

# THE STORIES: YETUNDE



First name: **YETUNDE**

Last name: **AWOSANYA**

Age: **37**

Country of origin: **NIGERIA**

Living in **Ireland** since: **2014**

## SHORT SUMMARY

Yetunde was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She grew up with her parents and siblings, her father was an engineer who worked for a popular construction company called Julius Barger.

As a child Yetunde recognised and understood her parents were very hard working and independent, and this is where her strength comes from. As a child Yetunde was a performer, an outspoken person, she could dance, sing, act and venture into inspiring things that would make people around her, like her. She knew right back there and then what she wanted and went for it. She studied creative Arts in the University of Lagos Nigeria, obtaining a BSA in Art and a Theatre Major. Yetunde moved on to working with a fashion designer called Odio Mimonet in Victoria Island Lagos to gain experience, this was her first job. After this she left and began an apprenticeship with a good friend of her's who believed business is business. She was a makeup artist and she inspired and encouraged Yetunde to push harder and strive hard in the makeup industry to be better. Yetunde learned a lot from Ara-oge Makeovers.

**"THE ZEAL IN ME MADE ME REALISE I CAN ALWAYS BE BETTER."**

## SETTLING IN IRELAND – TEACHING & LEARNING

Yetunde came to Ireland and sought asylum (she had to leave Nigeria for safety reasons) in 2014. She was taken to County Cork (Millstreet), she was not happy at first, but the zeal in her made her realise she can always be better anywhere she found herself.

Yetunde picked herself up and approached a community worker who was working with KASI. She told him what she could do and that she was willing to volunteer herself to teach others 'Makeup and Beauty' in the hostel in County Cork where she was staying. The makeup class was funded by KASI with materials for the class to proceed. She started teaching the other women in the direct provision centre in Millstreet Co. Cork.

Yetunde gained great experience during her teaching practice. During her teaching time she was also also doing a QQI level 5 in pre-nursing for a year in McEgan College Macroom County Cork. After finishing her course she asked for a transfer to Mosney Direct Provision Centre, Mosney, County Meath.

## SETTLING IN MOSNEY – MY ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

When she got to Mosney she approached the management of Mosney Direct Provision Center and told them what she could do and how she could deliver her knowledge to others. They were very interested in her ideas about opening a Beauty Salon in the Mosney Center and the management there were very encouraging.

**It makes me happy that I put a smile on someone's face.**

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She raised a 'go fund me' initiative and through this, a lot of people from different walks of life inspired her by donating and encouraging her. She was very happy and excited when RTE (Irish National Broadcaster) journalist Phillip Bromwell saw her go fund me page and gave her a call for an interview about her idea. This gave her even more encouragement and welcome publicity!

The justice department of Ireland also approved of the idea of setting up the Beauty Salon with a professional standard and it was duly built in Mosney along with the creative ideas and input of Sarah Gates who is in charge of the management team in Mosney.

A lot of ladies came and were part of the Salon initiative. They obtained their certificates for participating on the Salon beauty training course. A lot of women gained knowledge in the application of basic makeup and one way or the other, it made Yetunde happy that she put a smile on someone's face. She is still learning and everyday is a new day with a newer experience.

In February 2018, Yetunde obtained her status and moved from Mosney to Dundalk, a county in Ireland north of Mosney, County Meath where she is starting a new business in the Beauty industry. She is happy to face new challenges and greater things to come ahead.

## THANK YOU

In the process of being in direct provision, Yetunde had the opportunity to meet a lot of people and a lot she never knew but they knew her by her name and still encouraged her.

She really appreciates everyone she came across in this journey, she says "I am truly blessed to have encountered you all. A big thank you goes to the management of Mosney Direct Provision Center, and all the ladies who also

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were inspired by what they saw Yetunde could give. Thank's to every donor of the go fund me, and a bigger thanks to my children who had patience for me to also deliver to others, but the biggest of thanks goes to God. I am truly appreciative and am bless to know you all".