

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



THE JUBILEE CENTRE  
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

#iwill

 step up to serve

Celebrating the character of young  
people taking action to help others





Launch of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign 2013



1st Anniversary of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign 2014



2nd Anniversary of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign 2015





When I heard about the #iwill campaign, I couldn't wait to show my support. It's pretty hard to argue with the idea of empowering young people to get involved in making a difference to their communities through social action.

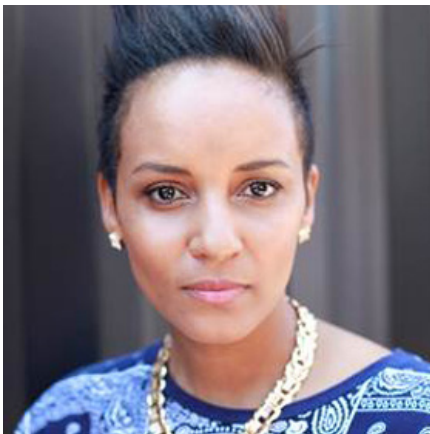
It's been a privilege to read through the stories of these young #iwill Ambassadors and hear about some of the inspirational things they're doing across the UK.

Involvement in social action is proven to have a number of benefits for young people, including improving mental health. This is a particular interest of mine, as I support a number of initiatives in this area already, such as the #IAMWhole campaign with the NHS and the Wish Foundation through our #1MillionHours project at Radio 1. It's clear that getting involved in social action can really enhance the well-being of young people at the same time as improving the lives of others.

I remember my time at school in Southport, where I volunteered at a local primary school to mentor younger students. It was such a great feeling to know that I'd made a real difference, by encouraging them with their reading and other schoolwork.

I know now that I was also developing my own confidence in supporting others, and I got the bug for social action! It's clear that many of the young people in this brochure have it too – so please do take the time to read their stories and find out more.

**Adele Roberts, Radio 1 DJ.  
#iwill campaign celebrity ambassador.**



### Quote of support:

*"So many young people across the UK are getting involved every day in inspirational activity supporting others in their communities. Some of them are now young Ambassadors for the #iwill campaign, and hearing their stories was so incredible, it really showed that those as young as 10 are more than capable of making a difference to others, and that getting involved had so many benefits for them too.*

*Everyone needs to get behind the #iwill campaign to unlock more opportunities for young people across the UK to get involved!"*

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# Introduction

This is the third group of #iwill Ambassadors that the Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues and the #iwill campaign have the pleasure of introducing.

These Ambassadors are inspirational 10-20 year olds who are making a difference in their communities, selected to celebrate their contributions as well as the development of skills and character virtues gained through their social action. In this brochure, you will find 50 positive stories, but we know that there are many more young people across the UK who regularly undertake 'practical action in the service of others to create positive change'.

Participation in social action transforms character and improves well-being, developing the kind of 21st-Century skills that employers are calling for, as well as boosting access to and success in further and higher education and employment. Getting involved in high quality social action opportunities, such as the ones you will see throughout this brochure, improves character qualities such as empathy, cooperation, resilience, problem-solving and a sense of community. All of these help promote social mobility, and increasing participation in youth social action is an important part of enabling the UK to become a fairer place to grow up. However, young people from less affluent backgrounds are significantly less likely to be participating than their more affluent peers. Addressing this remains a key priority for the #iwill campaign.

The number of #iwill Ambassadors now totals 150, and we hope that by shining a light on their stories, this brochure showcases the range and variety of incredible activity that these young people have undertaken in the service of others. They also are Ambassadors for the many organisations that drive the #iwill campaign, highlighting their involvement in the campaign to increase the number of opportunities available to all young people across the UK.

We say *all* young people, because making a difference in their community can be led by any young person - no matter their age, background, faith or where they're from in the country. And we know that young people can make an impact from a very young age - you'll see some fantastic examples of inspirational 10 year olds in the brochure.

Over the next few pages, as well as our new Ambassadors, you will also see the young trustees who have joined the board of Step Up To Serve to ensure that youth voice has a presence throughout the strategy formation and direction of the campaign.

We hope you enjoy reading, and will be inspired to take action.



**Professor James Arthur**  
Director:  
Jubilee Centre  
for Character and Virtues



**Charlotte Hill**  
CEO:  
Step Up To Serve



# STEP UP TO SERVE YOUNG TRUSTEES

The #iwill campaign seeks the creation of more opportunities for young people to take part in youth social action. Step Up To Serve, the charity behind the campaign, have made opportunities for young people to become an integral part of the organisation, advising our team on strategy and priorities for the future. Some of these inspirational young people tell their stories here.

20-year old Chloe Donovan has been a strong advocate for social action since the age of 12 when she first became the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) member for South Norfolk. She was at the UKYP representing the views of young people in her area and campaigning on a wide range of issues. She has since spent 3 years working for the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services as a Young Facilitator where she supported various youth participation and social action programmes and delivered a range of social leadership training. She is also the only young person to sit on the Canal & River Trust's Council, and Chairs their Youth Engagement Advisory Group.

Speaking about her appointment Chloe said:

*"I'm so proud that I have the opportunity to contribute to the impact of such a pioneering and important movement, I hope that I can effectively advocate the opinions of other young people on the issues that are important to them and have fun too!"*



19-year-old Luke Rees is a university student currently living in South Wales. Luke is an Ambassador for the #iwill campaign and has been participating in youth social action for the last four years. Luke is very passionate about ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to participate in meaningful social action.

When Luke was in school he suffered with mental health issues. Luke used social action to change his life and used his setbacks as a platform for his comeback. Luke then decided that he wanted to share his story with the aim of inspiring other young people to participate in social action. He went onto become a confident and recognised public speaker and has spoken at various conferences and venues such as the Public Health Wales National Conference, the Sports Leaders UK Celebration at the House of Lords and at the World Health Organisation Conference in Lithuania.

Speaking about his appointment Luke said:

*"I am humbled and honoured to be a part of an organisation which cares so much about changing young people's lives. I cannot wait to use my experiences and knowledge to make an impact and to ensure that social action is a part of as many 10 to 20 years olds' lives as possible by 2020."*





18-year-old Louis Stokes started volunteering for the NSPCC aged 11. Since then, he has helped influence a change in the law around sex and relationships education and recently became one of the youngest counsellors for ChildLine in the UK. In this role he offers support and guidance to some of the most vulnerable young people in the UK, often in life threatening situations. At school Louis was Chairman of his school council, and has influenced both the school curriculum and teacher recruitment policies. Louis has also volunteered for the National Citizen Service, supporting young people to create their own social action projects and advising on leadership programmes. Closer to home, Louis has been campaigning in his local community for better access to mental health services for children and young people in Sheffield. Louis is now in his third year at university.

Speaking about his new appointment Louis said:

*"I am absolutely honoured to be a trustee for Step Up To Serve. I can bring a wealth of knowledge of social action and contacts from charities across the UK. I hope to develop my understanding of working as a trustee and represent Step Up To Serve at different events."*

20-Year-Old Saeed Atcha is the youngest charity CEO to lead a charity to receive Her Majesty the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. When Saeed was 15 he set up one of Britain's only charities created and managed by and for young people, Xplode Magazine. Saeed leveraged the Xplode publication to serve a training platform for thousands of young people to develop skills in media, business and employability – bridging social good, productivity and leisure activities to foster a promising future. Alongside this, Saeed is a radio broadcaster across the UK on 12 stations and is working towards a degree in Public Relations and Marketing.

Whilst working and studying, Saeed is a director of two Greater Manchester-wide charities and holds a number of ceremonial and ambassadorial roles with the Royal Commonwealth Society, Prince's Trust and One Young World.

Speaking about his appointment Saeed said:

*"I'm absolutely thrilled that I've been chosen to fly the flag for young people! More than ever before, we're ready to take on an active part in improving our communities and it really motivates me that a charity at the heart of creating opportunities for young people has young people on its board. I can't wait to get stuck in."*



Pauline has been engaging in social action almost weekly since the age of 14, volunteering with a number of local and national charities and has also created opportunities for other young people. More recently Pauline has used her experience to advise charities on their volunteering policy and engagement with young people.

Pauline is also passionate about representation and more recently has represented students as a Student Councillor and as a member of the Academic Board at King's College London. Pauline is currently co-chairing the Student Forum of the Institute of Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience and also works at the Tavistock Institute as their Project Administrator.

Pauline is excited about getting to know and working with other young people and bringing their voices to the work that Step Up To Serve does.

Speaking about her appointment Pauline said:

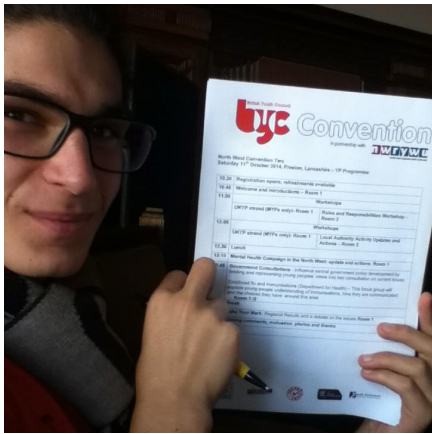
*"Social action has the power to not only transform the lives of those who are touched by young people becoming active participants in the future of their country, but also the lives of those young people who have the opportunity to be part of something greater than themselves. I am so grateful to be a part of a movement that aims to expand this engagement, and ensure the benefits of service are available to all those seeking to change the world regardless of their background."*



# JAKE ADAMS

## Organisations I've Participated With

URPotential, Be Involved, Blackpool Voluntary Youth Forum, British Youth Council, Youth Parliament, Blackpool Youth Voice



Name: Jake Adams

Age: 18

Where I Live: Blackpool, Lancashire

*"Social action gives me the chance to use my own initiative and be creative to grow opportunities for other young people in my local area."*

It seems like volunteering and social action has always been a part of my life - I first started when I was eight years old, at my local community centre. I really enjoyed volunteering with groups for the elderly people in my area, and helping out with one of my big hobbies, computers and technology.

