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NEWS RELEASE

**Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit: Young Americans Center
Announces Top Youth Businesses**

July 24, Denver – A forerunner in providing youth entrepreneurship programming and resources for young people, Young Americans Center for Financial Education has named this year’s top youth businesses in Colorado. The announcement was made on Tuesday, July 17 at Young Americans Center in Cherry Creek at the Meet the Stars Party.

An independent panel of judges evaluated applications of youth, ages 6-21, before selecting this year’s nine finalists:

6-11 years old:

1. HER Design Store - Hannah Reyes (age 11)
2. The Lucky Penny – Liam Lennon (age 11*)
3. The Scented Penguin – Owen Lennon (age 11*)

12-15 years old

1. Gabe’s Bazaar – Gabriel Nagel (age 13)
2. Laney’s Lipcare – Delaney Ryan (age 14)
3. Rudspice – Emily Rudnick (age 15)

16-21 years old

1. Elevation Creations – Brenden Coney (age 18)
2. Luke Aden Photography – Luke Aden (age 18)
3. Yard Boyz – Jack Fleming (age 18)



*The future is bright (and so was the event!)
for youth business owners honored at the
Meet the Stars Party.*

In addition to announcing these finalists, Meet the Stars recognized the remarkable achievements of all applicants into this year’s business competition. Special guest Jeff Dolan, Vice President of External Affairs in the Mountain West Region for Comcast, was particularly impressed. After recounting his own experience as a father whose daughters regularly sell lemonade, Jeff noted, “The innovation that entrepreneurs provide is why Comcast supports YouthBiz. We are proud to nurture this spirit in young people.” A long-time partner of Young Americans Center, Comcast recently awarded YouthBiz a grant to cultivate innovation and entrepreneurship in the YouthBiz Lab.

Finalists will be honored at the 17th annual Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars awards and gala, sponsored by CoBank, held at the Seawell Grand Ballroom on Thursday, October 4. The event will also name a winning business in each of three age categories that receives a \$1,000 cash award and a pairing with an esteemed business leader as a mentor.

*Business owner’s age at time of application

About YouthBiz Stars and Young Americans Center

YouthBiz Stars is a business competition and dinner event fundraiser that benefits the programs of Young Americans Center for Financial Education, a nonprofit charity that reaches more than 67,000 youth every year through hands-on programs and real-life experiences to develop financial literacy in youth. For tickets (\$250 per person) and sponsored tables (\$2,500 and up) contact Betsy Sklar at 303-320-3245 or bsklar@yacenter.org.

Visit www.yacenter.org to learn more about Young Americans' resources for young business owners, as well as flagship programs Young AmeriTowne, International Towne, free Money Matters classes and Young Americans Bank in Denver, the only FDIC insured real bank in the world designed specifically for young people (age 21 and under).

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