Tanya: The Wandering Teapot is a social enterprise that has been able to employee six young people.

Melissa: We were looking at those young people that really did need support; that really needed somebody that's going to give them a job.

Melissa: Then the Dignity First grant came available and helped us to be able to continue that valuable service.

Melissa: This funding does not just give people a job. It actually gives them hope and can change their world.

Mollie: I became homeless. I had a rough path with anxiety and depression.

Nate: My life got pretty hectic. I couch surfed quite a while.

Shontay: And didn't think I had any hope finding a job, until my job provider asked me one day if I wanted to work in the cafe.

Nate: And yeah, it's been different ever since.

Nate: While I'm working in the cafe I worked behind the cash register, so it's an important role for me because having money… it's a big trust.

Shontay: I never knew nothing about making coffee before I started here. I feel like I've been supported from the very start.

Tanya: We formed partnerships with a lot of the cafes around town to be able to find young people jobs and then connect them straight into a business.

Mollie: I want our coffee shop to be a place where people don't just come in and go, “Oh, I'll get a coffee from there because it's a community centre.” No, I want people to be like, “Oh, we're actually going to go there because it's a good coffee.”

Mollie: I think since being here my confidence has just built so much.

Nate: I was in my worst of times, but yeah, since coming and working at the Neighbourhood Centre and then The Wandering Teapot I've picked up a lot of new skills and became a better person.

Tanya: The Dignity First funding has made a huge difference in actually setting up the initial seed funding for these projects, and without that, we wouldn't have been able to make them sustainable social enterprises.

Melissa: Dignity first does actually sum it up. It's giving them some dignity; it's giving them that chance to turn things around. It means a chance to change their lives; it means a chance to break the cycle.