

While some just say they'd like to help make a difference, Orlando-based nonprofit organization Stop Cappin Entertainment Inc. encourages people to walk the walk rather than just talk the talk.

Founder Evence "Vintage" Eliassaint, junior digital media major, put thought into action by establishing Stop Cappin Entertainment in 2023. This January, Ellestain added a team of members and grew his nonprofit's community.

"The best way to get people's attention is through entertainment," Eliassaint said. "Our whole entire thing is entertainment for a cause."

Playing with the slang term "cap," which means to lie, the organization, which became an official non-profit in April 2023, challenges people to help make a difference.

Stop Cappin Entertainment members decorate lunch bags during a service night where they prepare meals to give away to the homeless during the organization's Founders Week. The week of service and events celebrated an official year of being a non-profit organization.

Keira Gilmore

"A lot of people like to say things that they're going to do but don't actually put in the effort," Eliassaint said. "The name means not to just talk about it, stop cappin', start doing. That's why we're called Stop Cappin. I've given people an opportunity to be able to do these things."

Evence "Vintage" Ellestain, UCF student and founder of Stop Cappin Entertainment, explain the origins of his official nonprofit entertainment organization.

Eliassaint said he was inspired by growing up in a household where his mother would have him donate clothes to Haiti, and his brother would regularly host events in his community. The Eliassaint family created a strong foundation for his eventual award-winning nonprofit organization.

"I didn't actually have a team until Jan. 1 of this year," Eliassaint said. "This year, I was very fortunate to have 24 people sign up, so I went from just me by myself to 24 people who wanted to be a part of this."

Ellestain's efforts in the community earned Stop Cappin Entertainment recognition at the NAACP Awards, earning the Image Event Of The Year award.

The recognized event occurred last October when Ellestain and volunteers, who have since become members, had a celebrity charity basketball game at UCF, which raised \$1000 for the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation.

Eliassaint said the award is the most significant achievement the organization has been recognized for thus far and has helped attract members such as senior film major Maximus Kingston and junior kinesiology major Victoria Phillips. Still, the pair emphasized that the charity aspect is what they're most proud of.

Stop Cappin Entertainment members explain the impact the organization has played on their life and how they found a sense of community.

“It’s not just about having an event,” Kingston said. “The organization's mission is to give back to a charity and to help benefit people who may not get the same opportunities that everybody else might have.”

Phillips said that the smiles she receives while giving back to the community make her heart feel full.

“It’s a beautiful thing to have members a part of Stop Cappin Entertainment,” Eliassaint said.

“To see all my members come together and accept the award for event of the year; I’m so proud of my members, and this is just the beginning.”