OVERVIEW

Over Spring Break (March 10-18, 2018), the Office of Student Engagement sent 47 students to four parts of the United States to spend their Spring Break learning about and serving in communities outside Montana for the 22nd annual BreaksAway Spring Break service trips. The service sites included: GLIDE in San Francisco, CA; Lutheran Social Services in Phoenix, AZ; Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT; and the Gila National Forest near Silver City, NM.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF BREAKS AWAY?

To cultivate in MSU students a spirit of community involvement and to nurture service leaders who will give back to our state, nation, and the world. MSU students work together with communities around the U.S. to promote lifelong community involvement and critical thinking about our societal challenges and the roles each one of us can play in addressing those challenges.

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ABOUT THE SITES

GILA NATIONAL FOREST - SILVER CITY, NM
The Gila National Forest was established in 1905, yet part of it, “The Gila Wilderness, was established in 1924 as the first designated wilderness in the country.” The forest encloses a total area of 4,235 square miles of beautiful, rugged terrain. “The Gila National Forest boasts a rich history of the Mogollon and Apache Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans, ranchers, prospectors and miners.” The group spent the week learning about the wilderness and help install water drainage features on Dragonfly and Big Tree trails, which are popular with the locals.

GLIDE - SAN FRANCISCO, CA
“GLIDE’s mission is to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization.” GLIDE helps empower people towards their personal transformation and recovery. During the week, participants helped serve the homeless by serving meals, helped make safe injection kits, and learned about the Compassionate Health Care programs GLIDE offers.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTHWEST - PHOENIX, AZ
The group worked with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. LSS-SW is dedicated to helping refugees from troubled nations throughout the world establish new lives in Arizona, which includes establishing safety, community connections and economic self-reliance. Volunteers will be able to participate in a variety of activities, such as helping refugees learn how to use their local public library, taking youth on a hike or outdoor excursion, and helping with after-school program activities. They even got the chance welcome families as they arrived in the airport. The group made a positive impact on refugee individuals and families.

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY - KANAB, UT
The mission of Best Friends is to end the killing in America's animal shelters and create a time when there are No More Homeless Pets. We do this by building community programs and partnerships all across the nation. They hope to lead by example sharing and promoting new programs and ideas to help animals. The animal sanctuary owns nearly 3,700 acres, and leases another 17,000 acres for their approximate 1,700 animals. Their vision is to create “A better world through kindness to animals”. The group helped care for the animals and make their living environments more comfortable.
11 students served 264.5 hours and impacted hundreds of rescue dogs, cats, owls, horses, goats, pigs and more at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

12 students served 326 hours and impacted 4,896 individuals at GLIDE.
10 students served 235 hours and impacted 30-40 individuals while on the trails of the Gila National Forest!

12 students served 372 hours and impacted over 250 refugees and their families with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest!