

# Teen starts non-profit to help those in need



**Sometimes you just meet an amazing person. Someone who is inspiring and focuses that work to make the world a better place.**

One of those people is Ekin Aygen. She's 16 years old. And, she is amazing.

Ekin started the Heart2Heart nonprofit two years ago in order to make a difference in her local community.

"Basically, I have always had a passion for children," Ekin said. "I learned at a young age that you can help others, even when you are discouraged." So after reading stories about children on our website, she decided to dedicate a nonprofit to children who need it most.

And she certainly has done that! Through Heart2Heart, Ekin has coordinated supply drives, pizza parties, and filling needs for the kids and families served by Children's Hope Alliance.

Of course, Ekin has others who support her efforts. A group of 20 to 30 friends and classmates at Hough High School, as well as her parents follow her lead.



EKIN AYGEN

DETERMINED LEADER,  
ORGANIZER, AND ADVOCATOR  
FOR THOSE IN NEED

*"I dream that one day I will inspire those like me, or younger than me, to use their voice, and make a difference."*

But it's not always easy. Ekin said one of the biggest challenges is balancing her personal life and her nonprofit life. "I'll sometimes have to go to these events and I can't take all of my volunteers to every event. Sometimes I have to be selective about who goes where," Ekin explained. "I have to pick the people who can put my vision into motion... I make the decision that I feel would be the best for the nonprofit."

Overall, she finds the work more than rewarding and encourages other young people to do the same.

"Think of what your passion is about. At the end of the day, you're helping people and doing good for the community," she said. "Think about your life experiences and the people around you and what people would you want to see smile based on your actions."

Yet despite all of the good she's done, she still wants to do more. "I always wish I could do more," she said. "You guys [at Children's Hope Alliance], what you're doing is so inspiring. It emotionally tugs at your heart. I'm so glad I've been able to help."

Ekin and her fellow teens certainly have been able to help many of our children. And they perfectly embody the Heart2Heart motto: "Remember, everyone can do something, no matter your age, we all have the capability of making a difference. If we all join together, think of all the amazing things we would be able to accomplish."

If you're interested in learning more about Ekin and Heart2Heart, feel free to check out her website: <https://heart2heartnonprofit.com/>