

# Brittani Kelley

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*Volunteerism*  
*Leadership*  
*Collaboration*  
*Legacy*



## STORIES OF SERVICE

I truly became a volunteer when I joined the Georgia 4-H program. Other than participating in Jump Rope for Heart at school for PE, prior to joining 4-H, I had never really volunteered. The first volunteer activity that really touched my heart and made me love community service was when our 4-H club helped with the Empty Stocking Fund. I woke up early one Saturday morning and headed to Target. I had no idea what to expect when I got there. The only thing I knew was that I was helping a child go Christmas shopping with the money that Target graciously provided them with. As I walked into the store and was assigned to my child, I realized the true meaning of the spirit of giving. This little girl was given \$50 to shop with and she could buy whatever she wanted. The first thing that she said was, "can you help me shop for my mom and brothers?" It broke my heart to no end that she would not be getting the kind of Christmas that I would be receiving in the next few days. Santa Claus was not going to shimmy down her chimney and leave her whatever her heart desired like Santa was for me. She was so selfless and worried about the joy that her Christmas presents would bring to her family as opposed to what joy her \$50 could have brought to her during that holiday season. This day really made me think about how we should all do our best to give back to our community and help others in need, because who knows, that could one day be you. I thank my 4-H Agent for not only introducing me to the Empty Stocking Fund but also sparking my interest in being a volunteer and active in community service.

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