

Community Partner: MSU Student Support Services

Team name: H.E.L.P (Help Educate & Lead People)

Team Members: Ashley Ervin, NaShea' Goetzendanner, Tyler Griffin, Madeline Harper, Brittany Reed, Michael Ware

The H.E.L.P. Action Team completed 142 hours of service to MSU Student Support Services, logged 116 visits, and traveled 24 miles during the fall semester of 2008. The purpose of their work was "to create a comfortable environment for students with and without disabilities through increased awareness and education about students with disabilities; to eliminate barriers and preconceived ideas that prevent students outside of Student Support Services from interacting with disabled students." The H.E.L.P. Action Team addressed their purpose by creating activities for Disability Awareness Month; these activities included holding discussion panels on disabilities (in conjunction with United Students, a group of students with disabilities who educate others about disabilities) at various residence halls and hosting interactive information tents for disability awareness on campus. The H.E.L.P. Action Team also addressed their purpose by reading to and helping visually impaired students and by aiding the TRIO program with preparing and serving lunch to students who are low income or first generation. After completing a semester of service to MSU's Student Support Services the H.E.L.P. team is now aware of the positive impact they had. "Our action team H.E.L.P. could not have a more appropriate name. Although awareness is hard to measure, we believe that we increased awareness because of good turnouts at the residence hall discussion panels and the positive reception of the Drill Field awareness event. We also met our objective of assisting the TRIO program in providing lunch to needy students. Additionally, we have assisted some low vision students with school work and other tasks that they may need help with."