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Jane-Finch.com wins award for media excellence

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Paul Nguyen and Sue Chun of Jane-Finch.com receive an award for media excellence at the at the 37th annual Heritage Toronto Awards on Oct. 4. \\ Photo courtesy of Jane-Finch.com

By David Ros

Editor

According to Paul Nguyen, you don't need in awful lot of money in order to make an impact in your community, but what you do need is passion and dedication.

Nguyen who founded <u>Jane-Finch.com</u> in 2004 in order to combat many the



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negative stereotypes placed upon the community by telling the story of Jane and Finch from a residents' perspective, could have never imagined how big it would truly become.

On Oct. 4, the web site, which has become a go to portal for all things Jane and Finch, received an award of excellence for media at the 37th annual Heritage Toronto awards.

"My intention was never to get recognition," Nguyen said. "I never really had any big ambitions, and being a guy from Jane and Finch, I just worried about my daily routine, but once my friends got involved and it grew and we were able to be involved in situations where we never thought possible."

As <u>Jane-Finch.com</u> began to gain more recognition, and attracted a lot of volunteers, the site began to branch out into multimedia, producing rap videos and documentaries about the neighbourhood's vibrant multiculturalism, as well as articles on a wide range of topics.

Nguyen said that some of those volunteers were able to use the work they had done for <u>Jane-Finch.com</u> to help them to gain full university scholarships.

After all these years, and after all the recognition it has received, Nguyen said that <u>Jane-Finch.com</u> still operates without receiving any outside funding.

"I want the web site to demonstrate that without funding and with just passion and dedication from residents that you can have impact in the community, you can impact other people's lives," he said.

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