



mylahore
BRITISH ASIAN KITCHEN

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2023



#PuttingOthersFirst

On a bright 15th January 2020, Prince William and Princess Kate visited MyLahore Bradford to celebrate togetherness and community spirit. It was an incredible occasion, and we wanted to mark the anniversary of their visit with something special...

So each year since then, we've asked for nominations to seek out everyday hidden gems who've been going above and beyond in the previous twelve months or so, and thank them in our own small way with £100 MyLahore E-Gift Cards.

After a tough selection process, we're thrilled to share in this little booklet snippets of stories of some of our wonderful 2023 Community Champions (a few wished to remain anonymous). We hope you find these tales of #PuttingOthersFirst as moving as we do.

Thank you once again to all our Champions, to all the other many people nominated, to those who took the time to make nominations, and of course to the Prince and Princess for inspiring this idea!

With love, MyLahore





COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2023

#withlovelyahore

Zeeshan, Bradford

What's been said about Zeeshan:

“Zeeshan's gone above and beyond his role. My children were both socially awkward, lacking in confidence and didn't have any trust. Zeeshan helped them fit into his class, encouraging other students to welcome them and help them feel included rather than isolated. He's taken my foster son and daughter to taekwondo and kickboxing tournaments and competitions when I've been unable to. He's instilled belief and confidence and been so patient. My foster children started as white belts and are currently blue stripe and due to Zeeshan's wonderful training my son recieved first place in regional and national tournaments. He couldn't do this without such a dedicated instructor. Zeeshan works hard for the NHS and after long shifts he puts on classes at such a cheap rate, ensuring that everyone can afford to go. He's so dedicated and committed to helping his students. I can't think of anyone more committed and hardworking without receiving the recognition he truly deserves.”

“Zeeshan is an inspirational man who teaches self defence classes in our community. He has taught me boxing, kick boxing and taekwondo for many years. During this time, I have seen the way he is a role models for all kids and adults. He instils discipline and is not just a teacher but a good friend for all. If you meet this guy you know.”

“Because he has taught me taekwondo and helped me gain confidence, strength and discipline - skills that I would need for my life. He has given me his 110% effort and I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for my teacher.”



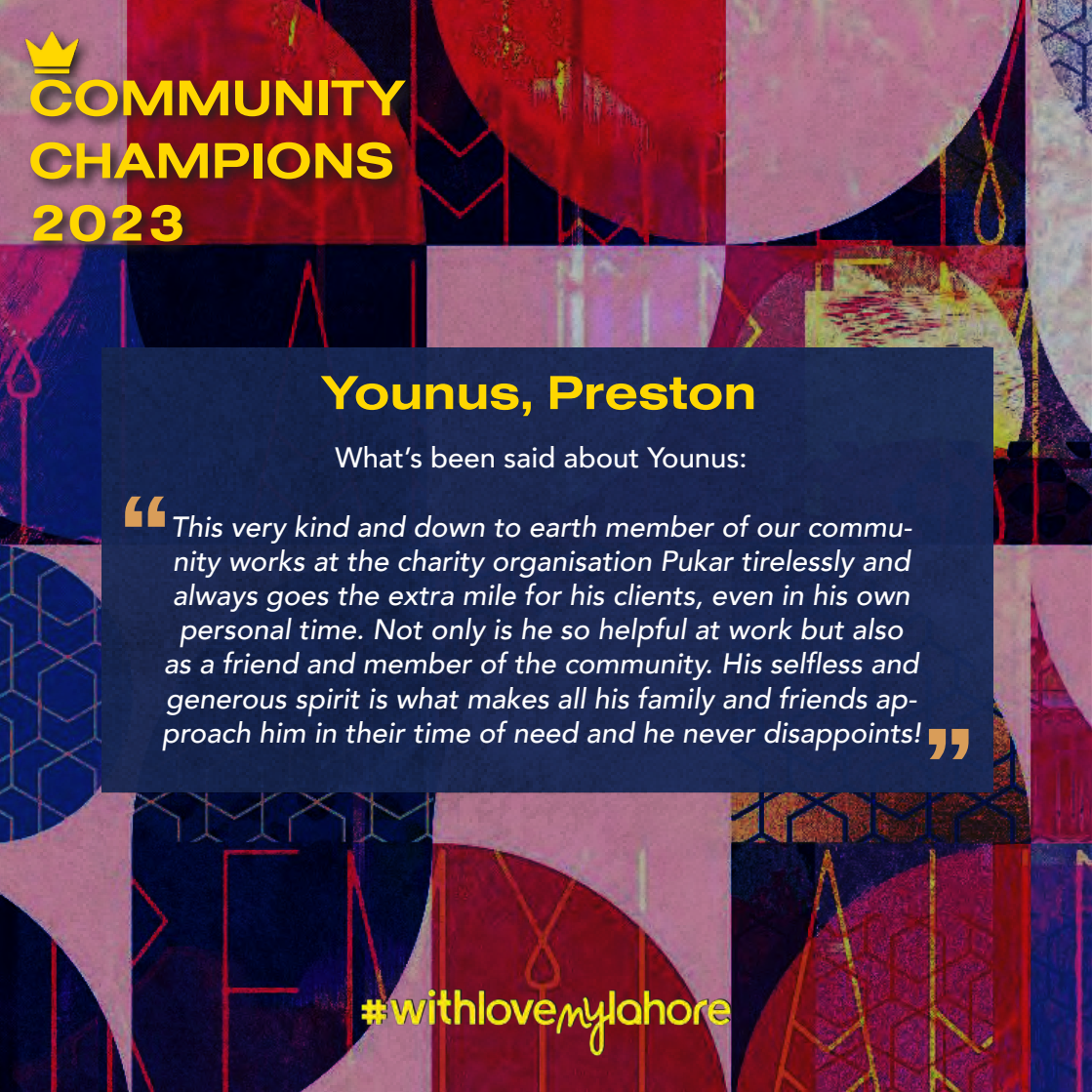
COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS 2023

