

The Gary Francis Achievement Award

In recognition of young achievers who
have overcome difficulties to succeed



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Background

Hackney CVS established the Gary Francis Achievement Award in recognition of local young people who achieve against all odds. We use money donated to the Gary Francis Memorial Fund to support the Achievement Award.

Gary Francis worked at Hackney CVS as the Youth Programmes Manager. In his 6 years in the organisation, Gary secured nearly £2m for projects working with disadvantaged young people. Gary was a key figure in the local community and his knowledge and expertise helped to shape the borough's approach to tackling youth crime by ensuring a focus on giving young people opportunities to achieve their best.

What people say about Gary?

"Gary was an absolute one off. From the moment he started work at Hackney CVS I knew he would bring wisdom and professionalism to our organisation. He made a huge difference to the lives of thousands of young people who are often downtrodden by society."

Jake Ferguson, Chief Executive, Hackney CVS

"Gary inspired me to believe that there is nothing in life you cannot achieve so long as you are doing it for the right reasons. I would like everyone to take a leaf out of Gary's book and carry on the fight for those that are disengaged from society to reach for the stars."

Janette Collins, Manager, The Crib Project and long standing friend

What are the aims of the Gary Francis Achievement Award?

The Gary Francis Achievement Award will provide a one off £250 award to young achievers who have overcome difficulties to succeed. Local voluntary and community organisations can nominate a young person they work with for an award. The Gary Francis Achievement Award Panel (which is made up of people from Gary's family, Hackney CVS and local youth projects) will make around 4 awards every year to deserving young people.

The Award Panel and Hackney CVS will ensure that the Award Fund is sustainable by seeking donations from local people and businesses every year by promoting the fund through a range of communication channels and providing easy ways for people to donate. The initial fund was established as a result of a publicity campaign following Gary's sad passing in 2012.

How can you donate to the Fund?

We welcome donations from any person or organisation that supports the aims of the Gary Francis Achievement Awards. If you are interested in making a donation to the fund, please contact our CEO, Jake Ferguson: jake@hcv.org.uk

If you would like to make a donation of £250 or more we will happily add your name to our list of sponsors on our website, in our communications and at the Awards ceremony.

Who is the Gary Francis Achievement Award for?

The award is open to all young people who meet the following criteria:

- Young people aged 16 - 25
- Young people who live or were born in Hackney
- Young people who have overcome a particular difficulty or barrier and then gone on to achieve by making a difference to their life or the lives of others
- Young people who have been enterprising in some way
- The young person has given consent to be nominated by a local voluntary and community organisation and is available to attend the award ceremony on the evening of 27 March.

Here are two examples of what we are looking for:

Darren used to hang around with the E9 gang. Unfortunately, he got involved in drug dealing to finance his mother's care needs. As a result Darren had two spells in prison. Whilst in prison, Darren made the decision he wanted to change and when he got out he started to volunteer with his local youth project and set up his own window cleaning service which provides him with enough income to live on. He now runs workshops at local schools to steer young people away from the negative aspects of gang life.

Makeda had been in and out of care since losing both her parents. At one point Makeda had to do things which she wasn't proud of to make ends meet and lived from time to time on the streets. After getting housed, Makeda got involved in her local housing association and helped out at the older people's luncheon club. Despite a poor experience of education, Makeda has worked hard in her own time to get a place at University where she is studying to become a social worker.

How can you nominate a young person for the Gary Francis Achievement Award work?

If you are a local Hackney voluntary and community organisation you can nominate a young person for the Gary Francis Achievement Award. You will need to complete the survey monkey application form by **Friday 8 March at 11.59 pm**. It's important that you gain the consent from the young person you are nominating for an award. Each local voluntary and community organisation can nominate up to 3 young people for the award.

Click the following link to go to application form:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/garyfrancis_2019

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- What the young person has achieved?
- What barrier or barriers the young person has overcome?
- What plans the young person has for the future?

The award is not a popularity contest. The Award panel will use the criteria above to select 4 of the most deserving candidates.

Award timescale

28 January > Award open for nominations

8 March > Deadline for nominations

18 March > Gary Francis Achievement Award Panel meets

27 March > Awards ceremony

Still got questions about the Fund and need to talk to someone? Please contact:

Jake Ferguson, Chief Executive Officer, Hackney CVS: jake@hcvs.org.uk

Matt Bray, Communications Director, Hackney CVS: matt@hcvs.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7923 1962

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To find out more about Gary and Hackney CVS please visit our website:

www.hcvs.org.uk