This led on to signing up for Fylde Coast Be Involved when I was fourteen. It seemed like a great way to do even more work within my community, starting off with a Peer Mentoring course. As my confidence grew, I joined and quickly became Chair of the Blackpool Voluntary Youth Forum, leading the rebrand of the group to become Blackpool Youth Voice with a new website and logo. I love using the Internet to create new ways of engaging young people and making it easier for them to get involved with their community.

Now I'm a member of the British Youth Council's Youth Parliament, alongside working with Blackpool Youth Voice and continuing with my hobby of developing its website. I also sit on Youth Potential steering groups and I'm supporting fundraising to widen Further and Higher Education opportunities for young people, so I've got plenty of social action to keep me busy!

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Citizenship | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination  
Communication | Community Awareness





# JAKEEM ADDMAN

## Organisations I've Participated With

Army Cadet Force, British Red Cross, Met Police, London Fire Cadets



Name: Jakeem Addman

Age: 18

Where I Live: London

*"I'm so proud to be a part of the Army Cadet force, and developing my career through social action."*

I'm a Cadet Corporal for the City of London and North-East Sector Army Cadet Force. I've been in the Army Cadets for 2 years now, and the experiences it has given me has been so rewarding. I regularly volunteer to lead other cadet groups of younger members, and get involved in community work and events to improve my local area.

Before joining the cadets, I was a volunteer with the London Fire Cadets, which got my social action journey started.

I've also been involved with British Red Cross thanks to opportunities provided through my college, and I recently submitted a video for a Met Police campaign to inspire young people.

I was recently very proud to take my experiences of the army cadets and social action overseas, as I was 1 of 12

cadets selected to undertake an exchange program in Canada, which is notorious for being one of the hardest course to get onto. Overall I had an amazing time and learnt a lot, skills such as canoeing and navigating, and also learning to work with others in tough conditions, communication skills, and confidence. Since returning, I've been determined to volunteer and pass on those skills to other cadets.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Resilience | Cooperation | Trust | Gratitude

# #iwill

*... continue to play a role in the Army Cadets, volunteering my time to develop other younger cadets through social action.*



# SAM AINSWORTH

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Volunteer Police Cadets



Name: Sam Ainsworth

Age: 15

Where I Live: Bacup, Lancashire

*"Being involved in the Volunteer Police Cadets, and social action, has given me such a confidence boost!"*

I am a Volunteer with the Lancashire Volunteer Police Cadets group, which gives me lots of opportunities to get involved in social action. Sometimes we have Cadet Competition weekends where lots of cadets come together from all across the country, which is a great opportunity to meet new people.

Although my health isn't good, as I suffer from Charcot Marie Tooth disease and CIDP, my experiences of volunteering and social action have given me the confidence to meet new people – and inspire them to want to do social action too. I love getting involved in as many activities as possible, and I'm so grateful to the

Volunteer Police Cadets for their support. I was recently given an award for my positive attitude inspiring young cadets – which I think just comes from me enjoying myself so much!

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Citizenship | Resilience, perseverance & determination | Trust | Leadership | Self-discipline

# #iwill

*... continue to be a part of Volunteer Police Cadets, and undertake leadership training to help develop social action projects further.*



# ROXANNE BAINBRIDGE

## Organisations I've Participated With

Trinity Centre, Global Gardens, Methodist Children, Youth World Council



Name: Roxanne Bainbridge

Age: 20

Where I Live: Deeside/Cardiff, Wales

*"Social action has given me more hope and faith in the world despite the problems we face."*

I'm passionate about social action. I used to think I was 'too young' to make a difference, but I've proven that that's not the case. I may still be at University, but outside my studies I dedicate my time to improving the welfare of refugees and asylum seekers in South Wales.

I help coordinate the READ programme at Trinity Centre to improve access to the UK education system for asylum seekers and refugees, I'm involved in running the Global Gardens project to improve the welfare of asylum seekers and refugees in Cardiff, and I travel around the UK and internationally as the Methodist Children and Youth World Council Representative telling people about my social action work.

Social action has given my confidence a massive boost. I can now take on leadership roles to encourage other young people to get involved, I've learnt to effectively communicate with people from all different backgrounds, from people with minimal English to

people who are very influential in policy making, and I'm more comfortable with public speaking.

Working with asylum seekers and refugees can be harrowing, but I've learnt to harness my emotions and use them to fuel my hunger and passion for social justice. I've recently created a blog to document my work and collect resources so that other young people can be inspired too.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Social Justice | Leadership | Compassion | Communication | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... continue to advocate for equal access to education for asylum seekers and refugees and encourage other young people to get involved in social action.*



# SOPHIE BELL

## Organisations I've Participated With

Cookstown Youth Council, Barnardos, Childline, Cookstown High School, Solas, Macmillan, Kinship



Name: Sophie Bell

Age: 18

Where I Live: Cookstown, Northern Ireland

*"Mental health can often carry a stigma. I would love to see this change, so that everyone has access to quick help."*

My social action journey began in 2012 when I started volunteering at a local café run by young people with special needs, and since then I haven't looked back. My work has since evolved to a mentoring and counselling role, as I began to volunteer in my school and then with Macmillan, Childline and Barnardo's.

Without social action, I wouldn't have had the chance to speak, listen to and empower so many young people with concerns like relationships, sexuality, family, and mental health, an issue which I feel passionately about.

Currently, I'm a Kinship Care volunteer to help children and their caregivers, alongside my continued work with Macmillan at Antrim Hospital, with Childline as an email counsellor, and with Barnardo's undergoing training to be a Young Carers Service Volunteer. This year, I'll start my studies in Social Work at Queen's University Belfast.

My work in social action has gone from strength to strength over the past few years - I went on an expedition to Romania with School Aid in 2015 - and I've grown so much as a person in that time. I have a better insight into society now and I'm more confident in my own abilities. It can be hard dealing with sensitive issues, but the reward it gives far outweighs the negatives.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Empathy | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Compassion  
| Leadership | Confidence

# #iwill

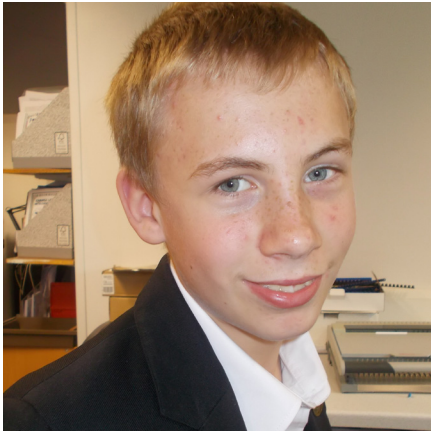
*... continue to help others less fortunate than myself by getting actively involved in charity work.*



# JAMIE BRIGHT

## Organisations I've Participated With

The John Muir Trust, South Shropshire Hills AONB



Name: Jamie Bright

Age: 12

Where I Live: Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

*"By far my proudest achievement was climbing Mount Snowdon with my conservation group. It was a huge challenge, but my passion for the environment helped me to get through to the end."*

I love being outdoors and getting stuck in with the environment and conservation work, even though sometimes I find it hard due to having Perthes disease, which affects my hips and legs and means that sometimes every step is painful. But it pushes me on knowing I can make a difference in appreciating my environment and helping other people understand how they can take care of it.

I achieved my Conserver Award with the John Muir Trust and South Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is the highest award you can achieve with the Trust. To achieve it, I took part in 35 days of conservation work around where I live in Shropshire, and I was one of the first children from primary school to receive the award.

Sometimes I've struggled at school but having responsibility through my social action has really helped me. I've produced presentations and displays for a café run by young students to make links with the local community and help to teach them, as well as speaking at a school in Wolverhampton about conservation. Now I've moved on to secondary school, but I want to carry on in conservation as I get older.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Problem-solving | Communication | Confidence | Cooperation | Community Awareness

# #iwill

*... help younger children and communities in general to achieve their goals and help the environment through conservation.*



# AMELIA BUTTERFIELD

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Macmillan Cancer Care



Name: Amelia Butterfield

Age: 10

Where I Live: Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

*"When things are really bad,  
I can do something positive  
to make things a bit better."*

My school helped inspire me to get involved in social action – and so did another #iwill Ambassador Ryan Bickle who does a lot at my school to help other people. In Year 6 we can take part in a project, Making the World Awesome, to try and make the world a bit nicer. I was in Year 5 when I wanted to get involved in social action, so I started earlier particularly for my Dad who was very poorly with cancer. To help other families in my situation, my friends and I decided to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care and the St Mary's Hospice.

We started our own business in our school called Cute As Buttons, buying and selling our stock and working out the profit for the charities. We've managed to run the shop for a whole term without needing any help, raising nearly £300!

I think my Dad would be proud of me because I have stuck with the shop for so long, even when I have to

go to the shops to buy stock and get things ready in my free time every weekend. Before this, I didn't know how brave I could be, but now I know that I can be very brave and think about other people, even when things make me sad. I'm really looking forward to being in Year 6 and working on the Making the World Awesome project - hopefully I'll be able to get lots more of my friends involved in social action, too.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Courage | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Compassion | Leadership | Confidence

# #iwill

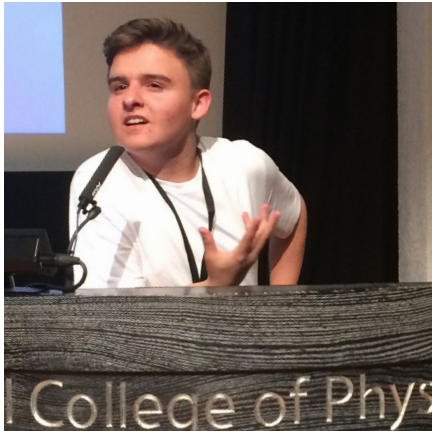
*... keep supporting Macmillan and St Mary's Hospice and thinking of ideas to help other people in our community.*



# PATRICK CANTELLOW

## Organisations I've Participated With

NSPCC, National Citizen Service, Demelza Hospice, Swale Young People



Name: Patrick Cantellow

Age: 17

Where I Live: Canterbury, Kent

*"Social action gives young people so many valuable skills for employment, but we have to help them articulate their experiences into language employers are looking for."*

After fundraising from a young age, I started doing more within my local community after I took part in a National Citizen Service programme, an amazing experience which I'd recommend to anyone. During the programme we helped out in a local skate park which didn't have any funds for maintenance. This experience inspired me to set up a small non-profit organisation for young people in my area, Swale Young People.

