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### The Secret: How to Inspire Others to Volunteer

Eight members. I was part of a volunteer club that had only eight members. I had no idea how to recruit more students, I tried everything: newsletters, baking, posters, going on the morning bulletin, but nothing worked. Thus, I pushed recruitment to the side and instead focused on giving the eight active members the best opportunities to help others. Rather than spending our time recruiting, we spent our time doing beach cleanups, holding school supply drives, and collecting money to raise awareness for maternal and neonatal tetanus. We tackled events that called for a much larger scale of members and still succeeded to get the job done. Then people began to notice, and it sparked an interest in our club. Now this year my Key Club has about eighty members and is still receiving more applications turned in daily. We recently finished a service project that asked us to hand sew over seventy-five dolls for pediatric trauma patients and when I look back on the year and how much our club has grown, I realize the secret.

This is it – I have figured out the secret of recruitment. It is passion. The secret of how to get others to volunteer is to volunteer. Become the role model, the leader, and show others the effect that they can have on society. You have to show them how influential a pair of helping hands can be and show them how much more they can do with more hands. People do not want to see pretty posters or vanilla cupcakes; they want to see change. They want to know that what they are doing is worth something to someone. By volunteering you can show them the change they can bring to your school and to your community and inspire them to join and do the same. Together you can accomplish anything.

The secret is finally out. You do not need anything fancy to inspire others, all you need is to be kind. Keep giving back to the community, keep making the world a better place and radiance will shine out of you and your work. It will shine so bright that others will look and listen and learn. Maybe you will not get an amass amount of ready-to-help students, but you will get a handful of really spirited students who want to volunteer with you. It is the students who are passionate about helping their school and community who do make a difference and who continue to change the world for the better. Those are our future leaders, who will continue to inspire me and inspire others to volunteer.