



Raul's Story - A Cut Above

The Beginning:

Raul first connected with Lizzy, Community Builder at Oblong through helping out at the Woodhouse Community Centre lunch club. Making new connections through the centre and growing in confidence, Raul shared with the Community Builder that he previously worked as a barber. Raul's immigration status prevents him from working formally, but he wanted to find a way that he could give back to the local community.

Raul shared with the Community Builder that he would like to be able to offer free haircuts to those who may not be able to afford this. It was important for Raul that he could do something to help people feel good about themselves, especially for those struggling financially. With the help of some small sparks to purchase barbering equipment, Raul started to offer haircuts at the centre during its food and fuel clinic.

"You've got a really great thing going on here."

Woodhouse Community Centre visitor



The Journey:

In the first week, Raul cut three people's hair. Over the weeks, word spread about Raul's barbering and more and more people were coming to see him to have their hair cut. Raul reached out to a local woman with hairdressing experience, inviting her to join him and expand the service to include women's haircuts. Being able to use his skills and provide a service to the local community has boosted Raul's confidence and given him a sense of control over his own situation, despite the challenges he has faced with his immigration status.

The popularity of Raul's haircuts and his passion for providing a service to the local community led to the decision to continue the drop-in sessions every Monday, which Raul began advertising with flyers.

The Impact:

The haircut sessions have become more than just a service, they spark conversations and connections between people at the centre and have created a welcoming space that aims to give people facing difficult times a sense of pride and dignity.

What started as an idea from Raul as to how he could use his gifts to give something back, grew into a sustainable community offering, so that both hairdressing and barbering services could be offered to local people.

Raul has helped people feel good about themselves during challenging times, whilst reclaiming a sense of purpose and pride in his own abilities; despite the barriers he faces.

FREE HAIR CUTS DROP-IN

@ WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, LS6 2NY



PLEASE ARRIVE WITH CLEAN HAIR

**EVERY MONDAY
10-12PM**

Watermark

