



KATIE SWEENEY

#iwill



*Katie Sweeney, 18 years old
From: Londonderry, Northern Ireland*

CHARACTER VIRTUES

I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Compassion | Open Mindedness | Gratitude | Humility /
Modesty | Confidence

**#iwill ... show young people
that involvement in social action can
help shape not only their future, but
a shared society where everyone is
respected and valued.**

When I was 14 I did my first money collection for Concern. It was freezing, but myself and my friends fundraised by entertaining passers-by with Christmas carols. The sense of spending my time well by helping others combined with the laughs we had that day showed me that social action should be something that everyone tries- as not even the cold could stop our high spirits! I continued collecting for Concern every year from then on. I also volunteered at my local Speech and Drama school, mentoring younger pupils and preparing them for their Christmas showcase. I remember the older students helping me when we were that age, so I was eager to provide the same experience for others. I enjoyed it so much that I am now looking to study Primary Education at university.

I then volunteered in a British Red Cross charity shop for a few hours every Saturday. This started as I wanted to enhance my

CV, but I continued because I enjoyed volunteering. I looked forward each week to meeting new people, and developing new skills.

I am now a member of 'Amazing the Space', a youth-led peacebuilding initiative that empowers young people across Northern Ireland to become local ambassadors for peace and which aims to bring together young people in Northern Ireland from different faith backgrounds and cultures.

I meet with other young people across Northern Ireland to discuss issues and what we can do to resolve them. This has led to further discussions about social action solutions with various Northern Ireland political party leaders and I even got the chance to discuss it with the President of Ireland and Prince Charles!

" My Religious Studies teacher at school used his experiences and his knowledge to help and support others and I was encouraged and inspired by him to do the same."

Organisations I've Participated With:

Concern, British Red Cross, Foyle School of Speech and Drama, Amazing the Space

