

## Teenagers Leading the Way

As a society, we look up to and admire people that are leaders. The most famous names in history have all been leaders in some way. George Washington, a founding father and America's first president, led not only the Continental Army, but the country. Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement, and was vital in the fight for equal rights for African-Americans. However, one does not have to run a country, start a major movement, or perform other remarkable acts in order to be a leader and make a difference. Leadership starts with simple actions in everyday life; there are plenty of ways for teenagers to get involved and become leaders in the community.

One place to practice leadership is in the service of others. Helping others creates positive change, and in doing so, sets an example- a form of leadership. There are an abundance of ways one can serve locally. One could volunteer at a soup kitchen, tutor younger kids, or work at school events. Young people often feel as if they cannot make a difference, but even small, seemingly unimportant deeds can go a long way. By taking initiative and getting involved, one can make a lasting impact on their community by helping people.

Another way one can lead is taking part in leadership opportunities at school. For example, participating in student government is an excellent way to experience leadership and take action in one's community. Some schools have Junior Beta or Beta Clubs, which is a club for middle and high school students with an aptitude for leadership and service. Through this organization, one has the opportunity to learn through service projects, attend convention with other Beta clubs, do challenging competitions and contests: all activities that allow one to learn

new things while developing leadership skills. These are easy and effective ways to be a leader in one's school.

Leadership can be simple and can start with daily actions. For example, when someone is being treated poorly or bullied, a person can speak up and make it stop. It is important to stand up for others who are being mistreated; it is something people should do more often. When one defends people or speaks out against something they think is wrong, it is a form of leadership. Merely being kind to others sets a positive example, and encourage one's peers to do the same. This is an easy and painless way to make the world a better place.

Making a difference is much more attainable than one might think. There are many ways to do so in the community and in daily life. Young people have many opportunities they don't often realize to be a leader in ways that affect them. Taking advantage of these will improve not only one's own, but many others' lives. Ultimately, there are an abundance of ways one can get involved and become a leader, thus making an impact all around.