

# ALTERNATIVE BREAKS PROGRAM

*Giving back to communities as we address pressing issues of our time*

STUDENTS  
MAKING A  
BETTER  
WORLD



The **Alternative Breaks (AB) Program** integrates leadership and community service opportunities through intensive multi-day national and international service trips over University class breaks. The powerful learning and serving experiences make a difference in the lives of students and in the communities in which they serve. AB sends hundreds of students each year on service-learning trips to address some of the most pressing social, political and environmental issues of our time. Recent trips have included:

- Atlanta: Homelessness
- Chesapeake Bay: Environmental Sustainability
- Bahamas; Costa Rica; and Lima, Peru: Community Development
- El Paso: Border Awareness
- Los Angeles: Health Care
- New Orleans: Poverty/Racism/Disaster Relief
- New York City: HIV/AIDS
- Pine Ridge, SD: Native American Immersion
- Washington, DC: Veterans Issues

AB students make practical applications of what they learn in academic disciplines while developing and participating in the trips, and learning about the root causes of the issues. Many alumni of AB go on to work in nonprofit and/or social sectors, seeking opportunities in which they can engage in meaningful community work. An added benefit of this incredible program is creating more civically engaged students.

Your support for Alternative Breaks would subsidize the cost of the trip per student (anticipated cost for the trips averages almost \$750 per person); fully fund the participation of students for whom cost would be a barrier; and allow the AB program to expand in the future.

Respondents to a survey about their AB experience reported that:

- 100% learned something new about themselves
- 98% learned something new about the population they served
- 98% said they better understand the issue on which their team focused
- 92% said they plan on becoming more involved in community service
- 94% said they plan on becoming more involved in advocacy

*"It is not just the academic education that I got at Maryland. It was really that and an education on how to develop as an adult and handle myself as an adult throughout my life. When you think back through your life, you'll suddenly say, 'It's time to give back to the place that gave you so much.'"*

—**BRUCE BERLAGE**, '56,  
former student leader,  
along with his wife Donna  
have made a commitment  
to the Alternative Break Program

## THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Recognized nationally for many of its programs, services and staff, the Division of Student Affairs works collectively to offer students a world-class experience while at Maryland. We strive to provide every student the opportunity to gain skills necessary to contribute to our global society and to explore leadership in all of its various forms. We believe students must graduate with the skills not only necessary to succeed in the work place, but also to live healthy, balanced and civically engaged lives.

### ALTERNATIVE BREAK PRIORITIES

- Create and endow Alternative Break need-based scholarships.
- Endow the Alternative Breaks Programming Fund to cover costs of trip materials, supplies and travel.
- Further develop students' critical thinking, civic engagement and leadership skills through advocacy, reflection and meaningful conversations.
- Engage with alumni, foundations, corporations and other partners to enhance programs and increase the reach of each specific initiative.

### ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- **Garden of Reflection and Remembrance:** Inspiring the University and surrounding communities to take the time to contemplate and enjoy the quiet of nature. Used by several classes integrating the labyrinth into the curriculum; and as an outdoor laboratory for classes such as Landscape Architecture.
- **Student Crisis Fund:** Removing financial burden and worry for students who have had major challenges – funds to replace books, assist in times of family emergencies and medical need.
- **America Reads\*America Counts and Partners in Print:** Giving students the opportunity to not only make a difference in the life of a young person at risk, but also to consider careers in teaching and the non-profit sector.
- **Veterans Scholarships:** Providing critical resources to fill the gap between Veterans Administration benefits and the actual cost of an education. Scholarships are often the only way our vets can attend college; many also are providing for families.

We call on all those who value our work – alumni, students, faculty, partners and friends – to come forward, contribute their knowledge, energy and financial resources, and help us improve student lives so that they, in turn will change the world. Join with us to achieve!

*To discuss a gift or for more information regarding any of these important Campaign Priorities contact:*

Division of Student Affairs  
Office of Development and  
External Relations  
301.314.4900  
[www.studentaffairsgiving.umd.edu](http://www.studentaffairsgiving.umd.edu)