



CHARLENE SPENCE

AGE: 18 years old FROM: Northern Ireland

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: CONFIDENCE | COMMUNICATION | LEADERSHIP | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION | HOPE / OPTIMISM

“The sense of joy I get from social action is greater than anything else.”

When my Grandpa had a heart attack we received lots of support from the British Heart Foundation and so I chose to volunteer for them for my Duke of Edinburgh award as I wanted to give something back to the charity. I loved it so much I continued beyond my DofE award.

I began volunteering for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust when I was 16 and took up a role as a ward volunteer on an elderly mental health ward in my local hospital. I found this rewarding as communicating with a younger person keeps them in touch with society.

Last summer I completed the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme and we organised a colour run to raise money for the MS Society. Since then I have gained a place on the NCS Northern Ireland regional youth board and for Social Action Day I was the main organiser for a project removing invasive species from Rams Island. I also volunteered at an amazing event where young people made peace pledges.

Taking part in social action has given me invaluable experience of the working world. I am more confident and realise that no matter what age you are you can make a difference in the world. It makes me want to be a better person every day and gives me the power and motivation to inspire others to get involved. The sense of joy I get from social action is greater than anything else.

My social action experiences have enabled me to get a part-time job as a care assistant in a local care home. I have also recently been on a mission trip to Poland teaching children the gospel and giving out food in some of the poorest areas of Warsaw. I will continue to volunteer at children’s missions.

