a Sure Start Children’s Centre Project; the Father’s Forum and an Elderly Luncheon Club.

Mohammed Amejje first used the service as a young person and then began volunteering before becoming the director in 2008.

For Mohammed “the most satisfaction I get is when I see the users appreciating the services. When you see young people playing and enjoying themselves; mothers and children

01



02



## > North London Muslim Community Centre

spending time together, etc, you realise that you're giving back to the community that gave you so much".

Mohammed says "the beauty of Hackney is its diversity and people also tend to get along". One of NLMCC's challenges is to "actively try to disprove any misconceptions about the Muslim community" and Mohammed describes them as "bold" and "outward looking" in tackling this and other challenges. For example they've formed a

Muslim-Jewish Forum that focuses on building strong links between the Muslim and local Jewish community.

A recent project, funded by Team Hackney and HCVS, tackled sexual health, drug and alcohol misuse within the young Muslim community. Mohammed says "primarily our aim was to tackle issues head on by disseminating information so that young people could make informed choices. We had a course delivered by Hackney Drug and Alcohol Action

Team, who provided accredited training to 10 young people on issues surrounding substance misuse. These young people then acted as peer educators by going out into the community and giving advice to other young people".

The NLMCC are about to complete a building development project which sees the addition of a purpose built hall added to their premises which will allow them to deliver more ambitious projects, with greater capacity and impact on the community.

### Contact

T | 020 8806 1147

W | [www.nlmcc.org.uk](http://www.nlmcc.org.uk)

*"I've been going to the centre for four or five years for activities, it's been a great success. It gets us to communicate and socialise with our friends. If that wasn't around, we'd probably be out and about, hanging around the streets - probably causing trouble!"* - Yacine, participant



Football practice

## Refugee Workers Cultural Association

Refugee Workers Cultural Association (RWCA) is an educational and social charity which provides support to the Turkish and Kurdish community in Hackney. It was established in 1991.

Ibrahim Avcil, chairman of RWCA, says the initial barrier for the community “was social exclusion due to linguistic and cultural differences” and therefore the centre was set up to “positively integrate people in to UK society and culture”.

With the help of their volunteers and HCVS, RWCA has grown to now include over 450 service users, with 285 people signed up to their courses. They currently offer ESOL classes, supplementary school, drama classes and performances, folk dancing, health support, crime prevention, political lobbying and a safe environment for all age ranges to mix and socialise.

The organisation is volunteer-led; 32 volunteers run the programme of activities and report to a

management committee. For Ibrahim, the voluntary and community sector offers an invaluable service in Hackney: “they close a lot of gaps between the mainstream services and members of the community, and take a lot of work from the shoulders of the local authority”. The volunteers at RWCA are drawn from a broad range of the community from young people to highly skilled professionals such as doctors and teachers. Many of the volunteers continue to work for

*“I moved to this country when I was 16, shortly after I joined the RWCA football team and from there got involved in other activities, I began volunteering and eventually became part of the committee. This organisation makes a real difference both when people first arrive and for the next generation.”* - Haci, volunteer programme co-ordinator



Students in the supplementary maths class



01

## > Refugee Workers Cultural Association

RWCA because “it supports them in changing their lives”. Ibrahim himself began as a volunteer. “As soon as people find an environment where they trust each other and can talk to people, they do not want to lose it and that has a big influence on them”.

to 25 year olds. Ibrahim says “as Turkish and Kurdish young people tend to leave school at an early age and without qualifications, this programme will give them the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised NVQ certificate which will increase their chances in life”. Through this programme RWCA aims to make a positive change in these young people’s lives, in order for them to better contribute to society.

### Contact

T | 020 7249 9983 W | [www.rwca.org.uk](http://www.rwca.org.uk)

01 | Ibrahim Avcil, chairman

02 | Women’s Commission meeting



02

In 2009 RWCA were awarded a grant from Team Hackney for £38,000 to run a series of supplementary GCSE and A Level classes, drama activities, an NVQ course and day trips for 16

## S Pinter Youth Project

01

S Pinter Youth Project (SPYP) runs holiday play schemes for five to 11 year olds and daily term-time after school clubs for nine to 11 year olds in the Orthodox Jewish community in Hackney and Haringey.

Project director, Hannah Israel, says “the aim is to provide the young people with new opportunities, teach them new skills and broaden their potential”. Many of the children are from families of between eight and 12 children, often from

financially disadvantaged backgrounds. The classes are mixed ability and integrate special needs children who are often provided with one-to-one carers. The project gives each child time out and space to learn and grow, and provides a welcome support for parents.

Through HCVS, Team Hackney provided £5,000 in 2009 for a supplementary evening SATS club where experienced teachers help prepare year six children for their SATS exams “providing

02

01 | Dolly Scharf and Hannah Israel

02 | After school SATS club



## > S Pinter Youth Project

children with the support and space, when they come from overcrowded accommodation, to prepare themselves properly for their exams” says Hannah.

