WHO IS SURGE?

• Surge is a nonprofit founded in 2008 that invests in safe water and sanitation solutions around the world.
• Surge has provided clean, safe water to 11 countries and over 390,000 people.
• Their mission is to engage, educate, and empower.
• Funds projects that involve safe water.
• Invests in innovation that drives sustainable solutions.
My Tasks

- As a fundraising intern, my tasks included; securing sponsors for their upcoming galas in Chicago and Minneapolis.
- Lots of emails and phone calls to businesses in both cities.
- Created sponsor list for Minneapolis.
HOW DID I FIND BUSINESSES?

- Yelp!
- Google
- Recommendations from friends and family
- Made sure every business I contacted met Surge’s mission
GRANT WRITING AND RESEARCH

• Grants are essential to nonprofits. It is where they get the majority of their funding.
• I worked on grant searching for two weeks. My job was to search through grants and read through their descriptions. I had to make sure that Surge was eligible to apply, and after that, my job was to make sure that they met Surge’s mission.
• I had to look at what the grant supported – field countries, topics, and chapter countries.
BADGER REACH THEMES

• The world is interconnected. Although all the countries Surge provides clean water to are very different culturally and geographically, they all share the same struggle of lacking access to clean water.

• **Relationships matter**, especially when doing work abroad. It is important to listen to what the community needs in order to establish an impactful solution.

• **Place matters**, especially in regards to water. It is important to take their geographical location into consideration when thinking of a new place to fund to figure out all the resources they have around them.

• Surge must always **consider their “clients”**, the communities they fund, in order to establish an efficient, long lasting relationship.
TAKEAWAYS

All the work nonprofits do, specifically Surge, is so amazing and inspiring. The amount of thought and detail that goes into everything behind the scenes of the work abroad is something I never thought about. I am extremely honored to have been able to see that side and that I was able to help. Shilpa, the person who runs everything, is a super woman. I am so fortunate to have met such an amazing person!
ADVICE FOR FUTURE BADGER REACH FELLOWS

• Be patient! As cliché as it sounds, it is so important to be patient, and I learned along the way with my experience at Surge.
• Apply to all the places you are interested in. You never know where you will end up, but it will be an amazing learning experience nonetheless.
THANK YOU!