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Contact: Lisa Dodge
Director of Marketing and Communications
614.481.8169 | media@deltagamma.org

Delta Gamma Fraternity “Doing Good” In Morocco

Columbus, Ohio [January 31, 2019] – Delta Gamma’s **Hope Serving: Service Learning Experience** has gone global. January 1-9, a group of Delta Gamma sisters of all ages traveled to Marrakech, Morocco, for the Fraternity’s first Hope Serving service trip outside of North America.

While there, they worked alongside the staff of the Abu Abbas Sabti Center for the visually impaired, helping to improve the physical buildings of the center. They worked diligently to meet needs outlined by the staff, which included re-painting the center and installing padding on pillars around the school grounds to make it safer for the residents (who are children with visual impairments). In addition to these projects, the 10 trip attendees engaged in a Q&A with school staff, faculty and administrators to learn more about the students and the experiences of people with visual impairments in Marrakech.

The Hope Serving: Service Learning Experience offers Delta Gammas the opportunity to develop as leaders on a local, regional and (inter)national level. It encourages learning and critical thinking through hands-on service, community involvement, civic and social justice education, with a focus on developing a more personal connection with Delta Gamma’s philanthropy, Service for Sight. Aid to those who are blind or visually impaired has been the philanthropic mission of Delta Gamma since 1936. With that aid firmly established throughout North America, Hope Serving has allowed Delta Gamma to use their expansive membership network to “Do Good” as global citizens.

Executive Offices staff member **Crystal Sutton** accompanied nine Delta Gamma alumnae and collegians on this philanthropic journey:

- Team Leader **Amanda Boyd**, Gamma-UC Berkeley, collegian
- Team Leader **Ashley Baudouin**, Gamma Zeta-Louisiana State, alumna
- **Aashka Shah**, Theta Beta-Case, collegian
- **Catherine Hunt**, Alpha Sigma-UCLA, alumna
- **Christine Burk Roberts**, Delta Rho-Virginia Tech, alumna
- **Lauren Delzell**, Tau-Iowa, alumna

- **Lauren Sanchez**, Beta Chi-Denver, collegian
- **Nicole D’Antonio**, Delta Iota-Georgia, alumna
- **Taryn Walker**, Alpha Phi-British Columbia, collegian



The Fraternity is proud to hear that Hope Serving is often a very transformative experience for those who attend. “My take away and action plan from this is to focus on my role as a global citizen,” said participant Lauren Delzell. “It is our obligation to see the world, respect cultural differences, understand our privilege and give back where possible. I will use my real-life expertise and knowledge to break down barriers and stereotypes at home about people in Morocco, people who are Muslim, and people who are blind and visually impaired.”

In addition to hands-on service, the women participated in an intercultural conversation with four Moroccan women to learn more about their experiences as women living in a Muslim country. The Fraternity partnered with Rustic Pathways to guide the 10 attendees through this

philanthropic experience. Rustic Pathways prioritizes ethical volunteering by hiring staff members and program leaders who are residents of the communities and countries in which their trips take place. Their mission is to “create sustainable projects that satisfy the community’s vision and have a lasting impact,” which made them a quality partner for Delta Gamma, as social responsibility is one of the core tenets and values of the Fraternity.

This trip marked the first Hope Serving experience to be fully-funded by the Fraternity, as it was of no cost to attendees. Without the barrier of requiring participants to fundraise for part of their trip expenses, Delta Gamma hopes to make Hope Serving an experience that is feasible for more sisters. The next series of Hope Serving service trips will take place in summer 2019 across three North American locations.

About Delta Gamma: Delta Gamma Fraternity was founded in 1873 at the Lewis School in Oxford, Mississippi. The Fraternity’s primary purpose is to foster high ideals of friendship, promote educational and cultural interests, create a true sense of social responsibility and develop the best qualities of character. Delta Gamma has more than 250,000 initiated members, 151 collegiate chapters and more than 205 alumnae groups. Delta Gamma Fraternity Executive Offices is in Columbus, Ohio.

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