

This month marked the beginning of our 2020/21 financial year and as an organisation we could not have been more excited to begin. As the Youth Entrepreneurs Network project came to an end in September, we are proud to have provided over **170** services to young entrepreneurs and had over **250** people in attendance to our events since the project started.

As an organisation, our mission is to tackle problems of inequality and poverty by enabling BAME individuals through enterprise and employment and our work will continue to reflect this. Enjoy this month's newsletter as we reflect on YEN and celebrate the outcome of our core activities.

Yolanda Barnes, Operations Manager

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- Being a 'Becoming' winner - Isaiah Akwari
- YEN's impact summary

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

This month we provided a total of **34** one to one services as our team has continued to call our beneficiaries. Further, we are supporting an additional **3** individuals through our employment support service.

Our team has continued to serve the community wholeheartedly with **4543 KG** of food being distributed to **58** families and **33** individuals in.

As word of our efforts continues to spread through the communities, our foodbank beneficiary list has been steadily increasing. This has also led to us welcoming another volunteer as demand for our services continues to increase.

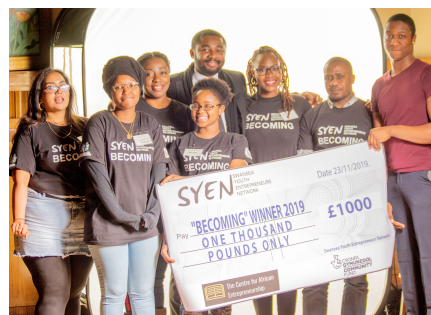
We excited to have upgraded our foodbank registration which means we are serving additional foods of better of better quality to our communities.

This allows us to continue providing quality service and to serve more people



### YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK

The YEN project has indeed provided support for BAME businesses and entrepreneurs in Swansea. Since the project began in October 2018 there have been a total of **9** events, with **175** services to young entrepreneurs from different ethnic groups and disciplines in attendance.



Our flagship event was the Becoming business exhibition, which saw **23** entrepreneurs from all over Wales competing for a £1000 cash prize. This event was a culmination of business and the arts with a plethora of performances including ballet, modeling and instrumentalists to entertain the **117** attendees.

This is what one of the participants had to say about their experience as part of the network;

**"I enjoyed the bespoke service as the events that were held were based on concerns I or other participants had voiced which was great! There was also support if you needed to know more. I learnt a great deal of knowledge specifically from the online workshop 'Succeeding in a new era'. An amazing network."** Sibū, Sibufit

### **MY YEAR AS A BECOMING WINNER**

From the day I was named a Becoming winner, my entrepreneurial journey accelerated and for that I am so grateful.

Thanks to encouragement from the YEN team and friends, I participated in the

Becoming exhibit and competed against **22** entrepreneurs from in around Swansea for the cash and mentorship prize.

The day itself went swiftly and I am grateful to have been the winner.

The cash prize coupled with the support from the YEN team and Development bank of Wales (DBW) made a year of growth. The cash prize was an investment into equipment for 1zmadethis.cuts, including LED lights that have vastly improved the quality images for my social media platforms, my advertisement vehicle.

The bespoke meetings I had with DBW and the YEN team were instrumental in developing my business acumen and helped shape the direction I am taking now. I am excited to now be starting a mentorship scheme for young BAME Swansea based boys/men who have an interest in hair so that I may play a role in someone else's come up.

Yes I would have eventually achieved this, but the support has accelerated my development and growth of my business, and for that I am grateful.

Isaiah Akwari, Founder of 1zmadethis.cuts  
Becoming winner

### **IN THE NEXT ISSUE**

- Update: Foodbank distribution
- Our work in the community
- What's next