Swale Young People supports a population of young people in Sittingbourne, Faversham and the Isle of Sheppey to increase their employability and to provoke a meaningful change in their lives, particularly through its strong social media presence. It's really important to the organisation that young people take part in quality social action to reap the double benefit of improving the community and improving their own lives.

Juggling setting up my own organisation with volunteering at other local organisations to advocate the youth voice has been difficult at times, but worth it. I've met some great friends and developed the patience to see long planning processes through to the end. In the future I'd like to see an All-Party Parliamentary Group set up to encourage youth social action and volunteering.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Humility/Modesty | Open Mindedness | Resilience,  
Perseverance & Determination | Cooperation

# #iwill

*... continue to speak publicly about the amazing benefits of youth social action and the doors it opens to young people.*



# SOHANA COLLINS

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
The Sohana Research Fund



Name: Sohana Collins

Age: 14

Where I Live: London

*"I am giving a voice to other EB sufferers so that one day soon they and I can lead a life free of pain."*

I suffer from a condition called Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), which means my skin and other membranes in my body, like the lining of my mouth, of my gut, and even my eyes, blister painfully even on mild contact, and that these wounds never heal properly. I've had the condition since I was born, and it means that I live in pain every day.

In the UK around 8000 people have EB. Although there's no known cure or treatment yet, my family and I are working hard to fundraise for research to help these people. As the face of the Sohana Research Fund, I appear in all our photos and videos to highlight EB - as well as fronting a social media campaign.

The Sohana Research Fund managed to fund the first clinical trial for me and nine other children with EB. Since then we've funded two more, as well as other significant projects. Although it's sometimes physically and mentally tiring to be the face of a campaign like this, knowing I can help other children who suffer like I do spurs me on and gives me motivation.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Hope/Optimism | Community Awareness | Resilience, Perseverance  
& Determination | Communication | Confidence

# #iwill

*... continue to help the Sohana Research Fund raising awareness of EB, and encourage involvement and understanding of genetic conditions among other young people.*



# SHERA CONWAY

## Organisations I've Participated With

Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, Bnei Akiva, Chai Cancer Care, Myeloma UK, The Duke of Edinburgh Award



Name: Shera Conway

Age: 17

Where I Live: Bushy, Hertfordshire

*"Being a volunteer youth leader has made me into a stronger person, which means that when others don't feel so strong they can come to me and I can guide them."*

My older brother volunteered with the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade (JLGB), and I could see how positive the experience was for him. Six years ago now, I decided to follow his lead - and I haven't looked back since then! I enjoy my work so much that I volunteer at two groups a week, rather than the usual one.

At both of these groups I work with young people, which I love, and it's also important to me to serve in other ways - I've volunteered as a Hebrew teacher, made audio books for a children's hospice, helped raise money to adopt an Israeli guide dog puppy, and raised money for cancer charities.

I'm proud to have been elected this year as the JLGB's most senior young leader, which means that I represent and speak for the organisation at many large events, and that I was put forward as a representative of JLGB to meet the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, the day after he was elected. I also recently visited

South Africa and Soweto and spent a day volunteering as part of a Jewish trip, playing with the kids and making food for them.

Seeing things from others' perspective, and seeing how happy I can make people, has made me a less selfish person and made me into a better leader, able to give other young people the same inspiration I had.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Community Awareness | Leadership | Confidence | Gratitude |  
Citizenship

# #iwill

*... gain more responsibility as a youth leader, with social action at the forefront of my mind, and encourage other young people to get involved.*



# ANITA DENNISON

## Organisations I've Participated With

TEDx Omagh, Cycle Against Suicide, Zeminar



Name: Anita Dennison

Age: 20

Where I Live: Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland

*"I share my story in the hope that I can help young people realise their true purpose."*

When I was younger, I was a victim of bullying. I became involved in social action because I wanted to make sure that no one ever felt the way I did.

My inspirations are Alex Holmes, the head of AntiBullyingPro, and Kieran Stanbridge, the head of the Being Me campaign. People told me that I was too young to have my own anti-bullying campaign, but this only made me even more determined to follow Alex and Kieran's example. I set up an online campaign (@bully\_dont) which has helped young people going through the same situation as I did. I became my school's anti-bullying mentor, and I've done TV and radio interviews and spoken at events including TEDx Omagh and Cycle Against Suicide. In October 2016, I had the privilege of speaking at Zeminar, Ireland's largest ever youth event with over 30,000 attendees.

Social action has given me the opportunity to make real change to people's lives.

Parents have even contacted me to tell me that my advice has helped them look out for signs of bullying and cyberbullying as a result of my radio and TV interviews. I've had some incredible opportunities to have my story heard - social action has given me the voice I never thought I had when I was being bullied.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Courage | Hope/Optimism | Confidence | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... encourage more people to stand up and be there for their peers, as simply being there to listen can make all the difference.*



# SHARMARKE DHAQANE

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Hendon School, Citizens UK, Barnet Council



Name: Sharmarke Dhaqane

Age: 18

Where I Live: London

*"Social action has made me much more ambitious. I've become more confident to do what I believe is right to change things for the better."*

When I was younger I didn't really see the point of trying hard at school. I felt like I wouldn't blend in with everybody else if I worked hard - it seemed like if you did work hard, you weren't 'cool'. But when I got to Year 11, everything changed.

Peer supporting made all the difference - I got along really well with the younger students. When I returned for Sixth Form, I became a peer mentor for Year 7. Supported by a local charity, I mentored across 3 schools and I was so humbled to be nominated for - and win - the award for Peer Supporter of the Year and a Jack Petchey Achievement Award.

Now I'm committed to making a difference for young people, particularly to improve their mental health. I did work experience with Citizens UK and witnessed a school launching a mental health charter with CAMHS and their local Commissioning Group. This year a team

of 7 students from my school are hosting the first ever student-led peer Mental Health conference.

Another proud moment was co-chairing the 6,000 delegate assembly on housing with Sadiq Khan and Zac Goldsmith. Recently I've also helped with the welcoming party for Syrian refugees hosted by Barnet Council, Citizens UK and my school, alongside translating for Syrian families.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Humility/Modesty | Leadership | Community Awareness |  
Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Hope/Optimism

# #iwill

*... develop my school's mental health charter and continue to work to stamp out mental health stigma.*



# FYNN DONALDSON

## Organisations I've Participated With Active Schools



Name: Fynn Donaldson

Age: 13

Where I Live: Edinburgh, Scotland

*"I love watching children develop within a sport that I love."*

I got involved with coaching volleyball through Active Schools. Now, I coach primary school children every week. I love volleyball, and so it's fantastic to help young children to take part. I was inspired to start coaching by Zoe Smith and Heather Brownlee, who coach volleyball for Scotland East - they work really hard to inspire young people like me to play, and so I'd love to be able to pass that on to future generations.

Volunteering my time to coach hasn't always been easy - it can sometimes be tricky to think of new active and fun activities every week! However, planning sessions with the kids has made me much more creative. Working with primary school children has definitely made me a more patient person too!

Volunteering to work with younger children doing something like coaching is a great way to get involved in further social action. I hope I can continue to show that taking part in sports like volleyball can be really positive for young people.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Creativity | Leadership | Communication | Open-mindedness |  
Cooperation

# #iwill

*... demonstrate to young people that taking part in sports and activities regularly can have a positive effect on their attitude.*



# OWEN DUDA

Organisations I've Participated With  
Duke of Edinburgh Award



Name: Owen Duda

Age: 15

Where I Live: West Sussex

*"I've managed to shape a legacy that I can pass on to other young people in my area, even when I move on to new places."*

As a Young Carer, I haven't had an easy time of it, particularly after one of my family members was hospitalised and I had to move in with my grandparents. Staying involved with the West Sussex Duke of Edinburgh team helped me by giving me something to focus on - I've set up a young people's Voice Group to inform the running of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in the county, and my drive to make sure that the voices of my peers are heard has kept me pushing forward.

I've shared views and ideas with other young people involved with Duke of Edinburgh by running meetings and designing questionnaires on an online system for over 7500 participants all under the age of 25. My efforts have managed to show that young people are capable of sharing their views as active participants of the Award. I also take part in schools outreach, bringing more young people into the group and adding to the diversity of the views we put forward. As

the result of a TED Talk at a regional Duke of Edinburgh event, we managed to receive a grant of £500 to expand the Voice Group even further, which I'm so proud of.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Citizenship | Communication | Confidence |  
Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... use the grant I have achieved as a way of putting my ideas into action, with events to recruit Voice Group members, training, and a competition to raise awareness of the group.*



# CONNOR DWYER

## Organisations I've Participated With

UK Youth Parliament, British Youth Council, Friends of the Earth, Strong Young Minds



Name: Connor Dwyer

Age: 17

Where I Live: Preston, Lancashire

*"Improving youth engagement is vital to improve provision for young people, in mental health, in the environment and in politics."*

I have worked with the UK Youth Parliament since 2014, having been elected to represent Preston. In the role, I have worked to introduce political education classes to secondary schools, as well as lowering the voting age, and encouraging decision makers to listen to the voices of young people.

