

TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

*"I just want to thank you so much for all your help, mentoring, and guidance over the past years. It's been so inspiring to work with you and I am just so grateful for everything that you've taught me. BTSYA has profoundly shaped me into who I am today. I have grown from being a bashful follower to a commanding leader. I will always treasure my experience at **Be the Star You Are!**® and count you, Cynthia, as one of my blessings." **Jennifer Tao***

*"These past several years of volunteering with **Be the Star You Are!**® and with Cynthia Brian have been filled with so many rich experiences and memories. Thank you, Cynthia, for always encouraging me to develop as a reader and a writer, sharing your "think big, dream big" spirit with me, and being such an inspiring leader and example yourself." **Jacqueline Tao***

*"Thank you so much for all of your advice, cooperation, and opportunities this past year. You have helped me grow so much into a leader.:" **Steven Zhou***

*"Thanks so much for giving Jaime some excellent work experiences. She just thinks you are the best "boss" executive ever, she says you are always so motivating & positive." **Linda Cyrog, Executive Coach***

*"Cynthia, thank you for all these wonderful opportunities...You work very hard to help us and it is paying off! Such a good feeling :) " **Rachel Glass***

*"Thank you for accepting me as a volunteer at Be The Star You Are, I really learned a lot while volunteering. I would recommend working for you as a great experience, and really felt very encouraged and supported by you. I really appreciate your time and energy, and the opportunities I was able to have while working as a volunteer for you." **Eric Pawlakos***

*"Thank you for all your great work and huge successes this year! What a remarkable job you are doing! I'm so appreciative you have given Mason this opportunity- it has really been a great thing to see Mason develop through Be The Star You Are!" **Dana Windatt***

*"It is great to be serving the community. I love Star Teen Book Review Team!" **Yukun***

"Thanks so much!! Without you, I wouldn't have the opportunity to publish my article." **Linda Fan Phung**

*"Again thank you, Cynthia, for all your kindness . We value your **Be the Star You Are!**® organization. Your positive attitude and great energy is what Gaby was impressed by when she first met you. Thank you for being a great model for my daughter and the many kids who are involved."* **Eva Gryko, mother of teen volunteer**

*"Volunteering for **Be the Star You Are!**® charity gives me and all the other volunteers a rare opportunity to reach out to people in other parts of the country and world who are so much less privileged than we are and lend a share of our literacy and our books. It's serious and rewarding but at the same time really unique; it's a privilege."* **JD**

This was an amazing experience, working with young kids and adults! Thanks for the opportunity to give back.." **Natasha**

*"Arriving from the United Kingdom, I wanted to be part of a positive organization, although I thought the only skills I could offer **Be the Star You Are!**® was my desire to organize the book shelves! I had always disliked reading and writing, mainly because I was afraid to write something that would usually turn out to be terrible. However, as I started getting involved in book reviews, I gradually discovered a joy in reading and writing. Star Teen Book Review Team has been a great new experience Discussing characters with other teen reviewers and producing a piece of pride have become my pleasure and excitement. I have learned that reading is not just a rigid, tedious task, but a fun entertainment I can enjoy and learn from. Another thing I am learning working with **Be The Star You Are!**® is leadership and responsibility. Getting involved in community affairs, I have become more confident working with adults and other volunteers. Organizing and coordinating teen volunteers for various community events has definitely helped me gain confidence and self-esteem. An important thing I have discovered working with **Be The Star You Are!**® is providing opportunities and hope for others. Our charity has a variety of educational programs for youths at risk, designed to provide confidence and positive motivation. Knowing that I can make a difference for a child in need of support, I have learned to take responsibility and contribute to others. I*

*consider this lesson as a very significant realization in my life, since I plan to carry on helping and building hope for the future for youths at risk. **Be The Star You Are!**® has shown me that a difference is possible and one person can make it. I am excited to explore and discover more programs for women, youth, and families in order to energize and provide happiness for our community. **Be the Star You Are!**® really is OUR charity.” **Sujin***

*“I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow and learn during all my years with **Be the Star You Are!**®, and also to have as a role model someone with as much drive and personality as you!” **Jack T***

*“Volunteering at **Be the Star You Are!**® has taught me resilience, responsibility, and the importance of recycling while giving me the opportunity to express myself, make mistakes, and grow from the lessons. The outreach programs help so many needy people but what amazes me most is how much the volunteers benefit from their association with such a positive forward thinking organization. We learn to lead and succeed. I am so appreciative.” **Heather***

*“Thank you, Cynthia, for all that you continue to do for so many!!!! Your garden articles in the paper are always so informative. I love your family stories AND your monthly to do list. I loved your article about the documentary that you were part of and thank you for sharing it with the community. We can ALL be encouraged by people like you, Cynthia and the fact that you were chosen is a testimony to the special lady you are and to your spirit and heart. You are a one-in-a-million!!!!” **Mardi***

*“Out of the many organizations I've encountered in college and high school, few have evoked the same level of energy and passion as BTSYA. Its mission resounds in numerous communities across the nation. I urge everyone to volunteer--it's so rewarding to see the impact that you make, not to mention how delightful it is to work with Cynthia Brian (founder)!” **Jennifer T***

*“This is an brilliant charity that's truly dedicated to helping out its target groups, which include families, teens, women, and other groups in need. The idea of exerting positive, inspirational media to improve one’s personal growth and achievement is simply wondrous. On top of that, it's an amazing experience working with Cynthia!” **Katherine K***

"It has been a great experience volunteering for Be the Star You Are!®. Cynthia is such a sweet, bright, talented person and a shining star." **Dani W.**

"You are lifesaver. You have great energy and I can tell you really care about the kids and the program. Morgan really enjoyed herself and is looking forward to doing some writing. Keep up the good work" **Liz DD**

"Cynthia is nice and gets back to you promptly. I am enjoying compiling a list of guest speakers for the radio show and the other aspect of the ministry/outreach is reading and posting reviews, which is fun because I love to read and help kids make wise choices." **Clarissa G, Arizona**

"Cynthia is really nice and very helpful with any questions / problems you may have. I loved working with this organization." **Ashley S.**

"Thank you so much, Cynthia, for giving me this amazing opportunity to express myself! I have never in my life felt more supported and encouraged that I have volunteering with Be the Star You Are!®" **Lora Galayon**

"Since working more with BTSYA on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio, I have the passion to inspire other young children and teens to give back to their community. I'm soaking in the entire process and loving it. It's definitely different than anything else I've done, but it's exposed me to broadcast and I've realized it's something I enjoy!" **Katelyn Eystad,**

"Thanks so much for getting me published. This is my proudest moment!" **Youngjoo Ahn,**