

Make it Happen case studies

Tez Cabrera – aged 19 from Norwich

Model maker Tez has suffered with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome for 13 years, a condition which has prevented her ability to study or work. However recently she has managed to fund a home tutor for one hour a month, and has been able to develop her talents in model making and photography.

Her artwork is something Tez has been able to manage from home, and her ambition is now to continue to develop her skills to a professional level and promote and sell her products online.

Tez has received funding through 'Make it Happen' in order for her to purchase a professional SLR camera, develop her website and continue to receive tutoring, which will now focus on her end goal.

She will learn how to use her camera to photograph the polymer clay and textile models that she makes to a high standard, and will be able to create a website where she can sell models, prints of the models, and the original paintings they were based on.

The funding will make a significant difference to Tez's life and career in this field through this one-off grant that will help her to turn her talent and ambition into a future reality.

Jess Morgan – aged 24 from Norwich

Singer and songwriter Jess Morgan has achieved a significant amount already in her field. She has supported Benjamin Taylor during three gigs in October and has been championed by BBC Radio DJ Steve Lamacq.

Jess is committed to developing her talent with little or no support to date, by working voluntarily as a community musician, writing for well-known music magazines and most recently releasing her own E.P. on her own record label, all on her own time and budget.

She has identified that, in order to progress her career and make a long-term difference to her song writing, she will need to engage and learn directly from the American folk song writing culture to which her music belongs.

The funding that Jess has received through 'Make it Happen' scheme will enable Jess to embark on an 18 night journey through the east coast of America to meet fellow musicians, share her writing with them and perform her British folk-inspired music to an American audience.

This one-off experience will help Jess to improve her writing and creation of songs in a meaningful way and in her continued work as a community musician and, eventually, as a qualified Music Teacher.

Simon Rowley – aged 43 from Bowthorpe

Cyclist Simon has been a member of the Breckland Special Olympics Club for five years. He is dedicated to his sport and has taken part in many cycling events, including the Regional Championships and fundraiser rides for people with autism, a condition with which he suffers.

Simon was identified for his drive, ability and stamina, and was selected to represent the Eastern Region at the Special Olympics National Summer Games in Leicester in July 2009.

Held every four years, these Games provide Olympic sports competitions for athletes with learning disabilities, with over 2,700 athletes representing 19 regions across the UK.

This one-off grant allowed Simon to compete in the Games, with his key worker present to help him train and develop his confidence and awareness in doing this.

As a result of this experience, Simon now has a positive focus in his life and is able to channel his energy into training and competing, and in turn means that he less frequently displays challenging behaviour and frustration. He is now able to get involved in his community through his sport in a productive way.