After producing a report on issues surrounding young people's mental health services and working with the Department for Education, I began work with DCC Andy Rhodes to set up a charity aiming to challenge the issues I'd identified in schools and colleges. In October 2015, Strong Young Minds became a registered charity which started work in educational establishments in Lancashire. We offer resilience training, helping young people respond to their own and others' mental health needs. Participants in the programme are empowered to become ambassadors for positive mental health. I sit as Vice-Chair and Trustee of the charity. It makes me so proud to see the positive effects we're having on the

people who participate.

Currently I am working to engage more with the wider community too, attending peaceful anti-racism demonstrations, supporting the local homeless community and campaigning for renewable energy and against fracking. I'm looking to encourage the setting up of youth climate action groups, to further show that youth engagement can really make a difference, even in the face of such a large and important issue.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Leadership  
| Community Awareness | Hope/Optimism

# #iwill

*... take social action out to where young people feel comfortable and welcome, making it easier to get young people from diverse backgrounds and communities to have their say on issues they felt they couldn't have an impact on.*



# LOGAN FRASER

## Organisations I've Participated With

Scout Association, Stirling Wanderers Hockey Club, Alva Academy



Name: Logan Fraser

Age: 18

Where I Live: Clackmannanshire, Scotland

*"Giving time is the most precious gift."*

Ever since I started volunteering as a Young Leader with my local Scout group, I've been passionate about encouraging and supporting young people to create a positive transformation in their lives.

I've recently been appointed Assistant District Commissioner for Youth Involvement in Scouts, which is an amazing recognition of my contribution. Through Scouting, I've had the privilege to meet influential figures such as HRH Prince Charles and the First Minister for Scotland. Alongside Scouts, I'm a volunteer coach for my local hockey club, hoping to inspire young people through sport.

On top of my work for young people, I also co-headed a fundraising campaign over a few months for a cancer charity as Head Boy at my high school. We raised over £26,000 - upholding our leading UK record for fundraising and showing how much young people can make a difference in a short space of time.

The youth voice is so important for communities - that's why I created a Twitter account for a local, grassroots campaign to encourage votes at 16 and youth engagement in politics. I'm determined to continue being a champion for young people and giving my time to transform the lives of others.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Communication | Leadership | Citizenship  
| Communication | Cooperation

# #iwill

*... make the organisations I am part of more attractive and inclusive to all, and bring together young people to build stronger community partnerships.*



# SHEREEN GORDON

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
National Orchestra for All



Name: Shereen Gordon

Age: 19

Where I Live: London

*"I hope that I can show young people what they can go on to achieve."*

I've been involved in the National Orchestra for All since it started back in 2011. The orchestra is a youth ensemble for young people across the UK who face challenging circumstances. As a Young Volunteer for the orchestra, I've helped to inspire younger musicians to believe in themselves and aspire to achieve great things.

It really makes a difference for young people from challenging backgrounds to have friendly faces around them, and that's why being a Young Volunteer is so important. I've volunteered at events across the UK with the National Orchestra and with their school and community programme, the Modulo Programme. Believing so strongly in the power of music to make a difference to the lives of young people has given me the courage to make speeches and advocate at fundraising events.

I'm at University now, and although I left the orchestra I continue to volunteer regularly with the young musicians. I hope that I can be a positive role model for them, and that my progression to University can help them to consider this a part of their own future.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Leadership | Communication | Cooperation |  
Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... continue to act as an  
ambassador for Orchestras for  
All to make a difference to young  
musicians' lives.*



# CIAN GULLEN

## Organisations I've Participated With

Girlguiding UK, Scottish Youth Parliament, UK Youth Parliament



Name: **Cian Gullen**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **Hawick, Scottish Borders**

*"Before being involved in social action I was a completely different person. My involvement with social action has prevented me from allowing low self-esteem to become a barrier in my life."*

Often it can be really hard for young people in social action, as some adults don't take us seriously. But my granny showed me that your age and gender should never be a barrier to your goals. My social action started with fundraising with my Guide unit at the age of 10, and I quickly decided that I wanted to help fund activities for young girls in my area.

It's often difficult for young people who live in rural areas to participate in social action, but I managed to get involved in my local area. I was part of a young working group during the Vision 2014 local heritage project in Hawick, and alongside training to be a Young Leader with my local Guides, I'm a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament and I form part of a volunteer group which organises an awards ceremony for young people in the Scottish Borders.

It was amazing to spend a year in the UK Youth Parliament, with the chance to represent young people to a wider range of decision makers. I used to be shy and inward and I would barely speak to anybody. Now I am able to speak in front of a room of 300 strangers to stand up for a minority group. I have a passion for change and that gives me a voice.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Leadership | Confidence  
| Hope/Optimism | Social Justice

# #iwill

*... encourage more young people to become involved with social action by highlighting the lasting benefits, both personal and in general.*



# AMIE HAMPSHEIR-GILL

## Organisations I've Participated With

Girlguiding UK, Barnardo's, St John Ambulance, Museum of the Order of St John, The Worshipful Company of Coopers



Name: Amie Hampsheir-Gill

Age: 18

Where I Live: Havering, London

*"My social action has given me a passion for volunteering and the confidence to speak out."*

I've always wanted to give something back to the community, helping those in need. I started off volunteering when I was 10 years old, with Guides and St John Ambulance. I went on to become a Young Leader with Guides, to complete 2000 hours of service and to become PR Officer of the London Region Youth Board for St John Ambulance, alongside getting involved in campaigning for First Aid Education in events such as the Big First Aid Lesson.

Due to my long-term condition of Ulcerated Colitis, at times it has proven difficult to get out into the community. But I've been motivated by seeing those who have greater needs than myself - it's given me the push to go out and volunteer. That's why I assisted at the LCO Music Junction to teach music to the Young Carers from Barnardo's, and why I continue to help inspire younger girls as Leader of the 10th Hornchurch Brownies and the 6th Hornchurch Guides.

I'm constantly inspired by the goodwill of those around me, and I was so grateful to be awarded the Mayor's Civic Award by the community of Havering and to be selected as the Master's Apprentice for the Worshipful Company of Coopers as a result of my efforts.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Self-discipline | Community Awareness | Leadership |  
Communication | Confidence

# #iwill

*... assist those who are disadvantaged, like young carers and those with health conditions, to get more involved in the community.*



# ABBHEY HARWOOD

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Children in Need, Devon Air Ambulance



Name: Abbey Harwood

Age: 14

Where I Live: Barnstaple, Devon

*"I was bullied at school when I was younger - moving to secondary school was the chance for me to show who I really am and what I can do."*

After bad experiences at primary school, when I moved up to secondary school I decided that I'd try and offer help to other children and adults who needed it. I started out fundraising for Devon Air Ambulance, because my Grandad had been airlifted when he'd had a heart attack.

To start with, it was hard to organise fundraising events, particularly with managing all the people who wanted to help. It was also really scary at first to talk in front of the whole school to motivate them to take part, but it's helped my confidence so much as time has gone past and I've gained more experience. I've recently set up the school newspaper, which I hope will help inspire others to express themselves.

The Devon Air Ambulance Charity has now asked me if I'd like to become an Ambassador, which would involve going to other schools to encourage them to fundraise too. Getting more involved with my local

community has also led to me setting up a Youth Council to work alongside our Parish Council and reaching out to older people in the area to talk about their memories of our school and village. We're also recording memories being made now, so they'll be available to our community for years to come.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Communication | Leadership | Creativity |  
Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... organise fun community events for young people and encourage local charities to come along to challenge us to fundraise for them.*



# BETHAN HAVARD

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Girlguiding UK



Name: Bethan Havard

Age: 13

Where I Live: Penarth, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, Wales

*"Getting involved in social action gave me the opportunity to challenge myself and encourage younger people to challenge themselves too."*

I've recently completed my Baden Powell Award - the highest award in Guides. A big part of being a Guide is getting involved in the local community and volunteering, so I'm really proud that I've been able to do that whilst working towards the Award.

With the Guides I've done lots of fundraising and given time to charitable causes. I've encouraged the younger Guides in my Patrol to get involved too. I'm also a Young Leader with the 94th Penarth Cubs, so I get to lead activities and games for the younger boys too. If I hadn't become so involved in the Guiding community, I wouldn't have had the same opportunities - to challenge myself to achieve badges and to try new sports, like shooting - so I'm glad I have the opportunity to inspire Beavers and other Guides.

I love new challenges, and so I've really enjoyed pushing myself to achieve the Baden Powell Award. I can't wait to get even more involved when I start attending the Girlguiding Senior Section when I'm a bit older, and I'm hoping to go on an international trip soon as a representative for Girlguiding.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Cooperation | Leadership | Community Awareness | Trust

# #iwill

*... continue as a Young Leader with Girlguiding and represent Girlguiding internationally.*



# CONNOR HILL

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
UK Youth Parliament



Name: **Connor Hill**

Age: **16**

Where I Live: **Dudley, West Midlands**

*"My goal is to represent the youth voice, enabling us to be outspoken about their opinions and to express our emotions. Through this, we will be able to create positive social change."*

My main passion is increasing the scope of the youth voice, and that's what I've been working on ever since I first got involved in social action at the age of 12 through my local youth council. The very next year, at the age of 13, I was proud to become a member of the UK Youth Parliament.

Today, I am still carrying out various campaigns through the UK Youth Parliament as the representative for more than 30,000 young people living in Dudley, as well as being a member of several different boards and panels - I use my Twitter account to share everything I'm working on with other young people.

