Hogan Lovells

Stephen Addison
BoxUpCrime

BoxUpCrime is a social youth organisation operating out of London. They work with young people at risk of having their lives ruined by crime and motivate them to rebuild and recapture their dreams and aspirations. They believe that every young person is entitled to a bright future, inspired by their hopes and dreams, regardless of their background. They deliver tailored sessions to schools, Pupil Referral Units and community centres across London. In their weekly sessions, they offer a foundation of discipline through engaging boxing training, educational programmes and mentoring. They provide young people job opportunities and apprenticeships as a stepping stone to their future.

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What inspires you to do what you do?

The two things that inspire me to what I do is Transformation and Pain, seeing young people transform from living a negative lifestyle to living a positive lifestyle keeps me inspired and motivated. Young people are not born drug dealers, murders or any of the sort it's their upbringing and surroundings that misguides them. Seeing young people transform over a period of time into leaders and positive role models is most inspiring. Pain reminds you in a harsh way why you exist, why you wake up in the morning and choose to live a selfless life rather than a selfish life. Going to my first funeral of a 14 year old boy who was murdered and hearing the screams of his mother as they buried him has never left me till this day. When I feel drained, when I feel demotivated Transformation and pain inspires me to carry on.

What do you want to see change?

I want to see young people growing up in deprivation win. in order for that to happen what needs to change is the accessibility of life changing opportunities in the hood, Kids growing up in more affluent areas have a catalogue of opportunities at their disposal, however it is not the same for kids growing up in the hood. Young people shouldn't have to depend on organizations like boxupcrime to provide life changing opportunities. This should be normal and accessible the same way it is normal and accessible for kids living in more affluent areas.

One lesson for people thinking about starting their own enterprise / organisation?

When starting to embark on the journey of setting up your own enterprise it is imperative for you to have the combination of purpose and passion in order for you to have meaning. Every enterprise or organization needs to have meaning without it there is no substance. Purpose & Passion = Meaning

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