



Jaden McIntyre: “I volunteer because I like helping people, and it makes me feel good.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 5 - 11 year old category)

Jaden McIntyre has a passion for helping others. Volunteering with the Interfaith Food Bank from the age of 5, Jaden is a permanent member of the volunteer crew; helping to stock shelves, bag potatoes, repackage dry foods and breakdown cardboard. His favourite task is working in Client Intake, where he provides food directly to families in need. Jaden’s character and work ethic are inspiring, he is always looking for the next task or goal to accomplish! While the majority of the volunteers at the food bank are adults (seniors), Jaden’s youthful perspective helps make the volunteers’ experiences more worthwhile. Not only does his energy make their tasks more enjoyable, but they are more productive as they try to keep up with him. His smile warms the hearts of many food bank clients, who occasionally ask where the “little helper” is, when he’s not working at the service counter. Jaden volunteers with the annual Whoop Up Days Pancake Breakfast and the parade and also participates in the Red Dress Run on Canada Day. Dedication to the cause and the ability to focus on task are characteristics Jaden possesses in quantity – well beyond his years. While at the Palliser Out of School Program, he would be the first one to hold a door open for others, clean up toys without being asked, assist staff members when needed and assist children who have disabilities. As a strong basketball player, he would often be found teaching other children how to shoot baskets or organizing a basketball game. After he completed his crafts, he would always assist other children if they needed help. He always made sure that he was benefiting others and he was interacting with them in a kind and caring way. Jaden has a big heart and makes a real impact on those who have the pleasure of meeting him. He has made, and will continue to make great contributions to our community through volunteerism.



Alex Austin: “For me volunteering isn’t work or anything like that, it’s a way of life and I love it.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 12 - 15 year old category)

Alex Austin is an outstanding and dedicated volunteer who goes above and beyond what is expected of her. She took the initiative to seek out volunteer opportunities at the Boys’ & Girls’ Club and joined the Keystone Youth Leadership Club. Without knowing one person at the club, Alex showed up for the first meeting with a smile, a willingness to meet new people, excitement to be part of the club, and to make a difference in her community. Alex is always one of the first youth to come up with ideas on how to promote the club, assist the community, be a positive influence on those around her and she goes out of her way to help the leaders and welcome new youth to the club. The youth at the Boys’ & Girls’ Club all look up to Alex as a leader and they admire her. Through the Keystone Leadership Team, Alex has helped lead activities such as the Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day, run a garage sale fundraiser, wrapped Christmas presents at Sears, and at Lethbridge Family Services, represented the Boys’ & Girls’ Club at school assemblies, helped lead a soccer game to celebrate World Peace Day and attended Regional Keystone Conferences in Gull Lake and Toronto. She has also volunteered at the Bell Walk for the Kids Help Phone, the YMCA Family Fun Run, Kids Soccer Fest, the Humane Society, as a Counsellor in Training for the YMCA summer camps, participated in two World Vision 30 Hour Famines, raised money for the Diabetes Association, helped with a garage sale for Prostate Cancer, assisted at a Moonlight Run, volunteered for the Canadian Breast Cancer Association and donated bags of clothing to be shipped to Haiti. Alex wholeheartedly spends her time being involved in contributing to her community. She does not only have huge potential for being a leader in the future, Alex is a leader right now, in her school and in the community.



Tannis Chartier: “I choose to volunteer in hopes to inspire young people to make a difference. I have had many great influences in my life, encouraging me to help others, and I hope to be that same influence on those I am blessed to volunteer with.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 16 - 18 year old category)

Tannis Chartier is vibrant and energetic with a heart for serving others and looks for ways to help out or brighten someone’s day. Her sunny disposition and positive attitude are an inspiration to those around her. In addition to volunteering at her high school and in her church in many different capacities, she tries to find the newest and most efficient way to help those less fortunate. This included participating numerous times in the 30 Hour Famine and independently starting a project called Solos for Souls. Tannis organized volunteers and promoted the cause, which resulted in the collection of more than 500 pairs of shoes for people living in poverty. In her school’s mentorship program, she mentored young girls after school. At her church, she is a group leader in the Girls Club program, and is on the leadership team for the junior high program. Tannis is incredibly caring and extremely passionate about social justice and is planning to eventually work in the child and youth care field, helping children who are less fortunate. She is well rounded in all of her activities volunteering in many different areas from serving as secretary of her school’s students’ council, planning pancake breakfasts for her school’s students’ council, involved on the grad committee, baking cupcakes for bake sales, and donating blood at Canadian Blood Services. Tannis is a strong advocate for young women, and was a student volunteer for Kate Andrews High School’s Young Women’s Conference. She exemplifies what it means to be dedicated to something, is an incredible role model, and is highly esteemed by her peers and many adults in her church and the community. Ask anyone who has spent time with Tannis and without-a-doubt she will have carved an unforgettable impression on their heart. Tannis is extremely dedicated to many different aspects of this community, she is inspiring, hardworking, and shows great initiative. As a leader of today, Tannis is well on track as an exemplary leader of tomorrow.