My proudest achievement was assisting the Make Your Mark campaign for political engagement amongst young people. We collected over 20,000 young people's voices, an outstanding achievement and a massive step towards proportionately representing the young people of Dudley. My next big ambition,

following the example of Mhairi Black MSP, is to become one of the youngest MPs in the House of Commons in the next General Election, proving that we can make a difference.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Compassion | Confidence  
| Leadership | Empathy

# #iwill

*... continue to represent the young people of my community and to share the value of getting involved in youth politics.*



# MATILDA HILL

## Organisations I've Participated With

The John Muir Trust and South Shropshire AONB



Name: Matilda Hill

Age: 11

Where I Live: Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

*"Becoming more involved in social action in my local area has given me a 'can do' attitude that helps me at school, in sport and when I'm with my friends."*

I'm very lucky to live in such a beautiful area and be surrounded by unspoilt countryside. For me it's really important for people who live in areas like these to do protection and conservation work, so we can look after the landscape for us to enjoy and for generations to come.

The John Muir Trust helps young people in my area to start out in conservation - I was part of the first primary school group to complete my Conserver Award, the highest award you can achieve with the Trust. To achieve the Award I completed 35 full days of outdoor conservation work in the South Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I cleared up litter and other rubbish from the local lanes and helped to improve the woodland.

The conservation work and expeditions I took part in opened my eyes to all the different ways we can take care to enjoy our surroundings responsibly. A big

part of the Award is being able to share what you've learned with other people and communities. I'm looking forward to helping younger groups of children complete their Conserver Award and to help them clear a local pond habitat so more species of wildlife will be able to live safely there.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Citizenship | Community Awareness | Communication | Cooperation

# #iwill

*... take further opportunities to become involved in conservation work and inspire other young people to do the same.*



# CHLOE HINE

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
O2 Think Big, Beat the Bullies



Name: **Chloe Hine**  
Age: **16**  
Where I Live: **Havant**

*"I've seen the dark in the world and I feel a duty to bring light. I feel empowered and motivated not just to do better for myself, but for others like me too."*

I started my own charity, Beat the Bullies, to help victims of bullying to turn their negative experiences into something positive through music. It aims to be a safe space for young people who feel isolated, encouraging those who are being bullied to pull together and support each other.

Setting up Beat the Bullies has been so important for me as I've realised that I'm not the only one who has experienced the pain of being bullied. It's helped me to build myself back to the person I was before. I want to guide young people away from negative coping mechanisms like self-harm, because I don't want anybody to ever feel like I did.

Beat the Bullies uses YouTube videos and other social media to connect with young people. But the main way I want to help other people like me is through music, as discovering songwriting helped me to

come back from being bullied and create a positive effect in the world.

Music has always been a huge passion of mine, and I'm so glad that with the help of O2 Think Big I could launch Beat the Bullies and encourage other young people to express their feelings through songwriting.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Hope/Optimism | Compassion | Leadership | Gratitude | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination

# #iwill

*... commit to my goal of preventing suicide from the effects of bullying and help young people to turn their negativity into positivity, bringing people together through music and social media.*



# AMY HOOKINGS

## Organisations I've Participated With

Horn Drive Community Centre, Children For Peace, The Rank Foundation



Name: Amy Hookings

Age: 16

Where I Live: Belfast, Northern Ireland

*"I am a much more confident, socially developed and experienced teenager due to my social action - I hope to continue voluntary work well into my adult years."*

I'm a junior volunteer in my local community centre - I started volunteering when I was 14 as a way of giving back to my local community and inspiring young children, just as I was inspired when I was their age. In all, I've given over 250 hours of my time volunteering at the centre. I regularly use the centre's Facebook page to update our community on our social action projects, a great way of connecting with local people.

Our programmes are vital in keeping children off the streets in an area where antisocial behaviour is prevalent - they can develop their skills and receive emotional support. I'm proud to be a peer mentor, having achieved my OCN Level 1 in Peer Mentoring.

As a result of my community work I was selected for a cross-community programme, Children For Peace. I meet regularly with 11 other volunteers from across Greater Belfast to encourage dialogue about the prominent religious divide in Northern Ireland. We also have links with

the USA, allowing us to travel and experience religious diversity in another country.

As a Rank Foundation scholar and an #iwill Ambassador, I hope to continue spreading the word about social action and helping to support and encourage young people.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination |  
Communication | Confidence | Compassion

# #iwill

*... encourage others through social media and talks to emphasise the importance of social action for local communities and beyond, and to help achieve the goal of 60% participation in 10-20 year olds by 2020.*



# JACKIE JONES

## Organisations I've Participated With Fixers



Name: Jackie Jones

Age: 19

Where I Live: Cornwall

*"I'm trying to help young people who are currently in an abusive relationship, whether or not they have already realised it, and to show them where to seek help - and, crucially, I'm showing young people how to help their friends if they suspect that they are in an abusive relationship, as peer support is so important in situations like this."*

I want to make sure that as many young people as possible escape being a victim of any kind of abuse - be it physical, sexual, emotional, financial or psychological. That's why I launched a campaign to make sure that other young people are aware of how to spot the signs of an unhealthy or abusive relationship.

I got involved with the organisation Fixers, who have helped me to make a short film which I've published on YouTube. It's aimed at young people, and it's designed to make them consider all the forms that abuse can take within relationships. I've started to take this video into schools across Cornwall to engage and educate the pupils there, so that none of them have to experience any kind of unhealthy relationship or abuse. I've also recently started giving mini-workshops based around my film, to talk about the issues it raises in more depth with young people.

I'm so glad that I've managed to help young people already, receiving positive feedback from both students and from the Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse Team at Devon and Cornwall Police.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Courage |  
Communication | Confidence | Social Justice

# #iwill

*... continue with workshops to help young people spot the signs of unhealthy relationships and support others who have experienced abuse.*



# SANAH KASHYAP

## Organisations I've Participated With

Hursthead Junior School, Cancer Research UK, Trafford Youth Cabinet, Stockport Youth Partnership, Youthforia North West, Manchester University, Young Roots



Name: Sanah Kashyap

Age: 15

Where I Live: Manchester

*"I want to be the change that I want to see in the world. I aim to make a mark for the better and no matter what, I will try my best."*

When I moved to the UK in Year 3, it took time for me to adjust to learning a new language. I was also ostracised due to my 'weight', which had a knock-on impact on my life. But when I started getting involved in social action, I set out on a journey to find my ideal self.

I was 9 when I started fundraising through a sponsored swim. A year later, I joined my school council and in high school I've continued my commitment to improve school life. I'm a member of the charity committee and a Language Ambassador, as well as helping to run the Model United Nations Club. Within my local and faith communities it's no different. I try to help out in any way I can - being a member of local youth forums, working to increase cross-faith integration, raising over £700 for a charity expedition to the Sacred Valley, taking part in a project to improve traffic congestion, coaching badminton and cleaning the grounds of a local primary school.

Social action has made me realise you can do anything if you really try. I've been able to work with so many different people, from the LGBT community in my school to those suffering from mental health conditions. I've risen from my past and gained confidence in myself.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Creativity | Community Awareness | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Open Mindedness | Empathy

# #iwill

*... work towards being the change I would like to see in the world by demonstrating how youth social action can be done anywhere and everywhere.*

# JORDAN LAW

## Organisations I've Participated With

National Citizen Service, Volunteer Now, Start360



Name: Jordan Law

Age: 17

Where I Live: Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland

*“Through social action, I now have a greater understanding of local social issues and how to address them.”*

Over the past year I've got involved with the National Citizens Service programme (NCS). I started off as a participant last year, and then I was thrilled to be selected as a peer volunteer to provide support to other young people. This year I had an interview to be a peer mentor on an NCS social action project, and I was so happy to be chosen.

Through peer volunteering, I facilitated discussions about mental health and suicide awareness. Giving speeches and presentations to small groups with NCS has given me a massive confidence boost - I was also able to share my experiences at the 2015 #iwill Northern Ireland anniversary event.

Starting out on my social action journey, I wanted to do something a bit different by getting involved in my local community to raise awareness of current social issues for young people. I'm now a proud member of the Northern Ireland NCS Regional Youth Board, where I enjoy listening to others' concerns and ideas and speaking up for others without a voice. I hope that through this I can improve NCS programmes for other young people.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Gratitude | Community Awareness | Confidence | Communication  
| Citizenship

# #iwill

*... continue to promote social action within my school, local community and further afield while contributing to the National Citizen Service and their consortium of organisations.*



# NAOMI LEA

## Organisations I've Participated With

Fixers, NSPCC, 7 Cups of Tea, The Well Minds Project, Time To Change Wales, YoungMinds



Name: Naomi Lea

Age: 18

Where I Live: Henllan, Denbighshire, Wales

*"Social action has really turned my life around. It has given me a chance to have my voice heard."*

Social action has always been a part of my life. When I was 6, I followed my Mum's lead in fundraising for my primary school's PTA - I wanted to give back what the school had given to me. Now, not a day goes by where I'm not taking part in some form of social action.

It's not always been easy for me, as I used to struggle with low confidence, anxiety and panic attacks, so I found communicating with others difficult. However, with the help of Fixers, I was able to start my own mental health project to help other people with mental health problems. Alongside continuing to volunteer for organisations such as the NSPCC, I've delivered workshops in schools and done media interviews to share my experiences with others. My mental health project video gained a massive 30,000 views on Facebook over a few days! It was amazing to receive messages informing me that I had helped people feel less alone.

As a result of my work, at the age of just 18 I have been given a six month voluntary position as the Executive Officer of a new mental health social action project. I've gained more than I could ever express in words through social action, and I'm continuing to gain more and more each day.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Confidence | Empathy | Leadership | Hope/Optimism

# #iwill

*... show the positive impact that youth social action can have on mental health and self-confidence.*

# RHIANNA LEDWARD

## Organisations I've Participated With

Sandbach High School, Amnesty International



Name: Rhianna Ledward

Age: 14

Where I Live: Sandbach, Cheshire

*"I want to make sure that young people aren't just inspired to take part in social action, but also realise they have a voice and an impact - and see how fun social action can be!"*

For three years now I have been passionate about helping people locally, nationally and across the world. Every week I campaign for Amnesty International, raising awareness of world issues and human rights. I've also helped to run a food bank collection and volunteered to sort out the food, so that people who are less fortunate in my community can have a resource to fall back on.

