



December 2016

## Dear Supporter

The holiday season is fast approaching so high time we updated you.

### Our Customer numbers are increasing

We have reached a significant milestone – over 100 customers!

### Growing Points Plus



We are still working with the Family Independence Initiative on setting up a programme to work with low income families in the UK. ([www.FII.org](http://www.FII.org)).

We are continuing our search for funding for this programme and if you know of an organisation who might help please contact Jane Rennie, the Director at [jane@growingpoints.co.uk](mailto:jane@growingpoints.co.uk)

*There is good evidence that this self help approach works. Consistently, average incomes increase by more than 20% within two years of enrolment. Household savings go up, debt goes down and children do better at school. (FII Newsletter November 2015)*

**We have plans to pilot this in Leeds and Sheffield in the New Year – so watch this space!**

### Update on Hidden Talents

We are preparing for our next enrolment of clinical support workers at Leeds Teaching Hospitals in the New Year. There will be two in 2017. We had a great day at the City of Sanctuary in Leeds.....



And we had Gill Chapman the Lead Nurse for the programme at Leeds Teaching Hospitals inspiring the potential candidates!



**Diako, one of the successful candidates for the 2016 programme says:**

*“Just letting you know that the appointment at hospital went very well it was successful I even measure the uniform now I'm waiting for the DBS check to go through so that I can*



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*start the job as soon as possible me and my family we will like to say a big thank you for your support hopefully I will see you soon“*

**Growing Points is immensely proud to have been able to help her achieve her ambition to work in the NHS.**

The Guardian has also recognised the value of the Hidden Talents programme and recently did an article on it:

[Guardian Article October 2016 - Brits helping refugees help Britain](#)

**We are immensely grateful to Aster Nadege and Diako who were brave enough to share some of their story.**

*We are now working with Sheffield Teaching Hospital to set up our programme there too and we have plans to roll this out as part of our new national offer for refugees in 2017.*

Huge thanks in particular to our partners - the City of Sanctuary, Health Education England and the NHS for helping us to make this fantastic programme work.

**Is there no end to our customers' talents!  
Here is a review of a play in which one of our customers starred...**



*"Tanja" a play about the effect of the UK's detention system on women seeking asylum has recently completed a tour of a number of venues in England? The production featured Emily Ntshangase-Wood ) who spent many months at the Yarl's Wood detention centre.*

*The play is an intense and powerful story about the experience of asylum seekers who having fled abuse in their own country, must endure the crushing processes of the UK's immigration system.*

*The play which was a joint production of Strawberry Blonde Curls Theatre Group and City of Sanctuary. The tour included Sheffield, London and Manchester and an extract of the play was also performed in the House of Commons during Sanctuary Week. Emily had to juggle her role in the play with her course in social work at Bradford University which began during the tour.*

*Front and centre of the play is the powerful performance of Emily Ntshangase-Wood as Tanja. Her depiction of her life in her country of origin, her bid for freedom, and her encounter with the detention system conveys her vulnerability and bewilderment, but also her determination. The play also allowed Emily to demonstrate her beautiful singing voice.*



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## **New National Offer from Growing Points**

From the New Year we plan to roll out our offer to refugees across the country working in partnership with the City of Sanctuary and the NHS. The programme has three strands:

1. Growing Points where we offer our professional networks to people with ambition so that they can realise their dreams.
2. Hidden Talents where we can offer the chance to train as a clinical healthcare support worker – training for a year and obtaining a levell2 Diploma in Clinical Healthcare Support – which is recognised throughout the NHS. This is also the first rung on the ladder towards becoming a nurse or a midwife.
3. Growing Points Plus – working with low income families to help lift themselves out of poverty. We plan to set this up in Leeds and Sheffield first and then roll it out across local communities- *over the next three years we will have helped at least 2000 people.*

## **Growing Points Associates**

We have recognised the achievements of two of our customers by appointing them as Associates of the charity and they will work with us in the future in a range of areas; acting as role models and ambassadors for Growing Points. It is our intention that people we have helped will become people who help! Congratulations to Sufyan and Abyiot.

## **Guardians**

We are always looking for more Guardians as our customer base increases! Guardians share their professional networks with customers giving them opportunities they would never normally be offered.

***If you feel that you would like to contribute to our work in any way please do not hesitate to contact***

***jane@growingpoints.co.uk or  
Dick@growingpoints.co.uk***

## **Trustees**

In September we said goodbye to Steph Palmerone who was one of our original Trustees and who played a huge part in our launch two years ago. We are immensely grateful for her contribution to our success.

## **And finally.....**

**Everyone at Growing Points would like to thank you for your continuing support and we wish you a very Happy Holiday.**