**NGYF – Interview – Stephanie Lorenzo – CC**

My name is Steph Lorenzo; I’m the Founder and CEO of Project Futures. Project Futures is a non-profit organisation that raises awareness and funding to programs dedicated to combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Australia and Cambodia and most recently Nepal.

So I started it five years ago, I started Project Futures five years ago and ever since April 2013 I became the first full-time paid employee and so my role is to I guess oversee our fundraising efforts create really sustainable and long term partnerships with companies schools, universities, and create programs, where individuals can get involved and raise awareness and funding in their own communities.

Project Futures is important in terms of the work that we do because we are about empowering various communities to raise awareness and we partner long term with organisations on the ground that are providing services, much needed services for victims and survivors of human trafficking. So I think our work is really important because, one, we’re raising awareness and funding for an issue that unfortunately doesn’t get that much air time in Australia and Australian media, but number 2, we’re actually working and supporting directly victims and survivors of human trafficking affected by this issue.

If I could tell the world one thing it would be to ask for forgiveness not permission, just go out there and start something, get involved with something, don’t ask for anyone’s permission, because in the end the passion will lead you to whatever it is you want to do, so go for it.