#withlovelahore

Andy, Bradford

What's been said about Andy:

“Working tirelessly for the children of Bradford, training them for Wyke Wanderers. Created a female team of under 7s girls, has the patience of a saint with the girls, and has brought them on so far! Voluntary work in this cold, dark and damp weather, and making it look like he is loving life is an amazing achievement. I would love to say thank you from all the parents of the children he has coached.”



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Younus, Preston

What's been said about Younus:

“This very kind and down to earth member of our community works at the charity organisation Pukar tirelessly and always goes the extra mile for his clients, even in his own personal time. Not only is he so helpful at work but also as a friend and member of the community. His selfless and generous spirit is what makes all his family and friends approach him in their time of need and he never disappoints!”

#withlovelahore

Mrs Jan-Ahmed, Manchester

What's been said about Mrs Jan-Ahmed:

“She goes above and beyond for the children she teaches. She works in a school for special needs children and has always made sure they get the same chances and right to education as children without disabilities. She had been a teacher for 20+ years and always goes above and beyond, does extra hours, and contributes from her own pocket to ensure the children have the best school life.”



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#withlovenylahore

Ghazala, Birmingham

What's been said about Ghazala:

“Ghazala works full time alongside bringing up her 3 boys as a single mum. She also cares for her grandma & most recently her mum who has mobility issues. She works tirelessly and never complains and goes over and beyond for everyone. She will always put others first & make them feel important and special. Ghazala is a very special person & loved and respected by everyone but needs far more appreciation & recognition. Can't think of a better nominee for this. Thank you.”



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#withlovemyLahore

Sajid, Leeds

What's been said about Sajid:

“Always puts himself before everyone else, never fails to make us all smile. He is driven and committed, always going through with his goals and succeeding, sets a high bar for all of my cousins and uncles. He started off the chain of mechanics in the family, starting his own garage in the process and he has managed to build a respectable name for himself. I love him so much and I am so proud of hearing people talk of how far he has come in life. Alhamdulillah, blessed to have him.”



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Anonymous, Blackburn

What's been said:

“Where do I begin? My mum has worked tirelessly day in day out around the past 40 years to serve our community. She runs a local shop in East Lancashire. Opening 7:30-8am every morning and closing late 10:30-11pm. She would wake up every day before opening for a quick cash 'n' carry run and would be back in time for the locals to pick up their daily essentials. This all done with a smile on her face and without any education. My mum once told me she taught herself how to add up by watching the egg man write down sums on a sheet of paper. I found that so cute Ma sha Allah.

#withlovelyahore

My mum fell ill in November 2021 and she did not want a soul to know this and kept it under tabs while she was going through treatment. Even while going through treatment, my mum would still run the shop. Not with all that strength as before, but she still ran the shop to keep customers happy, as customers would ask for her on the days she went for her treatment. Alhamdulillah after months of agonising treatment, my mum is doing well and has been told her condition is now stable Alhamdulillah.

She is still currently running the shop to this day, forever keeping the customers happy at the tender age of 69. I promise you none of this is made up. My mum would absolutely kill me for telling you all this. But she deserves to be treated more than once in a while as she isn't just my hero but she is the silent hero of the entire community. From the mothers who ran out of milk, to the people who buy snacks before work, to the students who attend the local school, to the men who like a treat in the evening and so many more I just cannot list.

I don't live with my mum anymore but I do remember people knocking on the shutter door extremely early before we opened for their emergency supplies. And mum would never complain, and she would quickly whip her scarf on and lift the shutter to attend to their needs.

There is so much I can tell you about my mum but I'll leave it here for now. I just know if you tried ringing her to tell her she won a prize she would probably hang up thinking it's a company calling to sell something. Hope that doesn't stop you from trying to contact her. I'll leave it here for now. As my fingers would hurt typing more and more things about why my mum is more than worthy of winning.”



