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By John Reed
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May 21, 2002

DURHAM, N.H. -- A group of University of New Hampshire students from the community service and leadership major will collect furniture, clothing and non-perishable food in good condition from Williamson Hall this week as students depart from the residence halls. The items will be donated to the Portsmouth-based charity, Operation Blessing, where they will be distributed to low-income families.

"Normally we see students moving out of the residence halls at the end of the year and throwing out tons of perfectly good stuff," explains John Reed, of Milford, project coordinator. "It's going to be really heartening to see these goods recycled and put to good use instead of going to waste."

Reed is a student in the newly established community service and leadership program in UNH's Thompson School of Applied Science. The recycling project is one way the program is providing a hands-on learning experience for its students, who are studying how to manage non-profit organizations and organize community service events.

"This is basically what our major is all about, and it's the best way for us to learn, by getting out there and practicing the skills we have been studying in class," says Reed.

This project is the first major service project conducted by the program, which is one of the first community-service-based degree programs in the nation. It was started this year by Thompson School of Applied Science professors Kate Hanson and Timothy Barretto.
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