Dave Elniski: “Working in northern Alberta during the 2011 fires with the Canadian Red Cross put all my volunteering in perspective; it was the most work for the least pay I have ever done, and was the most meaningful and real. Volunteers aren't just hobbyists - they fill a need.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 19 - 24 year old category)

Dave Elniski is a hardworking, capable and enthusiastic volunteer with St. John Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross, the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra and the Chinook Community Orchestra. His strong interpersonal skills and enthusiasm serve him well as a First Aid Response volunteer with St. John Ambulance by providing first aid services at various events throughout Lethbridge. The Northern Alberta fires occurred shortly after Dave became a member of the Canadian Red Cross Personal Disaster Assistance team and he was one of the first volunteers to offer to deploy up north to assist the affected families. Not only did he do a great job and garner excellent performance reviews from everyone he worked with, he lifted the spirits of the other volunteers with his good humor and guitar. This is a testament to Dave's strong character and dedication to helping others. When it became apparent that there was a need for a campus organization to bring attention to the crisis in East Africa, Dave stepped up and founded the University of Lethbridge Red Cross Club. Dave is a shining star on the Canadian Red Cross Personal Disaster Assistance team, inspiring others to volunteer, helping disaster-affected families when they are at their most vulnerable, bringing attention to global humanitarian crises, doing this all with enthusiasm, practicality, and great team work ethic. With taking on a formal leadership position within the team, Dave is a capable ambassador for the Canadian Red Cross. Dave's desire to help others, his commitment to help make a difference and give back to the community shines through with everything he does. His work ethic, compassionate leadership skills will continue to assist him with his plans to enter medical school and reach his goal of ultimately working in disaster areas across the world to assist people in need.



William Kellett: “I love volunteering because it is a great way to give back to the community and also get that warm feeling inside that you get from helping others.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 19 - 24 year old category)

William Kellett volunteers for the Teen Stuff Youth Drop-In Program at the Boy’s & Girls’ Club because he wanted to get involved in the community and find a way to help youth.

Volunteering for the Teen Stuff program is a big commitment. William goes above and beyond that expectation by being available to provide support for out of town trips, community events, and club training opportunities, in addition to his regularly scheduled shifts. The youth respect William and know that he genuinely cares about their wellbeing and the staff are thankful for his dedication and positive attitude. He shows up enthusiastically, with a smile, positive attitude and willing to help wherever needed, these speak volumes about his character. Further, William always does what he thinks is best for the youth, even if it means more work for him, or putting himself out of his comfort zone. He has also been an instrumental part in leading the Teen Stuff Youth Dragon Boat Team. Not only does William volunteer as a Youth Worker for the Teen Stuff program, he also helps facilitate the Keystone Youth Leadership Team, a program that allows high school students to grow their leadership skills. With Keystone, William has been involved in participating with youth in a food drive, planning a garage sale fundraiser, leading a hiking trip to Waterton, and being a chaperone for leadership conferences in Gull Lake and Toronto. Although William is a full-time University of Lethbridge student and has a part-time job working with people who have disabilities, he spends eight hours of his time per week investing in the Teen Stuff program. William is an invaluable part of the Boys’ & Girls’ Club team, whose presence has contributed to making the Boys’ & Girls’ Club a welcoming place for youth and creating a positive difference in the lives of youth. His dedication is very inspiring to his fellow volunteers, the staff and the youth at Boys’ & Girls’ Club.



