

# PRESIDENTS' LEADERSHIP AWARD



## Community Leadership *UNH-Manchester*

In the fall of 2008, 6 students in the Community Leadership program's introduction course, learned that the goal for the second annual Warmth from the Millyard warm clothing drive would be 800 items.

Students Liz Neilan, Laura Arvin, Sheena Connolly, Maren Bhagat, CJ Perez, and Shane Rozamus exponentially expanded the amount of warm clothing collected while creating a learning experience for younger at-risk children — a donation the children won't outgrow. The UNH Manchester students, championed by Kate Hanson, program director, and teaching assistant Donna McIntire, worked with 10 donor organizations and collected more than 2800 items that were donated to more than 15 community organizations and nonprofits in the greater Manchester and Southern New Hampshire.

The NH Dept of Transportation alone met the 800 item goal before the drive began. Donations continued from area businesses, FIRST, SEE Science Center, the Manchester Millyard Museum and UNH Manchester. Morgan Storage donated the use of a storage unit greatly needed to store the mountain of wool, fleece and quilting.

Beyond the staggering record of donations received and delivered, the students developed partnerships with CityYear, with students participating in the Hillside Middle Schools STAY program, and with children at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Salem and Nashua. The STAY students came to UNH Manchester to help sort clothes and continue the educational/mentoring experience with the CoLead students. Children at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Salem and Nashua were recipients and partners, designing promotional posters and thank you cards.

No one could have predicted that the final count would more than triple the goal or imagine the lasting impact that this small group's effort would have on so many.