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#withlovelyahore

Azhar, Bradford

What's been said about Azhar:

“He has set up his own tuition centre for students in Bradford called Prosper Academy. It's unique because he is a qualified science teacher and has built his own science lab for kids to practically learn. Although he is my brother I do wholeheartedly believe he goes above and beyond for his students, many times he has cancelled his own family time to help a student, he has gone over to their house to give them extra one to one even though he has his own centre. He is selfless when it comes to teaching his students and will go all out in welcoming them and treating them as royal guests, one example being he has a fridge stocked with bottled water and drinks for the kids to help themselves when they come, snacks and tea free for them to have whilst studying. He makes the atmosphere a very pleasing one for the future generation. He buys stationery from his own money so the kids don't have to worry about pens and pencils, and he does that and much more without pride or asking anything in return. There's very few people left in the world who will do an act of service without any payback and quietly get on with helping the next generation without recognition.”

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#withlovemylahore

Lily, Bradford

What's been said about Lily:

“Lil goes above and beyond for the local community. Despite it being her job she works endlessly to make sure she provides one way or another for everybody. Totally dedicated to make sure she not only helps but tries to get involved somehow with the people and charity that asks her for help. Anyone can just approach her and she does absolutely everything in her power to provide something for everyone.”

Anonymous, Manchester

What's been said:

“ I would like to nominate my friend. She is a young business owner who bakes and cooks for small events. Not only does she donate 10% of her profits to charities but donates as much food as she can to food banks around Manchester and hand delivers them to homeless people around the city centre. When she started her business, it took a lot of time for it to get known but that didn't stop her from donating back to the community and helping out. Now she has the recognition she deserves and she would be grateful to receive this voucher. ”

#withlovelahore

Misba, Derby

What's been said about Misba:

“ Misba is the founder of a registered charity called Evergreen Collective and has been working to provide opportunities for the female BAME community. Misba has arranged and led many community based initiatives including health and wellbeing activities that cater for marginalised female communities and also provided essential packs for the homeless, meals for the disadvantaged and community cohesion initiatives such as the 'Gift of Ramadan' project which encourages non-Muslims to fast in the month of Ramadan. Her dedication and hard work has inspired other females in the locality to take leadership roles within the charity and to follow their passions and dreams and she is now in the process of creating a community safe space for women in Derby. Misba has worked very hard to make the charity a success and no doubt will continue to do so. ”



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#withlovelahore

Rashid, Bradford

What's been said about Rashid:

“Rashid helps people in the library, especially if someone comes for the first time. He goes way beyond his normal work for each and every person. He speaks very gently to them with so much love and respect it is unbelievable. I witnessed this first hand when using the library. He contacts other people/services for those people in need. I believe the library is well-used due to his presence and listening and helping people from all backgrounds and circumstances.”



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#withlovemyLahore

Zafar, Bradford

What's been said about Zafar:

“Zafar Bhai is an incredible man who became a yoga instructor in his 60s as he was doing this himself for many years, and decided to teach and volunteer his time online from the start of the pandemic. As well as his continued online platform...he now teaches and volunteers at various places across Bradford including Islam Bradford, Umar Mosque, Tong Recovery College, BEAP for our older men in the community. He also dedicates his Saturday morning to a walk at Lister Park, where over 20 grandads join to walk. Zafar kindly brings desi tea and snacks for all to enjoy at the end.”

A VERY BRITISH ASIAN STORY...



Although MyLahore opened its doors in 2002, the truth is that its foundations were laid many decades earlier.

In 1964, two men, like many other first generation British Asians, migrated to these wonderful shores with little formal education and a mere five pounds in their pockets. What they did possess was a hunger and willingness to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

Farman Ali (pictured top left) and Mohammed Farooq (pictured bottom left) embarked respectively on a journey of twelve hour shifts in the textile mills of Yorkshire, and seven days a week driving buses around the streets of Bradford. Their hard work and dedication started to pay off, and eventually they plucked up the courage to buy a sweet shop that they started to run with the help of their families.



Confidence and momentum grew, and in 1984 they took the bold step of buying a restaurant. Fuelled by the support of other family members and their own young children, they soon began to enjoy the fruits of their entrepreneurial spirit.

One of the most fundamental lessons they taught was:

***‘Treat others the way you would like
to be treated yourself...’***

A philosophy that MyLahore holds onto to this day.

Their strong values, unified spirit and togetherness created a culture that allowed their families to excel both in practical business experience and education.

The children developed aspirations to follow in the footsteps of their fathers and decided to open a restaurant too, though with a difference and their own fresh thinking.

MyLahore was born.

“We at MyLahore say a heartfelt ‘Thank You’ to our parents and all those pioneering first generation migrants who lived by strong family values and worked tirelessly to lay the foundations for future generations to flourish and prosper. We know that we are standing on the shoulders of giants. We hope we can always make you proud...”



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