

THE TOUCHING HEART IMPACT



HOW COMPASSION SHAPES TOMORROW'S LEADERS



The journeys of Touching Heart alumni and the
impact of growing up with heart.



Since 2009, thousands of young people have discovered that compassion isn't just something you feel. It's something you do.

Through service projects, leadership opportunities, and hands-on experiences, Touching Heart has helped children discover confidence, purpose, and the joy of making a difference.

These are just a few of their stories.

Each page begins with a child who chose to make a difference...

...and ends with the adult they're becoming.

While every journey is unique, the lessons learned through serving others continue long after the projects are over.

This is the Touching Heart Impact.



THEN



THE TOUCHING HEART IMPACT



Growing Compassionate Leaders



NOW

Amanda Smith



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Organized movie night raising funds to support orphanages in Kenya and Uganda
- Led Family Fun Day to build a chicken farm for a school in Haiti
- Inspired others through public speaking at her events



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Duke University graduate
- Mechanical engineer
- Rocket engineer at Northrop Grumman

“

Touching Heart made me consider my impact on the world around me from a young age, and shaped my personal and professional values. It also helped me grow as a leader and helped me to grow my confidence.

”

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Abby Cortez



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led Touching Heart Club at her school
- Organized a Movie Night raising funds to support Touching Heart programs
- Led a Talent Show event benefiting families at the local homeless shelter
- Served on the Touching Heart Jr Board



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Biology PhD student at Tufts University
- Studying fibroblasts and their role in pancreatic cancer

“

My experience with Touching Heart is something I carry with me to this day. Not only did it nurture my compassion, it provided me with skills and confidence to take on leadership roles throughout my life. I could not be more grateful for this organization and all the people in it.

”

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NOW

Ethan Grossman



HIS TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a basketball tournament benefiting children in foster care and local homeless shelters
- Inspired families as a featured speaker at the Family Gala
- Received the Touching Heart Change Maker Award for his leadership and impact



WHERE HE IS NOW

- Business analytics major at University of Miami minoring in AI and sports administration
- Manager for the University men's basketball team
- Intern at Monumental Sports and Entertainment

“

Touching Heart impacted me by making me a better communicator and public speaker, as well as teaching me that anyone can make a change and help a cause that they choose.

”

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Neha Kulshreshtha

—❤—



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a 5k fun run to raise funds to support a school in Liberia
- Served on the Touching Heart Jr Board
- Was a frequent volunteer and a lead youth volunteer for the Touching Heart Family Gala



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Graduate of Cornell University with a degree in computer science from the College of Engineering
- Works in equity derivatives trading at Barclays

“

Touching Heart was a great and impactful way to stay connected with communities and bring positive change to the world. I'm so grateful to have grown up with amazing role models from Touching Heart and to have organized events that taught me leadership and communication skills!

”

THE TOUCHING HEART IMPACT

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Ruth McCoy

— ♥ —



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led multiple events to raise funds for local children in foster care and orphanages internationally
- Was an inspiring speaker at Touching Heart's annual golf tournament
- Served on Touching Heart Junior Board



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Ithaca College graduate with BFA in acting and a minor in marketing
- Lives in NYC and is acting Off-Broadway and in a national commercial campaign
- Works at L'Oreal USA headquarters

“

Touching Heart taught me a lot about the importance of community and compassion through an avenue of learning that also equipped me with concrete skills like event planning, collaboration, and professionalism. It gave me the tools to be a leader at work and in my community.

”

THE TOUCHING HEART IMPACT

—❤—
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Preston Lin

—❤—



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a soccer tournament to help fund a special factory to fight childhood malnutrition in Zambia
- Stuffed backpacks with school supplies for children in foster care
- Frequent volunteer at Touching Heart events



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Completing a master's degree program at Virginia Tech for counselor education
- Starting an internship at Blue Ridge Behavioral Health

“

Touching Heart was one of my first times putting together my own fundraising event, and it made me feel capable of doing more! I ended up being president of two clubs in college and ran many fundraisers for cancer, remembering my roots from TH! I love Touching Heart and all they do!!

”

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Ava Grace Turicchi

— ♥ —



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a fashion show fundraiser to raise funds for children in foster care
- Inspiring speaker at Touching Heart annual golf tournament
- Frequent volunteer at Touching Heart events



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- University of Virginia undergrad studying American studies
- Plans to pursue a master's in public policy
- Hopes to one day work in prison reform policy

“

Working with Touching Heart changed my life's path and taught me the importance of service from a young age. I've taken the skills I developed at Touching Heart to lead a nonprofit, run community programs, and succeed as a student!

”

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Jaden Keltz



HIS TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a basketball event to raise funds to support an orphanage in the Philippines
- Volunteered at Santa's Workshops events to wrap holiday gifts for children in foster care



WHERE HE IS NOW

- Recent graduate headed to University of South Carolina to study business
- Acts and models for brands such as Five Below, Spirit Halloween, and Boscov's

“

Touching Heart showed me how fun service can be and how it brings happiness to others.

”

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—❤—
Nina Keltz



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a fashion show fundraiser and a singing competition to raise funds to support children in foster care
- Frequent volunteer and participant in many Touching Heart events
- Helped bring Touching Heart stories to life through voiceover work



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Rising Senior at Briar Woods High School, President of Student Council Association
- Acts and models for brands such as Five Below, Spirit Halloween, and Boscov's

“

Community service is a big part of my life and public speaking is something I love to do. Touching Heart is where it all started for me when I was 5 years old.

