A volunteer service meaningful to me

Many teenagers today, particularly high school students, are willing to spend some part of their lives participating in volunteering services of all levels, ranging from local environmental protection programs such as the clean-up-the-beach movement to professional global organizations like World Vision or Peace Corps. I am of no exception, but while the motives behind joining such a contribution varies from person to person, I believe that the most meaningful ones came directly from the heart. In that sense I have long held a desire to join the international Red Cross, not because of its well deserved publicity or the offered credit hours, but rather because of reasons that ran even deeper: the chance to put an effort in the front lines of disaster, the help I could provide in the muticultural village, and the comfort of humanity that so many desperately need.

I was first introduced to the Red Cross society in its more detailed form as a junior high school student. Studying in a Christian School, we were required to serve volunteering rotations at the local Red Cross base. In its clean, carpeted hallways I found a long row of pictures, most of them photographs or sketches portraying volunteers working at different sites. I was mesmerized by the strength in their faces as they rushed to combat disasters both natural and man-made. I knew immediately then that I, too, wish to be one of those first on the scene. To offer what I could regardless of the hazards or dangers of the situation, for it is those in a crises that needs help the most. In recent years, the unstability of nature had unleashed its wrath through numerous earthquakes and even tsunamis; and I know that through the Red Cross I can provide first-hand support.

My life had been a series of travels between Western and Eastern countries, therefore I hold a deep-seated love for the international stage. In some ways I feel that I should repay the global experiences of my childhood by working to promote the well-being and health of developing countries or those who are suffering from a recent catastrophe, such as Haiti. Why limit myself when there are so many scattered around the face of the earth to whom food and water is a daily challenge? It pains me to think that while I am one of the world’s ten percent who holds all the wealth, I am powerless to help those who would have been delighted with second hand clothes. Red Cross could allow me the chance to actually complete my life by putting my strengths, however meager they may be, in places where they are most needed.

Last but not least, Red Cross makes my life meaningful by giving me the opportunity to offer humanitarian assistance; that is, the power of healing the soul. Many of those who survived devastation and tragedy is struggling with the even more painful aftermath of psychological distress. Wounds may heal and lands my be rebuilt, but the scars that dig deep into our feelings and memories could never completely fade away. Red Cross not only stands in the center of a crises, it also anchors its power in the wake, bringing warmth and light into the dark aching abyss of loss. By brightening another’s future, I light up my own life, building a connection of love from which both sides may benefit. It is this kind of work that makes volunteering so valuable, the heartfelt bonding with victims. While being introduced to the Red Cross at their local base, I cannot help but notice the shine that animated the volunteer er’s face. With Red Cross, my life could stretch far beyond its own capabilities, and make an impact on others.
In conclusion, the International Red Cross is a volunteer service that would be most meaningful to me. Whether to test my limits in the heat of a disaster, to speed up the development of third world countries, or, most importantly, to spread love and comfort, Red Cross could nourish my life in the process of saving or transforming another’s. I will definitely work to build up my abilities, and donate them, through the arms of Red Cross, all around the globe; and pass on this torch of meaning to further generations.