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Money Smarts for Kids. Money Skills for Life

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NEWS RELEASE

Experience and Inspiration: Youth Entrepreneurs Shine at Annual Awards Gala

October 5, Denver – Young Americans Center for Financial Education celebrated the accomplishments of Colorado youth business owners at the Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars award ceremony and gala, presented by CoBank. This annual event was held virtually Thursday, October 1. Beyond sales and customers, it's clear these entrepreneurs have gained much through business ownership and will continue to excel, thanks in part to a year-long mentorship with a Denver business leader.

Denver resident Julia Doolittle, age 9, started her dog business, Olaf's Dog Cookies, as a delicious, "dog-approved" solution to calm and entice her untrained dog during neighborhood walks with her older sister. Owning a business has taught Julia the value of determination, a quality that will help her business grow over the next year as she works with mentor Jena Hausmann, President and CEO of Children's Hospital Colorado.

Winning the 12-15 Age Category was 13-year-old Maile McManis, a Denver resident and owner of Sewing with Smiles. Since discovering and learning to use an old sewing machine two years ago, Maile's business has grown to include two product lines: fashionable purses and eco-friendly produce bags. Maile recently added masks that she both sells and donates to essential workers in her community. Guided by mentors Bob and Judi Newman, Maile will focus on marketing in the next year.

Looking at the success of winning business Cardbound, LLC, one would never guess the owner is 18-year-old Broomfield resident Leonard Shearer. The business resells graded Pokemon cards and accessories to collectors across the globe, and Leonard figures he has made 25,000 orders since he



Julia Doolittle, winner of the 2020 Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars, received a cash prize and a year-long mentorship with Jena Hausmann, President and CEO of Children's Hospital Colorado.

started in 2015. Mentor Raju Patel, Denver Market President for Bank of America, will help Leonard with his accounting and inventory systems as they work together this year.

Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars also recognized six finalists:

Snacks for Dollars, created by Seth Huntley, age 8

Tuff's Chickens, created by Tuff Glassman, age 7

Evan Hoing Woodwording, created by Evan Hoing, age 13

Simply Denver Soap Co., created by Hannah Doolittle, age 12

Mountainside Lifestyle, created by Colin Patterson, Rowan Steger and Carter Galyardt (all age 17)

The Teen Entrepreneur, created by Shouken Lopez, age 17



Presenting mentors Bob and Judi Newman presented entrepreneur Maile McManis with a \$2,000 check she can use to improve her business over the next year.



Leonard Shearer, right, won \$5,000 and a year-long mentorship with Raju Patel, Denver Market President for Bank of America, for his business accomplishments.

About Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars and Young Americans Center

Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars is a business competition and awards gala that benefits the programs of Young Americans Center for Financial Education, a nonprofit charity that reaches nearly 70,000 youth every year through hands-on programs and real-life experiences to develop financial literacy in youth.

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