Dolly Scharf, the project manager, started the project as a hobby in 1995 and its demand has been relentless - they now cater for over 550 children. “Every time we’re able to add new places, they’re snapped up. We have a waiting list for spaces”.

The only issue which holds back the development of the project and future plans is the need to continually fundraise. When asked why they continue, Dolly replies “we love the kids and we absolutely love the work that we do”.

SPYP currently accommodates children up to the age of 11 but many choose to come back and volunteer. There are 40 youth volunteers aged 11 to 15, many of whom attended the play schemes. Hannah says “they help

us to design, run and plan the project. They thrive on this job; it gives them work experience and makes them responsible people because they’re giving back to the community.”

Throughout their development SPYP have received support from HCVS, Dolly says “they have always been so helpful, always notifying us whenever there’s funding available, courses and training. We’re very thankful to them”.

*“I really enjoy the class, it makes me feel much more confident in my work, you feel much better and you get a better result”* - Genendi, student

### Contact

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## Wilton Estate Tenants' and Residents' Association

Wilton Estate is a low-rise block of approximately 99 flats designed around a central plot of land. The Tenants' and Residents' Association's (TRA) community hall is located in the middle of this land. The building was previously used by the local housing office and when it became vacant, Sheila Suso-Runge, TRA treasurer, and other residents lobbied Hackney Council to use it as a central focus for the community.

When they finally gained access

to the hall, they initially used it for formal and informal meetings. The project only took off and grew into the format it is in now, after a youth club was established.

They now have a thriving youth, arts and sports club which includes weekly music sessions, board games and table tennis; creative learning evenings; sports club and indoor fitness classes. Sheila says "most importantly we're turning Saturdays into a family day, with fitness sessions and gardening". They have

recently planted a small orchard on the estate. She adds "we're trying to break down inter-generational barriers, and this is happening slowly, people join in, they come and see what we're doing and are even coming from adjoining streets".

Sheila says "the driving force has been the young people themselves, and particularly the people who have grown up with the youth club and have now become volunteers. Plus HCVS have really helped us drive this

*"I started attending the youth club aged 16. It was really good for me because I learnt to work as a team, it was really exciting to do things as a group. A group of us initiated the sports activities at the club and as a qualified sports coach, I now run the sports club with another volunteer"* - Takashi, sports coach and volunteer youth worker



Ras Lawi volunteer with Renford Bailey volunteer music tutor



01

### > Wilton Estate TRA

forward by giving us training and access to funding sources". Sheila continues "we've grown from a loose but formally constituted tenants' association into a larger organisation motivated by young people and volunteers whose inspiration is now to formalise into a social enterprise and registered community sports club".

A few years ago the TRA received a Hackney Small

Contact

Facebook | 'Wilton Estate Youth Club WEYC'

E | [s.suso-runge@arts.ac.uk](mailto:s.suso-runge@arts.ac.uk)

01 | Tree planting at the estate

02 | Takashi and Sheila Suso-Runge



02

## Youth Skills Network

01

Youth Skills Network (YSN) is a non-profit organisation designed to give 16 to 25 year olds a chance to improve their attainment levels and employment prospects within the media industry.

Founder of YSN, Andy Fraser, grew up in Hackney and recognised that his own career as an actor helped "keep him out of trouble". His idea was to provide opportunities and real skills to enable young people in Hackney to forge

sustainable careers. "Hackney has a wealth of creative young people, but financially and socially they aren't getting opportunities" says Andy. Having had the idea, Andy approached HCVS: "I knew about the industry but didn't know how to set up an organisation or a company, so that's what HCVS helped me to do".

YSN began in 2003 and aims to open up opportunities for 16 to 25 year olds in Hackney,

02



01 | Gina Wilkins, Andy Fraser, Tamisha Wilson, Alem Denardi-Jones

02 | Syeda being interviewed for Mini Mogul

>

## > Youth Skills Network

teaching media production skills, business studies and marketing in a creative and supportive environment.

YSN runs ambitious projects which involve the young people in a wide range of roles. They recently received £47,000 from Team Hackney through HCVS, to put on a large scale production called Mini Mogul which Andy describes as “a cross between X Factor and Dragon’s Den”. As part of this production, young

people are being trained by industry professionals to devise, design, run, manage and promote an event. At the same time they will be making a ‘behind the scenes’ documentary about the build up to the live show.

YSN remains in contact with participants in their projects, and has a high success rate. Andy says that “nearly everyone has gone on to University to study film and some young people have gone on to make their own

films. The rewards are far greater than I could ever imagine. To see these young people grow and learn things about themselves, it changes the way they think and their views on society and on life”. Andy puts their success down to “the combination of structured learning, recreational activities and youth events”.

Future plans include creating a production company where all the young people create the productions.

*“I took one of the YSN media courses and when it finished I wanted to carry on working with them. I wanted to help out and do something positive. Now I have the best job and the best opportunities!”* - Tamisha, junior administrator, YSN

### Contact

T | 020 7923 0022

W | [www.ysn.org.uk](http://www.ysn.org.uk)



Tamisha, junior administrator