



Levi Roots shows support for young people's entrepreneur scheme which perseveres through underfunding

South London charity helps young people to envision a brighter future in uncertain times

Monday, 2nd November 2020: Levi Roots, renowned businessman, music artist and creator of the famous Reggae Reggae Sauce, took part in an event for youth charity Active Horizons in Bexley on Monday 2nd November 2020. Showing his support for the charity's Young Entrepreneurs Programme, he ran an exclusive online talk with the 17 young people who have taken part in the scheme since the beginning of lockdown, advising and inspiring them in their own business endeavours and giving a Q&A at the end.

Yeukai Taruvinga founded the charity in 2006 to support young people from BME backgrounds from the age of five right up to the end of their school years. She said: "We're honoured that Levi Roots took part in the scheme to encourage and inspire our young entrepreneurs. It's a privilege for us that he's shared his time and allowed the young people to learn directly from his experiences. It helps to validate everything they've done. They've shown such drive and I think his presence is a testament to both their progress and the success of the scheme so far."

"At the start of the social distancing measures, things seemed uncertain for everyone, especially the young people. We needed to help them feel a sense of control over their lives. It was a way for them to engage in a fun but practical programme that helps to envision a positive future, build practical skills and spark their imaginations. 'Positive action' is our philosophy."

Active Horizons runs a number of fun and engaging skills-building programmes designed to teach leadership, civic participation and creative arts. The scheme was the first digital programme run by Active Horizons and helped the youngsters map out their creative business ideas, giving life to their vision through planning, finance, launching and beyond.

Levi Roots, originally from Jamaica, but now a Brixton resident gave his parting advice to the participants of the programme: "Don't undermine your own worth by comparing yourself to others, it's because we are all different why each of us is special. Don't set your goals by what other people deem important because only you know what's best for you. Follow your own self

and thoughts. Respect.”

In March of this year it was estimated that 50 local youngsters were accessing the services of the charity, and since its inception it has served hundreds of young people in the area, some who went on to become mentors of the charity as adults.

Active Horizons runs solely on donations and receives little funding for their valuable work. They've managed to do most of their fundraising through relationship building. If you'd like to help Active Horizons continue with their vital work in inspiring young people, you can donate on their website www.activehorizons.org

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