

## Nicodemus Grant Report

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*"I felt depressed and lonely – Being part of the Youth Enterprise Hub has allowed me to socialise with more people and make more friends and meet a group of people who face the same issues as me. Through the photography skills I have learned I have found something I am good at and enjoy. I want to be the first person in my house to go to university".*  
**Dylan (name changed)**



## Difference the project has made

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Our project worked with young adults aged 18 – 25 who are NEET and find it difficult to get jobs due to lack of aspirations and job availability. Our Youth Enterprise hub was set up by our Youth Enterprise Manager, and through this we were able to make a difference in 23 young peoples lives by empowering them to create services and products. Over the 40 weeks the project was running we ran weekly group sessions through which young people learned relational, team work, confidence building and communication skills. Through this they were able to share their own experiences and gain knowledge and understanding of others. We had an average of 12 young people at each workshop, plus 4 volunteers from our organisation. Having the volunteers alongside the Youth Enterprise Manager meant we could provide one to one sessions during which we covered a range of themes, brainstorming different ideas which focussed on the research and development side of business ideas. This supported young people to think outside of the box and pursue ideas which they already had but didn't have the confidence to implement. It also provided people with confidence to start their own enterprise. Through this project 2 of the young people went on to further education, 3 were supported in obtaining full time jobs, 2 have started apprenticeships, and one has started working on a self employed basis. This has made an impact in the wider community as it has allowed those near the poverty line to become active citizens by becoming economically mobile, helping families to break the cycle of poverty. Through gaining creative and product design skills, marketing and pitching ideas, we have seen the young people gain in confidence and self worth. This has helped them to secure jobs and apprenticeships through more positive interviewing, and making a case when going for other opportunities.

This project has opened the doors for young people to go beyond their comfort zone through the skills they have learned, equipping them for the future ahead.

Through this project 14 of the young people were also able to gain volunteering opportunities within the local community enabling them to make an impact and break stereotypes concerning young people.

As different organisations and agencies worked together, we were able to provide holistic support meeting a variety of needs that young people face, creating a safety net beyond the project.

Our staff and volunteers were well supported with one to one training sessions and access to a training platform with a library of training videos and resources to support them during the project and upskill them moving forwards.

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic we had to adapt our programmes to be able to continue supporting the young people we had built relationships with. We continued to provide virtual workshops as well as crisis support to our young people online using Zoom. Once we were able to we continued our workshops face to face following government guidelines.

*“Since joining the Youth Enterprise Hub my anxiety has been controlled better and I have a better relationship with my family, I feel motivated and happy and hope to become a photographer in the future”.*  
– **Michael (name changed)**

## Success Story

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**Chloe** is 18 and has been part of the Youth Enterprise Hub



“Struggling with forgiveness was the main issue for me and I found it difficult to see things from other people's perspective. I also found it challenging to talk about problems I was facing with my family, anxiety was and at times is still quite a big issue for me. I was taken into care a few months ago due to issues with my family members. I have always struggled with my relationship with my mother since I was a child. I grew up not really knowing my mother and we remain distant. My problems and challenges made me feel unaccepted, anxious and I felt like I did not belong. With little hope of getting a job I really felt there was

no future for me. Since becoming a part of the Youth Enterprise Hub, I have become more open and willing to communicate with people. Knowing that other people in the group have also been through similar challenges has meant that I have been able to meet encouraging people who steer me in the right direction. I feel better equipped to handle and come to terms with issues in my life. Through volunteering in the community I feel more confident in my abilities, and happier about myself. I feel like everything I learn helps me to be able to handle challenges I face in day to day life, and I feel more hopeful that I will get a job soon. In general, I feel stronger as a person because of the support I have received. I feel optimistic and hopeful!”

**Thank you again!**

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