I love being able to make my community a bit nicer - it's so easy but so valuable to give up a bit of time to litter pick and tidy up your local town centre, as I've done. Meeting and speaking to some of the people that I've helped, including a lady who benefitted from my food bank collection, makes my volunteering feel worthwhile. This has also helped me to overcome the shyness I felt when I was younger and to be more confident working with people.

I want to do as much as I can to work for social justice and to inspire other young people to do the same. My dream job in the future would definitely be in social action! I'm so excited about the prospect of making a difference in as many ways as I can.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Community Awareness | Problem-solving |  
Communication | Confidence

# #iwill

*... do as much as possible to be a role model and spokesperson for social action and to inspire young people to stand up for issues around the world.*



# REBECCA MACLEOD

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
 Girlguiding UK



Name: Rebecca Macleod

Age: 13

Where I Live: Aberdeen, Scotland

*"I have learnt that I can make a difference in my community - it may be small, but I can make a valuable life slightly better just by saying 'hi!'"*

When I was younger, I was very shy and introverted and I didn't really speak up for myself. But when my mum volunteered to train as a leader for Rainbows four years ago, I offered to help out as I'd been a Rainbow before I moved up to Brownies and Guides. Now I can help younger girls in Rainbows who are quiet and shy like I used to be, encouraging them to come out of their shells.

Having volunteered since I was only nine, I now dedicate two evenings a week to helping out at Rainbows. I'm glad I can give something back to a club which helped me when I was younger. It's sometimes difficult giving up so much time after school, especially if I have a lot of homework or school stuff on my mind. But when I'm tired, I just think about the girls that I work with and they give me the motivation to keep my energy levels up.

My experience working with the Rainbows means that, as I get older, potential employers will see that I'm trustworthy - I'd like to start working more with children soon.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Hope/Optimism | Confidence | Gratitude | Compassion |  
 Open-mindedness

# #iwill

*... campaign to increase the numbers of teenagers attending youth groups and clubs and campaign strongly to make these free.*

# AYAD MARHOON

## Organisations I've Participated With

Leeds Ahlul Bayt Centre, Leeds Muslim Youth Group



Name: Ayad Farazdak Marhoon

Age: 19

Where I Live: Leeds, West Yorkshire

*"Whether it was public speaking, community organising, speaking on the radio or at the UN, learning to understand other cultures better, or just helping me find myself - social action has given me opportunities and developed me a lot as a person."*

Although my parents were always involved in social action through the Leeds Ahlul Bayt Centre when I was growing up, it wasn't until I reached my mid-teens that I fully realised the impact that social action can have on communities and individual lives.

It was then that I first developed the desire to become the best person I could, in order for me to make the most out of my social action. I started doing leadership training and community organising courses, even reading self-development books in my free time. When I reached 18 and my adult life, I was well-prepared to make the biggest impact possible.

I'm now the Interfaith and Community Outreach officer for the Leeds Muslim Youth Group. I work with young people aged between 12 and 17 and with different communities around Leeds, regularly organising projects as a public show of unity and

to paint a positive picture of religious establishments in the area.

Social action has shown me that life need not always be selfish. I hope to spread this message and encourage other young people to give up their time and be selfless instead of sticking with the easier aspects of life like gaming or going out.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Confidence | Community Awareness | Humility/  
Modesty | Compassion

# #iwill

*... encourage the upbringing of a new generation of young leaders.*



# THOMAS MCEACHAN

## Organisations I've Participated With

Scottish Youth Parliament, Glasgow Youth Council, UK Youth Parliament



Name: Thomas McEachan

Age: 19

Where I Live: Glasgow, Scotland

*"Being involved in social action has provided me with the drive and determination to make a change and be counted."*

I didn't have the best start in life, growing up in a single parent household in Glasgow Pollok, a community rife with poverty. Taking part in social action gave me the vital voice which is so important to young people from my area of Glasgow.

I represented my community nationally with the Glasgow Youth Council, campaigning on issues important to young Glaswegians. Later on, I took this advocacy role one step further when I became the democratically elected member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Glasgow Pollok, and then even further by being elected as the Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Glasgow, representing my community across the United Kingdom. It was amazing to speak for Glasgow in the House of Commons in November 2015.

I blog, post YouTube videos and use other social media to update other young people and the wider

community on my social action journey. As well as making sure our voice is heard, I'm determined that young people should be involved in key technological advances regardless of their background or circumstances.

Since I became involved in social action, my confidence has grown enormously. I used to be shy, but now I can use my voice to be the forefront of change.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Hope/Optimism | Social Justice | Courage | Communication | Creativity

# #iwill

*... break down the barriers economically and socially disadvantaged young people face in the media industry.*

# KELSEY MCMMASTER

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
UNICEF, Fair Trade, Rights Respecting Schools



Name: Kelsey McMaster

Age: 16

Where I Live: Glasgow, Scotland

*"Promoting youth involvement in social action prevents children being denied rights and gives every child a chance at succeeding in life."*

When I was 12, I heard about child soldiers and what they have to go through around the world. I was horrified, and I knew then that I wanted to do something to help change the awful conditions that so many children face.

I started off by joining groups at my school, like Fair Trade and Rights Respecting Schools. Then I started working with UNICEF to fundraise and raise awareness, as well as trying to spread the message about the importance of youth participation in social action. My campaigning led to me being selected for the prestigious J7 summit team. Our team came up with possible solutions to global issues like gender equality and the rights of the child, and then our ideas were discussed by G7 leaders - one of my greatest social action experiences.

Taking part in social action in my school has really helped my friends and I to get our voices heard by our teachers - as teenagers, it can be so hard to get people to take notice of what we're saying, but our opinions are respected and valued within our school. A particular inspiration to me is the teacher who runs our Rights Respecting School group: they've given me hundreds of opportunities to share my opinions.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, perseverance and determination | Gratitude | Open-mindedness | Confidence | Compassion

# #iwill

*... promote youth participation and help others to speak up for causes they believe in.*



# ARCHIE MORSE

## Organisations I've Participated With

Thomas's Clapham School, Northcote Library, Queens Court Elderly Home, St. Basil's Youth Homelessness Charity, All Star Coaching



Name: Archie Morse

Age: 15

Where I Live: London

*"Helping in the community has been both rewarding and fulfilling and has made me feel more positive and happy in life."*

I've been involved in social action since I was 9, through school. I started off by helping at the Northcote Library organising and clearing out books for younger children so they would have a better experience with reading. It was so rewarding to make a positive difference to my community, and I really enjoyed myself too!

After that I went on to get stuck in with lots of other social action projects, to help people both in my local community and around the world. I've been busy providing companionship to the elderly at Queens Court Elderly Home, fundraising to build a second classroom in a school in a small town in Kenya, and designing a bike shelter for St. Basil's youth homelessness charity in Birmingham.

Recently, I participated in a course by All Star Coaching to allow me to volunteer for my local tennis club to help out and teach smaller children how to play and improve their tennis and overall sporting skills. In the summer I took part in the Three Peaks Challenge to fundraise for Step Up To Serve to encourage even more young people to become involved in social action.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Gratitude | Community Awareness | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Empathy | Self-discipline

# #iwill

*... use sport to help kids discover their potential and build a passion for interacting with others through sport.*

# MAJED MOUSLI

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Uprising, Syria Relief, Break the Race



Name: Majed Mousli

Age: 20

Where I Live: Liverpool

*"I hope to show young people the double benefit of starting your own campaign - having a benefit to your community and increasing your confidence."*

Having been a refugee myself, I feel I have a first-hand knowledge and understanding of the obstacles and hardships with which they can be faced. Inspired by the experiences of my own family, I decided to get involved with my skills and knowledge at the age of 17, wanting to make a change for the better in refugees' lives.

It's often hard for young people to fit social action in around their lives, particularly if they're full-time students like I am, but I believe that young people can bring new perspectives and ideas into organisations - especially if they have first-hand experiences of social injustice like I do.

I took part in the Uprising Leadership Programme to equip me to become more involved in social action, and after volunteering with Syria Relief I'm now working with Break the Race. It's really rewarding to

feel I'm having a benefit on the whole community.

I've gained so much on a personal level, too - social action has given me the experience to deal with people and to organise events, and most importantly it's given me the confidence to make decisive action to combat injustice.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Open Mindedness | Leadership | Problem-solving |  
Community Awareness

# #iwill

*... motivate young people to start their own campaign and make changes in their own society.*



# OLAMIDE ODANYE

## Organisations I've Participated With

London Borough of Newham, England Athletics, O2 Think Big, Samaritans, The Salvation Army



Name: Olamide Odanye

Age: 18

Where I Live: Essex

*"You are never too young or too old to make a change. As long as you're alive, that is an opportunity to better the world you live in and inspire those around you to do the same."*

I've always wanted to be able to make a change in my own 'world', but I never really knew how. When I was 14, I started volunteering with the London Borough of Newham to try and get the community more involved in sport, particularly athletics. This is when I realised that I could use something I have a passion for to create change.

My first social action involved coordinating volunteer teams for the Anniversary Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2013. I then went on to push myself out of my comfort zone and do something a bit different to athletics, by campaigning for Samaritans and volunteering for The Salvation Army.

Sometimes social action can push your boundaries and force you into a completely new environment. O2 Think Big helped make my journey easier by giving me guidance on L.I.V.E. (Learn, Inspire, Visualise, Elevate), the mentoring programme I now run with my best friend.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Communication | Leadership | Trust | Open Mindedness

We're encouraging student mentees in Year 8 - 12 to strive for success, helping to bridge the gap between education and the real world by equipping them with vital knowledge and skills.

