

BUSTA'S PERSON OF THE WEEK

Forsyth County Entertainers Awards revived with purpose

BY BUSTA BROWN
THE CHRONICLE

Ellen Denise Leak had a vision to become a resource that supports and guides the many entrepreneurs and individuals in the arts and entertainment industry, and she's quickly becoming that resource.

In 2011 she founded the FCEA (Forsyth County Entertainers Awards).

"Most artists, entertainers feel that they are not appreciated. They feel no one notices them. They feel that their talent is small. I am on a mission to change that mindset," a very excited Ellen Leak said.

The first awards ceremony was in 2012 with roughly 100 people in attendance. In just one year the 2013 FCEA (Forsyth County Entertainers Awards) grew to nearly

1,000 people in attendance. It was held at Millennium Center in downtown Winston-Salem, with pro-



Leak

ceeds going to Aids Care Service.

"I was so excited to share my gifts to make a difference in the lives of others," said Leak. God continued blessing Leak in 2014 with an attendance of nearly 2,000 people. Leak dedicated her efforts to

raising money for the youth organization Authoring Action. The nonprofit has given out



An example of an award given at the Forsyth County Entertainers Awards is shown.

over 125 entertainment awards and 20 nonprofit or individual achievement awards.

FCEA has truly been an inspiration to awardees,



Submitted photos

Shown are 2014 award winners at the Millennium Center.

like Will "EJ" Furches, who was unsure of his skills until he won the Food Service award in 2012. Leak was proud to share his success. "Now he is a registered company in N.C. and serves the Triad with his delicious cakes." Latisha Hood-Carter won the "dancer" award in 2013 and was inspired to start her own dance company called Renea's Modern Dancers. Chris Parker aka VoKal has started touring since his "Pop Artist Award" in 2012, and Tyler Hickman won the

Videographer award in 2014 and that pushed him to go back to school to perfect his craft. Leak said when she notifies the nominees, "they either scream, cry or express gratitude."

The bad news is after many health and financial complications, Leak and her organization had to take a break. The good news is it's 2018 and the FCEA (Forsyth County Entertainers Awards) is back! The fourth annual awards program will be Sunday, July 8, at 5 p.m. at Winston-Salem Coliseum

Annex. Red Carpet begins at 4:30 p.m.

For more info, visit www.fceawards.com.

"I feel that God charged me to make sure that this particular set of people are encouraged and motivated to keep pushing. These entertainers are amazing. They are under-rated, unappreciated and some are confused on their next move. I am here to give them the pat on the back that they deserve."

Cam's Coffee Co. looks to expand

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Young entrepreneur Camden Myers last summer said his dream was to one day be bigger than Starbucks in the world of coffee. Although Cam's name isn't as popular as Starbucks just yet, last week Cam's Coffee Co. (Cam's Coffee Creations) took a giant step in that direction when the company launched a crowdfunding campaign, which will fund a new location downtown.

Cam's Coffee Co. started out as

just something to do on Saturdays but it quickly turned into a thriving business.

According to his mother, Latasha Barr, Cam, who suffers from a traumatic brain injury (TBI), quickly fell in love with coffee and decided he wanted to help others with disabilities as well by giving them an opportunity to work.

And Cam's Coffee Co. was born.

After launching as a pop-up shop for the past few months, Cam's has called the Green Street

Community Center home, but, with the addition of six part-time employees and the growing popularity of the brand, Cam's has practically outgrown the space located on South Broad Street.

The goal for the crowdfunding campaign is \$18,800 and will cover start-up costs for expansion, including hiring six new employees, a dedicated trainer, and the cost to move to a kiosk downtown. Cam is also hoping to expand the services his business provides for people with disabilities into other locations outside of Forsyth

County.

At the time of publication Cam's Coffee Co. raised \$3,648 from 50 different supporters.

For more information on the crowdfunding campaign or to make a donation, visit www.indiegogo.com and type "Cam's" in the search bar or type <http://bit.ly/Everydayheroes>.

You can also make a donation by stopping by Cam's, 918 S. Broad St. The hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Last week Cam's Coffee Co. launched a crowdfunding campaign, which will help fund a new location in downtown Winston-Salem.

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