

About Jack Petchey



East End entrepreneur Jack Petchey is a real ‘rags to riches’ story.

Jack, now in his eighties, was born into a poor working class family in the East End of London in 1925. After leaving school aged 14, with no qualifications, Jack worked as an office boy before joining the Navy’s Fleet Air Arm in 1943. At the end of the Second World War he applied for officer training but was unsuccessful. He then left the forces and became a clerk. When he later applied for a management position at the firm, the personnel officer told him “you’ll never make a business man”. But Jack refused to give up. With £60 to his name, Jack spent his discharge gratuity from the Navy on his first second-hand car, which he then used to start his own taxi business.

Jack worked long and hard, branching off into other business ventures which now span car dealing and garages, property, travel and investments, to become a multi-millionaire and one of the UK’s most successful businessmen.

In 1999, Jack established the Jack Petchey Foundation, which has since given in excess of £60 million to support youth projects. But what Jack ‘gives’ is greater than money – he has used his entrepreneurial skills to deliver a range of truly innovative schemes for young people.

Jack seeks to boost young people’s aspirations by rewarding their achievements and encouraging them to take pride in what they have done. He brings communities together to celebrate their successes, making sure that the young people have a moment of glory and that their parents/carers, teachers and youth workers are there to witness it all.

Unlike many people, Jack and his team at the Foundation are focused squarely on the positives, rather than the negatives. Yes, young people face problems and challenges, but Jack believes that if you focus on these you risk creating a negative spiral, whereas if you reward success and help young people feel positive about themselves you can give them the confidence and inspiration to change, overcome adversity and reach their full potential.

This emphasis on positive affirmation, self belief, a willingness to make an effort and to give to others are central to the work of the Jack Petchey Foundation.

To arrange interviews or for more information, please contact Amazon PR on 020 7700 6952 or email jackpetcheyfoundation@amazonpr.co.uk