I've gained so much from taking risks to create positive change - I'm a much more resilient, creative person now that I've been involved in social action.

# #iwill

*... always lead by example in order to promote youth social action, take personal responsibility for any problem I've identified, and find a solution that can impact and involve the community.*

# CHANDNI PATEL

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
**Frances Bardsley School for Girls**



Name: **Chandni Patel**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **London**

***"It is hugely important to reach out to the most vulnerable people in society, and to raise awareness of their existence amongst the community."***

I've been involved with the Frances Bardsley Autism and Disabilities Club for a few years now, volunteering at the RIEES Autism Club in my local area of Romford. I go to the club every Saturday - the 14 - 24 year olds who attend are some of the most socially vulnerable members of our community, and it's a privilege to be able to help out.

As well as volunteering at the club, I work to raise the profile of autism in the community to encourage other people to volunteer or help out in other ways. I've taken part in lots of fundraising activities and I've been on the team which organises the annual Havering Autism Sunday Service at St. Alban's Church in Romford for four years now.

My work with the Frances Bardsley Club and my local autism community has led to recognition as an Autism Ambassador for Frances Bardsley. Being an Autism Ambassador means an opportunity to give talks

about my voluntary work, and particularly to encourage other Sixth Formers to get involved too. I'll take over as President of the Club in September 2017, which will give me an even greater platform from which to raise awareness of autism in society, particularly amongst young people.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Humility / Modesty | Empathy | Leadership | Community Awareness

# #iwill

***... continue to act as an Autism Ambassador and promote Frances Bardsley and the RIEES Autism & Disabilities Club.***



# KARAN PATEL

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
The Youth Project



Name: **Karan Patel**

Age: **18**

Where I Live: **London**

***"Combatting youth inequality is all about providing accessible platforms for young people to have their say and get involved."***

I'm currently the CEO for the UK branch of The Youth Project, an organisation of young people who want to be able to make a difference to social injustice around the world. I helped to found the project, and I'm particularly interested in developing the social media and general online presence of the organisation.

As well as developing several websites and social media platforms for The Youth Project, I've set up my own online magazine, The New Word, to champion the youth voice. The magazine is run entirely by young people like myself, and has recently published articles on elitism in education, secularism in France and the politics of the Rio Olympics, to name just a few.

I'm proud to have had the opportunity to provide young people with the opportunity and platform to be able to get involved in social action. I now lead and inspire my peers through regular keynote speeches, which I never could have imagined before getting involved in The Youth Project. I'll be CEO of the UK branch until at least September 2017, so I'm really looking forward to getting even more young people involved in the near future.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Problem-solving | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination |  
Humility / Modesty | Leadership | Compassion

# #iwill

***... continue using the platform of  
The Youth Project to encourage  
more young people to take part  
in social action.***

# MELINA PELLING

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Royal Free Charity



Name: **Melina Pelling**

Age: **18**

Where I Live: **London**

*"My curiosity has grown and developed. I'm increasingly self-aware in relation to working with many and varying people, and I always strive to be as sensitive and helpful as I can be."*

I'm a volunteer at the Royal Free Hospital in London, working on the wards as a Dementia Companion. I think it's so crucial to recognise hospital as a hostile environment to those staying with Dementia, but also that kindness can help to counteract this.

I work directly with the patients in the hospital who have been diagnosed with Dementia, providing companionship and general help on the wards. I also get involved with other volunteering opportunities - tea parties hosted for lonely older people in the community, greeting guests at hospital events, and public speaking to represent the hospital's volunteers. I've spoken at a 'Medicine for Members' lecture about the role of volunteers in creating 'dementia-friendly' environments, and at Parliament.

It's an important part of my role to train new volunteers at the hospital, especially the youngest, helping them to feel safe, assured and equipped with

all the knowledge they might need.

Volunteering at the hospital has given me the confidence to pursue my dream of studying Medicine at University. I'm taking a gap year to continue volunteering at the hospital - although applying to competitive subjects like Medicine comes with a lot of uncertainty, I know now that I want to make a difference to the way patients in hospital are cared for and challenge perceptions of dementia in society.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination | Compassion  
| Leadership | Citizenship

# #iwill

*... continue volunteering at the hospital and at a local children's hospice, speak publicly and organise events to raise awareness on dementia, and continue to help other volunteers on their social action journey.*



# JOE PORTER

## Organisations I've Participated With

UnDivided, UK Youth Voice, Keele University, Conservative Party



Name: Joe Porter

Age: 20

Where I Live: Staffordshire

*"The main challenge that I face on a regular basis is working with people who have very different ideas to my own and persuading older generations to take young people seriously.."*

I got involved in social action as I wanted to make a positive difference to the lives of others whilst making a contribution to my local community. I am very proud to be one of the co-leaders of UnDivided - a movement to ensure that young people are placed at the heart of the decision-making around Brexit, no matter which side of the voting they stood.

I am currently a second year 'Marketing & Politics' student at Keele University alongside being one of the youngest local councillors in the country.

Through my work in politics I strive to ensure that there is a strong voice for young people in society. That's what motivated and called me to join the Conservative Party at the age of 13, become a Member of Youth Parliament when I was 15, to join UK Youth Voice as their West Midlands Regional Representative and then now as a Student Trustee for Keele Student Union. More recently, I was the Vote

Leave Constituency Campaign Coordinator for Staffordshire Moorlands and I was a big part of young Eurosceptic movements 'Students for Britain' and 'Universities for Britain'.

I hope to build on my work as a Parish Councillor and become a District Councillor and eventually an MP, once I have finished my degree and gained more life experience.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Passion | Determination | Optimism | Courage | Compassion

# #iwill

*... continue to play an active part in making my local community a better place for all and to ensure that people do not feel left behind.*

# JAMIE PUGH

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
O2 Think Big



Name: Jamie Pugh

Age: 18

Where I Live: East Midlands

*"I'm using my own experience with mental illness to help others see that it's okay to speak out."*

It's so important to reduce the stigma which surrounds mental illness in young people, particularly in schools and colleges. With the help of O2 Think Big, I started up my own mental health organisation for schools, Well Minds, after struggling with mental health problems myself.

The Well Minds Project has the vital aim of normalising mental health and making the subject more approachable for young people. It's becoming increasingly obvious that we need to start mental health education early, as children and teenagers are becoming affected by these issues earlier and earlier. That's why we start our interactive workshops in primary school, making sure that young people start talking about mental health in a way that is calm, judgement-free and safe. We also publish free, easy-to-access resources for young people, to educate them and encourage them to seek help early on if they are affected by mental health issues.

I've created a website for the project, and I'm preparing to deliver my project in local schools. It's taken a lot of bravery to speak up about mental health, but I'm glad and proud I'm doing it to help other young people.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Leadership | Courage | Trust | Community Awareness

# #iwill

*... continue at the forefront of mental illness campaigning to get young people across the UK involved in supporting one another and securing positive mental health.*



# ABBIE ROSE REDDINGTON

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
I do social action within my local community



Name: Abbie Rose Reddington

Age: 18

Where I Live: Norfolk

*"I'm committed to making sure others are aware of the limitations of being partially sighted to create a better environment for myself and for others."*

I am registered blind, and there used to be very little awareness of blindness in my local community. I particularly noticed that the public transport provision in my area, which I and many other registered blind people rely on to get around, was not well-adapted for people with visual impairments.

As good public transport is so vital for people to be able to get out into the local community, I decided to campaign and raise awareness around how councils can adapt transport to suit the needs of visually-impaired people. Along with my family, I lobbied for talking buses in the city of Norwich, which are now in use and benefitting the community there.

My successful campaign inspired me to get more involved in social action - I've also taken part in sponsored walks to fundraise for Brittle Bone disease. I'm always looking for new ways I can create a positive impact in my community.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Community Awareness | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination |  
Social Justice | Communication | Hope/Optimism

# #iwill

*... continue to look for new ways to create a positive impact on my community*

# RYANVIR SINGH

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
BIG Stop, Beat Bullying, UK Youth Parliament



Name: Ryanvir Singh

Age: 16

Where I Live: Leicester, East Midlands

*"I want to empower young people to become world changers and to stand up for what they believe in."*

My motto is to BE strong, BE heard and BE loud. But I wasn't always this way - I used to be a shy young boy who lost my confidence and my voice after being bullied. I knew I had to stand up for myself and for others like me when I saw a story in the news about a boy who had committed suicide due to cyber bullying.

I teamed up with the charity Beat Bullying to launch a petition to change the law on cyber bullying. I then went on to set up my own charity, BIG Stop, when I was only 13 years old. National BIG Stop Day is a stadium-sized event which empowers thousands of youth to create a #BIGchange locally, nationally and globally. We gather celebrity performers and speakers to inspire schools to choose a campaign for #BIGchange to work on for a year.

Through my social action charity I've spoken in front of 11,000 people and been nominated for a Queen's Honour. I've been lucky to have the opportunity to be a voice for Leicester's youth through being elected a Member of the UK Youth Parliament. The next big task I'd like to take on is getting every girl into education, developing a new project for overseas gender equality.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Confidence | Hope/Optimism | Leadership | Trust | Citizenship

# #iwill

*... inspire a generation of people to create a social change.*



# SHAYNA THAKRAR

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
The Youth Project



Name: Shayna Thakrar

Age: 10

Where I Live: Stanmore, Middlesex

*"I try to give my time to help anyone I feel I can."*

I really want to reduce poverty and make the world a better place. I'm only 10 years old, but I'm already getting involved in events and fundraisers. Among many other things, I've served in the slums of India, thrown a party for disabled adults and raised thousands of pounds for The Youth Project, an organisation of young people who want to make a positive difference in the world. I've also got involved with helping the community in my school, by working as a mentor for other pupils.

Before I got involved in social action, I wasn't as confident as I am now, particularly with speaking in public. This all changed when I was 8, and I managed to give a speech to 400 people at a school in India! This has really opened me up to the idea of speaking more in public, and since then I have spoken many more times.