”

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NOW

Diya Das



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led many events raising funds to support children in foster care as well as a school in India. Created birthday packages for children in foster care
- Launched Touching Heart club at her middle and high schools
- Served on Touching Heart Junior Board



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Industrial designer
- Global recognition for inventing sustainable paper product from invasive species
- A winner of Safe Furniture Design for children and her product was showcased at NY Design Week

“

Today I design products for the greater benefit of society. My interest in sustainable product design came from my involvement in Touching Heart, when as a kindergartener, I collected funds for a bio-sustainable fence for an orphanage in Kenya. That was the start. Touching Heart inspires me to this day...when I think of designing a product I think how it can help humanity.

”

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NOW

Roshni Das



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led several events including a birthday event to raise funds to purchase air coolers for a school in need in India
- Participated in Touching Heart afterschool club and summer camp
- Volunteered at many Touching Heart events



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Recent high school graduate
- Will be attending Virginia Tech to study management consulting and analytics at the Pamplin College of Business

“

I grew up with Touching Heart, since I was a toddler. Empathy, kindness and helping children in need is what I learned from participating and organizing events. Today I am headed to Virginia Tech, and I carry the same spirit of giving that I learned in Touching Heart, now as 'Ut Prosim': That I May Serve.

”

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NOW

Tyler Smith



HIS TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led Minecraft and Movie Day events to buy chickens, a cow, and supplies for an orphanage in Kenya
- Collected school supplies to fill backpacks for children in need
- Participated in a Touching Heart Fashion Show and volunteered for other events.



WHERE HE IS NOW

- Recently accepted into the newest recruit class with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy
- Plans to be a firefighter and ultimately a career paramedic

“

Touching Heart revealed to me the joys of giving back at a young age. I learned that spreading empathy, love, and compassion through helping others is one of if not the most important of pursuits in life; and I will forever be grateful for that lesson.

”

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NOW

Haley Longfellow



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Raised funds to support orphanages in Africa and created birthday packages for kids in foster care
- Launched Touching Heart Club at her school and served as a Jr Board Member
- Featured speaker at Touching Heart Family Gala



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Cornell University graduate
- Studied operations research and engineering, as well as business
- Technology Consultant in financial services at Ernst & Young

“

Touching Heart helped build my confidence to bring meaningful service projects to life. My experiences shaped my worldview from a young age, inspiring me to take action and grow as a leader.

”

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NOW

Hannah Longfellow



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led Family Fun Community Day event raising funds to support Touching Heart programs
- Served as a Touching Heart Ambassador and on the Junior Board
- Led the Touching Heart Club at her school



WHERE SHE IS NOW

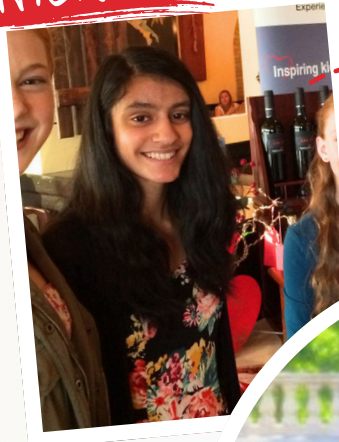
- Virginia Tech student majoring in industrial and systems engineering
- Just completed a 7-month co-op doing industrial engineering at Universal Orlando

“

Touching Heart has impacted me by teaching me that several small efforts can add up to a large change! I was able to observe these impacts firsthand during my time with Touching Heart and am so grateful to have had these experiences.

”

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Anisha Patrikar



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led movie event raising funds to buy shoes and equipment for orphanages in Uganda and Kenya
- Frequent volunteer and participated in Family Gala Inspiration Walk
- Served on Touching Heart Junior Board



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Recently completed a master's in computer science at the University of Virginia
- Works as a software engineer

“

Being part of the Touching Heart Leadership Program and Kids on a Mission taught me the importance of giving back to my community and leading with compassion. Those experiences helped shape my values from a young age and inspired me to look for opportunities to make a positive impact on others.

”

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NOW

Natalie Hancher



HER TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Led a movie event to fund a holiday party for foster care and a basketball event to purchase playground equipment for orphanages in Africa
- Frequent volunteer at events including annual Foster Care Fun Fair
- Served on Touching Heart Junior Board



WHERE SHE IS NOW

- Attended the University of Pittsburgh
- Works in tech at Ford and is learning the GIS field to apply it to humanities and community work in the future

“

Touching Heart offered me my opportunity to lead and give back when I was too young for many to take me seriously. That bit of trust and guidance gave me the confidence to pursue education that turned my passions into progress and tangible results.

Thank you Touching Heart for teaching me to believe in myself!

”

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NOW

Mason Dougherty

— ♥ —



HIS TOUCHING HEART JOURNEY

- Attended inaugural afterschool program and volunteered at events
- Was an inspiring speaker at Touching Heart Family Gala and golf tournament
- Served on Touching Heart Junior Board



WHERE HE IS NOW

- Rising junior at Virginia Tech
- Pre-med/biology major with plans to attend medical school

“

Touching Heart helped shape me into the person I am today. Through working with other team members to brainstorm and execute social events, to leading the Schools on a Mission program, Touching Heart was the ultimate foundation of learning the leadership, collaboration, and teamwork skills that I have now. Having the opportunity to give speeches at Touching Heart's events...truly built my public speaking foundation that I have carried with me to today.

”



*The **Touching Heart Impact** continues
long after the project ends.*

Touching  **Heart**

www.touchingheart.com