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Twenty-Four year old transforms lives on the Navajo

Gwynedd Valley, PA—October 31, 2011—Bridget Marrine, recent graduate from the University of Scranton longed for a service where she could both apply and use the knowledge and education she learned from school.

“I knew I wanted to do service after I graduated. I researched many different service programs. I wanted a program which incorporated service with spirituality and community and I was drawn to Mercy Volunteer Corp’s pillars of service, spirituality, community, simple living, and social justice.”

With a degree in occupational therapy that she earned from the University of Scranton, she works as an occupational therapist at St. Michaels Association for Special Education in St. Michaels, Arizona. Serving around 40 students from ages 4-22, she runs a wide array of therapy groups from cooking and dancing, to math and money management skills.

St Michaels Association for Special Education is a school managed by the AAPPD (Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities.) This is a service that provides quality services for Navajo children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Bridget comments, “Mercy Volunteer Corps offers a personal connection with the people you are serving as well as the other volunteers. I love that I know everyone who is serving and that I know every one of my students in an individual level. Larger service organizations lack that personal and spiritual connection.”

Bridget lives in a community in St. Michaels Arizona with two other volunteers. After only being with MVC a short amount of time Bridget shares, “I feel I am getting a better understanding of who I am as a person, and what my work ethic is like. This is definitely an experience I want to share with other, as well as continue doing.

Mercy Volunteer Corps is a volunteer program supported by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. The organization offers placement in the U.S and Guyana for either a one or two year commitment. Roughly 900 volunteers have provided numerous hours of service since the programs start in 1978. More information can be found on the Mercy Volunteer Corps website, www.mercyvolunteercorps.org