I'm always looking for new ways that I can make a change in the community, and I'm really looking forward to doing more social action work in the future.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Citizenship | Problem-solving | Empathy | Gratitude | Self-discipline

# #iwill

*... look for new things that I can do in the community to make the world a better place.*

# JOSH THOMPSON

## Organisations I've Participated With

URPotential, RAF Cadets, Blackpool Youth Voice



Name: Josh Thompson

Age: 16

Where I Live: Blackpool, Lancashire

*"The responsibilities I've gained through social action have helped me to approach situations from different perspectives, so I'm not knocked off course when hurdles come up."*

You can start social action anywhere - I started in my school. It's really important to me to get along with everyone in my school community. I wanted to try and help out anyone who might be struggling, so I signed up to the Headstart Peer Mentoring Scheme. Now I've gone on to complete both the 'Introduction to Peer Mentoring' course and the 'Understanding Peer Mentoring' course.

To support the work that Headstart does I now sit on their executive board, attending various meetings and events, alongside continuing to volunteer as a peer mentor. Peer mentoring also inspired me to join Blackpool Youth Voice (BYV), using the good relationships I'd built within my school to collect 1000 ballot papers for their Make Your Mark campaign by my second week - we reached 8893 votes in total! I was proud to win a joint award with BYV from the High Sheriff of Lancashire.

After acting as communications liaison and managing the social media for BYV, I've now moved on to recruitment and general enquiries. These levels of responsibility will definitely prove useful when I go on to a career in the RAF in a few years' time, after years of service in the RAF Cadets.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Courage | Resilience, Perseverance & Determination |  
Problem-solving | Citizenship | Trust

# #iwill

*... continue to be part of Blackpool Youth Voice to support the voices and opinions of Blackpool's young people and to support peer mentoring by sitting on the Headstart Executive Young People's Board.*



# STEPHEN TUTIN

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
EDF Energy



Name: **Stephen Tutin**

Age: **20**

Where I Live: **Gloucester**

*"I'm now more aware of the practical benefits of social action, and what employers want from it."*

I've never really had the support around me to get involved in 'traditional' volunteering, but I managed to craft my own opportunities. Mainly using the Internet to form the framework which didn't exist in my local area, I have created, organised and administrated several online groups to provide support and a safe space for many people including some with issues such as autism, anger management and social isolation or reclusion.

A great success story for me involved a person with autism. When he first joined our group after it was recommended to him, he found it really hard to speak to people. However, after a couple of years in the group he now freely speaks to other members and even goes to parties with school friends! He says that our group was a huge help in easing his social transition.

Another massive positive is that social action has helped me to get my dream job with EDF Energy. At interview, I was told that my CV had stood out because of the initiatives I created. I'm now one of the most experienced members of the steering committee for the new EDF Energy Young Professionals Network, which allows me to encourage others to volunteer and take the lead in important roles.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Leadership | Confidence | Empathy | Openness |  
Communication Skills

# #iwill

*... Expand my efforts to support more people online, assist the #iwill campaign and use my position at EDF Energy to promote volunteering and social action.*

# MILLIE WALKER

## Organisations I've Participated With

Girlguiding UK, National Citizen Service, St John Ambulance, Leicester Hospitals Charity



Name: Millie Walker

Age: 18

Where I Live: Leicester, Leicestershire

*"The infinite enthusiasm and optimism of the girls that I work with when volunteering inspires me to work on their behalf to ensure that the social environment they're going into is the best it can be."*

I was always part of School Councils when I was growing up, but it was taking part in National Citizen Service (NCS) that really made a difference in my life. As part of a team I managed to help raise over £1000 in two weeks for Leicester's Children's Hospital Charity. My experience on NCS made me realise that I wanted to continue giving my spare time and skills to make an impact in my local community.

As a young person it can be hard to navigate the volunteering roles on offer - I found it difficult to find an opportunity that worked for me and my school timetable, but I persevered and eventually found something that was just right for me. I joined my local St John Ambulance Cadets and started volunteering with my local Rainbows group.

I love working with Rainbows - it gives girls a safe space outside of school where they can try new things and become empowered. It's also great to inspire younger girls to learn about social issues and become involved in social action like fundraising. I've been selected to be an NCS mentor this summer, and I'm looking forward to guiding even more young people on their social action journey.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Compassion | Communication | Community Awareness | Leadership | Courage

# #iwill

*... ensure that it becomes easier for young people to take part in volunteering roles they are passionate about that fit around their academic and social schedule.*



# CHLOE WARD

## Organisations I've Participated With

Young Dragons Wales, Prestatyn Young Firefighters Association, Girlguiding UK, Scouts



Name: Chloe Ward

Age: 16

Where I Live: Prestatyn, Denbighshire, Wales

*"Through social action I've developed more confidence around people and the urge to try out new activities."*

When I moved to Prestatyn a few years ago, I didn't know anybody. Joining youth groups and taking part in volunteering helped me to get to know the new community I lived in, and as a bonus I made lots of new friends. I'm now involved in my community every single day.

Getting involved in lots of different activities means that you can meet people of all ages and walks of life. With the Young Dragons, I've worked with the community over North Wales at numerous events as a marshal, a fundraiser and a general event helper, and on three occasions I've taken part in the Royal Voluntary Service GrandFest and spoken with older people to share memories and experiences. Within my youth groups, I mentor and guide younger members so they can have someone to look up to - I'm now

trained to be a Young Leader with my Guide group, 1st Meliden Guides.

I'm really glad I got involved in social action. I've grown in confidence and developed social, communication and life skills, and I'm so proud of the worthwhile things I do. I'd love to work in the community when I leave education.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Self-discipline | Leadership | Community Awareness | Citizenship  
| Resilience, perseverance and determination

# #iwill

*... promote the benefits of social action by example to all the people I meet through my volunteering.*

# LEIGHTON WIECHA

**Organisations I've Participated With**  
Arch Domestic Violence Charity



Name: Leighton Wiecha

Age: 10

Where I Live: West Midlands

*"I have a passion for getting people involved in social action in my local area."*

It's important to me to support my local community, as I'm really proud of where I live. As a social action ambassador at my academy, I've visited other schools in the West Midlands and worked within my own academy to encourage others to get involved in social action too. Outside of academy life, I visit a local old people's home to volunteer my free time.

I've also supported Arch, the domestic violence charity, to launch a major campaign in my local area. Before getting involved in social action in my academy and in my community, I wasn't very confident in myself, but when I worked with Arch I spoke to lots of people in local superstores to tell them about the campaign and ask them to sign up. Now, I have much more confidence and I have developed a sense of worth in my local area.

I'm really proud of my involvement in social action, as I've helped people where I live, and I'm even speaking to secondary school teachers about how they can get involved too.

## CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Humility/Modesty | Self-discipline | Courage | Citizenship | Leadership

# #iwill

*... get more people involved where I live and work nationally with others to raise the profile of my city.*



# #iwill '14 AMBASSADORS

*"My favourite part of being an #iwill Ambassador is the platform it gives you that helps to develop your social action in so many ways. It extends existing roles and creates new ones you never knew could be possible, and helps you to become a better person through the social action that you do"*

**Grace Chaplin**

*"#iwill is about celebrating the work that many volunteers do across the country which sometimes goes unrecognised"*

**Rebecca Brunskill**

*"If you are already volunteering, go out and boast about it, talk to your friends about your social action and get involved. It's really fun, and fulfilling"*

**Harriet Frobisher**

*"Being an #iwill Ambassador has given me the opportunity to promote and champion the efforts made by my peer group that help enhance local communities"*

**Craig Bateman**

*"My favourite part of being an Ambassador is having new, unique opportunities offered to me every month through #iwill which help me learn more about my community and about myself"*

**Sarah Shaikh**

*"I love inspiring young people to go out and try something new, that they never thought that they would be able to do"*

**Natasha Lawton**

# #iwill '15

## AMBASSADORS

*"I think my favourite thing about being an #iwill Ambassador is meeting activists from groups and communities I had never seen before, it was eye opening"*

**Jordan Abernathey**

*"Since becoming an #iwill Ambassador, I've felt more pride in myself and its encouraged me to do more"*

**Abi Seaton**

*"My favourite part of being an ambassador are the opportunities I have had, and I am overwhelmed at the confidence I have gained. Can't wait to keep promoting the #iwill campaign."*

**Suzanne Maxwell**

*"My favourite part of being an Ambassador is sharing my social action story with others and encouraging them to get involved too"*

**Therese Crossan**

*"Being able to introduce the campaign to people I meet sparks many conversations about volunteering, and the benefits of youth social action. Particularly in light of the bad reputation that young people seem to have in the press."*

**Tim Hancock**





THE  
**JUBILEE CENTRE**  
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues is a unique and leading centre for the examination of how character and virtues impact on individuals and society. The Centre was founded in 2012 by Professor James Arthur. Based at the University of Birmingham, it has a dedicated team of 30 academics from a range of disciplines: philosophy, psychology, education, theology and sociology. With its focus on excellence, the Centre has a robust and rigorous research and evidence-based approach that is objective and non-political. It offers world class research on the importance of developing good character and virtues and the benefits they bring to individuals and society.

To find out more, see [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk)

 **step up to serve**

Step Up To Serve is a small charity that coordinates the #iwill campaign. The #iwill campaign was launched in November 2013 thanks to the leadership of HRH The Prince of Wales and the UK's three main political parties. The campaign aims to make participation in meaningful social action the norm for young people by 2020. We describe this as 'young people taking practical action in the service of others to create positive change'. Examples could include caring for someone in the community, providing peer support online, volunteering for a charity, campaigning or fundraising for a specific cause. More examples can be seen within this brochure.

To find out more, visit [www.iwill.org.uk](http://www.iwill.org.uk)