

MEET GRACE

FOUNDER

LUMIÈRE ET GRÂCE

MY STORY:

- I am a Congolese-Australian. I arrived in Shepparton with my family in 2006.
- After high school, I completed a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University.
- I have always been creative and interested in starting my own business.



"Our custom made, beautifully scented candles will motivate and inspire others to follow their dreams"

MY BUSINESS:

- We make the most beautiful custom scented candles where the customer can choose the fragrance and style of jar.
- We believe in being environmentally conscious, providing a service to refill your candle jar when it is finished.
- We will offer DIY classes giving our customers the opportunity to learn to make candles themselves.

MY ASPIRATION:

- To inspire women in my community that "it doesn't matter where you are, you can start your own business doing something you love".
- To provide opportunities and employment to other African women.
- To motivate and inspire other multicultural youth that anything is possible.



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MEET ALICE

CO-FOUNDER

AFFIRIA

AFRICAN FASHION

MY STORY:

- I am a Congolese-Australian. I arrived in Shepparton with my family in 2006.
- After high school, I completed a Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe University.
- I have always wanted to own my own business. I love African fashion and textiles.
- Together with my sister Grace, we are creating an African fashion clothing line.



"I have always wanted to give back and this business will enable me to help women in my community with employment and support"

MY BUSINESS:

- I am creating an African fashion clothing line for young females using African fabric, textile and graphics.
- We are embracing the African culture and sharing it through fashion with our community and all of the Australian society.
- I have so much knowledge about African culture, I am well connected to the community and I am a motivated person with a business & marketing background.

MY ASPIRATION:

- To have our own African clothing and fabric line and a store to showcase our products.
- To create an inclusive fashion business for women of all backgrounds, shapes and sizes.
- To use this business to provide employment and opportunities for women in my community.



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MEET PROVIDENCE

FOUNDER

UNIC PLASTERING & CONSTRUCTION

MY STORY:

- My heritage is Burundian. My family migrated to Tanzania where I was born in a refugee camp.
- My mother's twin sister was already in Shepparton. I came with my family to join them.
- I arrived in Australia in 2010 and went to school in Shepparton.



"In a refugee camp, you're moving around so much - you can't even build a house. You are living in a tent, with water dripping - that's no way to live. By doing the work I do, I can give other people comfortable living"

MY BUSINESS:

- The name stands for You (U) and (N) I Constructions and is pronounced 'unique', spelled out uniquely.
- I am a qualified plasterer working on renovations and newly built homes.
- "It is more than a business to me, it's a challenge. I put a lot of love into it. Some people think of it as just a house but you are bringing something to life. Making a house a home."

MY ASPIRATION:

- To continue learning all I can about construction.
- To see my UNIC name on the boards out the front of high rise buildings in Melbourne.
- To have contractors giving me work and have a couple of people working with me.
- To help my friends who get stuck in life and others who have been through what I have by getting them a job so that they can help themselves.



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MEET NYAKIIR

AFRICAN RESTAURANT & CATERING

MY STORY:

- I am Dinka.
- I grew up in South Sudan and I now live in Shepparton.
- I have been living in Australia for 4 years. My husband has been here for 14 years.



"This business will represent our community and this is important because there aren't a lot of other South Sudanese businesses in the Goulburn Valley"

MY BUSINESS:

- Together with my husband, we would like to open an African restaurant and catering business specialising in South Sudanese traditional and cultural food.
- We will have sweets like Zalabiya - South Sudanese donuts served with honey and coconut and Quindiong - a custard dish made with semolina.
- We will attract people from Africa and the Middle East but will be for all people.

MY ASPIRATION:

- To expand in the future to provide other foods.
- To employ other people through our business.
- To be a role model for other Africans and young people. "We want to be an example for them. They will want to follow our footprint."



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MEET ARTI

FOUNDER

COMMUNICATE WITH CONFIDENCE -ACCENT MODIFICATION PROGRAM

MY STORY:

- I was born and raised in Kenya.
- I am a practicing Speech Pathologist working with children in the Primary School setting.
- I have always been and still am fascinated by accents.
- Throughout my childhood, I have been curious about my own accent and how it has been modified in the past 14 years (since living in Australia).



"I want to create a ripple effect. If I can help someone have a voice, then that will create a voice for someone else and so on. This is for all generations."

MY BUSINESS:

- My service begins with creating awareness of the accent and how it comes across to others.
- We look at how to pronounce the words, breaking it all down into sounds, and learning about what the brain does when it detects an accent.
- The service is not to change the accent but to neutralise it without removing the personality or altering the cultural identity.

MY ASPIRATION:

- To break down communication barriers, raise awareness and give people an opportunity to have a voice.
- To educate people on the need to tune into accents and how it can be done. This would be an important element of cultural competency in workplaces and functional interactions.
- Communication is a Human Right! I aspire to advocate for this right to the best of my ability. Having the confidence to communicate with true intent has the potential to change one's quality of life.



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MEET FRANCINE

FOUNDER

GLORY SHOP

MY STORY:

- My name is Furaha which means 'joy'. People also call me Francine.
- I am originally from Congo and my tribe is Mushi.
- I have been living in Australia for two years.
- I spent 16 years in Uganda before coming to Australia. I learnt the skills to prepare fish there.



"Sometimes people are stressed because they can't find traditional foods. I can help to reduce their stress and trauma by getting them the food they need."

MY BUSINESS:

- Is called Glory Shop because I see the glory of God in my life everyday.
- Provides fresh, smoked, salty and dried fish. It is a very popular food in African cuisine.
- I buy the fresh fish and prepare it by hand using traditional methods. You can choose the type of fish and how you would like it prepared.
- Is unique as I am the only one in Victoria who can prepare fish in this way.

MY ASPIRATION:

- In the future I want to expand my products to include palm oil, semolina and spices that we have in Africa.
- To continue to grow my business by having team of people to help me. My team members will need the same heart as me and want to help people.
- I want to empower people through Glory Shop by teaching women the skills of how to prepare traditional foods.



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MEET TEMI

ROYAL T'S LUXURY EVENTS & DESIGN

MY STORY:

- I am from Nigeria, West Africa. My tribe is Yoruba.
- I have been living in Australia for seven years. I have always lived in Shepparton.
- My family moved here first and I followed.
- I am a nurse.



"I love it because when clients get to enjoy the holiday or event, I planned it and I can enjoy that "

MY BUSINESS:

- I fell in love with the idea of being an event planner through planning my friends' holidays.
- Is designed around meeting people's needs. I'm passionate about bringing out ideas people have in their heads and making them come to life through events.
- I can plan many events including weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, fashion parades, promotional and cultural events.

MY ASPIRATION:

- I want people to remember my brand, and know that I can plan successful events and that I am affordable.
- To give back to my community by promoting and using other businesses through the events I plan.
- To one day take my business back to Nigeria and other places abroad and plan events there.



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