Ayra Kelly: “I volunteer to pursue and embody great love, great friends, great change, and great meaning.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 19 - 24 year old category)

Ayra Kelly is a remarkable and trustworthy young woman who exemplifies the criteria for this prestigious award. She has a passion and drive rarely witnessed in people, to make a significant contribution to the world around her and works tirelessly to that end being heavily involved in her school and her community. Her deeply caring personality, compassionate, friendly disposition and desire to involve and inspire others; makes an immediate impression on those she meets. Ayra is an active member of the University of Lethbridge Rotaract Club. This service club for young adults has the motto “Service Above Self”. Serving as the Vice President of Internal Affairs with the club, Ayra has taken this motto as her own, and strives to live her life in the service of others. She has been an integral part of planning numerous club fundraising activities, including a youth camp for 30 high school youth exchange students as part of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly, and a pink shirt campaign to raise funds and awareness for Pink Shirt Day, put on by the Boys’ & Girls’ Club of Lethbridge. With University of Lethbridge Rotaract Club, Ayra has also served as the Youth Committee Co-chair and was instrumental in the success of the club’s largest annual event, a Dinner and Silent Auction for international service projects; she headed the decorations committee and coordinating over 50 volunteers. Outside of Rotaract, Ayra continues to be active in her community through organizations including Fair Trade Lethbridge, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Girl Guides of Canada. Ayra is an enthusiastic, motivated leader and an excellent role model for youth. Her infectious joy and positive outlook for life and commitment to the people around her is a bright beacon to everyone she knows. Ayra’s dedication to volunteerism is truly inspirational to others by encouraging them to take the initiative and reach out to the community.



Emma Ladouceur: “Much work still needs to be done in our world, and I cannot expect anyone else to do it if I myself am not willing. Working together for causes bigger than ourselves, we can and will create positive change. I am simply grateful for the opportunity to lend my hands and my voice.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 19 - 24 year old category)

Emma Ladouceur is an enthusiastic, devoted, and friendly volunteer. She became involved in clubs and activism on the University of Lethbridge campus almost immediately. Within her first semester, she was secretary of the PRIDE Centre, and volunteering regularly at the Women’s Centre. Her involvement has increased over the past two years, including being a Junior Coordinator for Fresh Fest 2011, one of the largest annual events hosted by the Students’ Union. This year she is co-coordinator of the Women’s Centre and President of the PRIDE Centre. She also sits on the Lethbridge Public Interest Research Group Board of Directors and on the City of Lethbridge’s Youth Advisory Council. Emma has played a large role in helping to put on the multiday OUTspoken workshop and lecture series, and on the organizing committee since its inception. She supports the community in a variety of ways from camping out in front of the university for a week to raise awareness about youth homelessness to being front-and-center for student-run events. In the past three years, she has become an eloquent activist for groups of people often marginalized. If there’s a way Emma can make a difference, she does it, joins it, and encourages others to volunteer for it. Emma values the people who volunteer with her and for her, and is effective in persuading others to volunteer. If there is any way she can convince you to feel better about yourself or care more about other people, she will do it. It is her willingness to have a conversation with anyone who will listen in a way that is approachable and honest, that is her strength and where her greatest impact can be felt. The people who love her, respect her because of her commitment, her respect, and appreciation for others’ contributions, her leadership skills and her dedication. Emma is a strong example of what can happen when someone has a positive volunteering experience, because it will lead to another and another. It is her love of volunteering, which is obvious to anyone that meets her, that encourages people to find their volunteering niches.



Katie Taylor: “Volunteering provides an avenue to use your gifts and strengths to make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteering also develops personal character; I believe that it is impossible to find yourself and be truly happy until you act selflessly and serve others.”

(Leaders of Tomorrow 2012, Excellence Award Recipient, 19 - 24 year old category)

Katie Taylor is an amazing young woman with an impressive background as a leader and a volunteer. Driven by her passion for social justice, she has dedicated her talents and time as a team leader for international volunteer projects. Katie’s capacity to see the larger picture, to recognize the factors that contribute to poor health and diminished wellbeing, and to identify solutions that will make a difference, is a clear indication of her potential to successfully advocate for others. With Katie’s volunteer work around the globe, she has gained firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by others, and has witnessed the impact that a small group of caring citizens can have in the lives of others. As a leader of the team with Global Youth Volunteer Network and prior to the trip to Uganda, Katie had the responsibility of organizing fundraisers and ensuring that all team members were adequately prepared. During her first trip to Uganda, Katie assisted with building projects at a school for HIV/AIDS orphans and working with HIV positive widows. She was so deeply moved by these women’s stories that she felt compelled to return to the community and learn more about the obstacles and the strengths that comprise their everyday lives. Katie believes that one way to assist the women is to help them tell their stories to the world. She explored and documented their experiences and is now sharing those narratives. On another project with Global Volunteer Network, Katie led a team who built relationships with “at-risk youth” in some of the poorest areas of Brazil. Her initiative, empathy and activism are raising the awareness of Canadians and challenging all of us to participate more fully to address the basic needs of others to create positive change. The combination of her passion and dedication to some of the forgotten people of the world is truly inspirational and Katie is someone who has made a difference in this world.