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Homeless residents show star quality at Caritas Anchor House awards

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Music, laughter and celebrations were the theme of the night at the annual Caritas Anchor House Awards Ceremony yesterday. There was a fantastic turn out to the event as people gathered together to mark the hard work and achievements of the homeless charity's residents, staff members and partners.

The evening started with musical performances given by students from the East London Arts and Music academy, followed by a touching rendition of 'True Traveller', an original song by Miss Jacqui's based on the life story of a Caritas Anchor House resident.

The audience were then treated to the debut of Canning Town Funk, a video made by staff and residents to capture the feeling of camaraderie and enjoyment that is an essential part of the Caritas Anchor House community.

Keith Fernett, CEO of Caritas Anchor House, then praised the achievements of all the residents over the past year, and was delighted to present over 50 residents with certificates for their hours spent volunteering, with special awards going to Joseph, Valerie, Elzbieta, Sandra, Olive, Shane, Robert and Thomas, who have been especially active in the volunteering programme.

The award for Most Inspirational Resident was given to Yahye for his constant perseverance and positive attitude, whilst Best Contribution to Caritas Anchor House was won by former resident and current staff member Sharon. Education, Training and Employment resident of the Year was awarded to Carol, and Community Partner of the Year went to the Tower Hamlets and Newham branch Mind.

"We're proud and honoured to have won this award," said Shahan, who picked up the award along with colleagues Kamal and David. "Together we can help improve the lives of people in Newham."

"The specialist benefits service Mind provides has been outstanding and they have helped advocate for so many of our residents to ensure they get the benefits they need and are entitled to," said Keith Fernett. "The awards night is an evening of celebration and it was wonderful to see such a great turn out to support our award winners."

For more information visit www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk



Keith Fernett (CEO), Yahye (Winner of Most Inspirational Resident), Linda Maytum-Wilson (Operations Director)