

Maya's Community Support Centre in Herne Bay earns King's Award for Voluntary Service

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Additional reporting by Finn Macdiarmid

The King has bestowed the highest award for voluntary service on an "outstanding" community cafe, food bank and 'free' shop.



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The accolade has been presented to Maya's Community Support Centre, which opened three years ago in Herne Bay High Street and has so far helped a quarter of a million people in need.



Maya and Her Community Support Centre team in Herne Bay celebrate their King's Award for Voluntary Service.

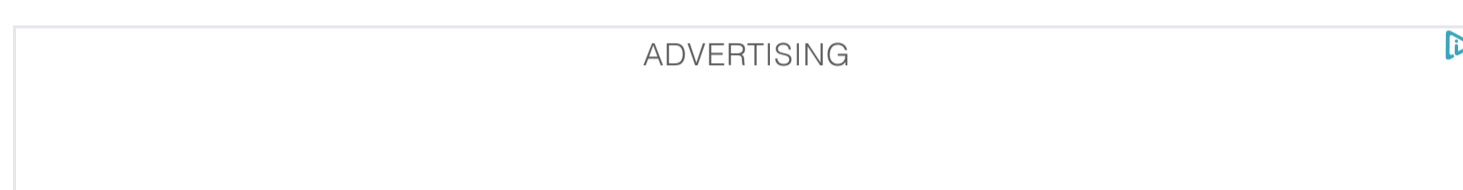
Run as a community interest company, its founder Maya Amangeldiyeva says receiving the award is a "huge honour" and a credit to its volunteers.

"We're an organisation that opens its doors to help the most vulnerable in our community every day of the year," she said.

"But without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, none of it would be possible."

The King's Award for Voluntary Service came after a visit to the centre from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the Lady Colgrain earlier in the year, which was followed shortly after by another visit from assessors.

The latest honour comes after Maya was named a "community champion" in the Kent Charity Awards in September.



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