UNH students visit Community House children to donate new coats and clothes for the holidays

WEST HAVEN (Dec. 9, 2011) – Christmas came early and Santa and his Elves took on a much younger look at the West Haven Community House on Dec. 9 as a group of University of New Haven business students visited agency headquarters on Elm Street, all bearing bags of clothes for the holiday.

In all, 8 full bags of clothing including new coats, scarves, hats and other accessories were delivered by the students, who were fulfilling a community service project at UNH.

Community House Executive Director Patty Stevens, Head Start Director Abel Padro and School Age Child Care and Kids in the Neighborhood after-school program Director Carol James were on hand to greet and thank the students, who were all joined by a classroom of bright-eyed and enthusiastic Head Start preschoolers.

“Look at all the clothes,” said one little pre-schooler, as she held up a small coat, part of the colorful donations that will be distributed to clients of the Community House. The youngsters
joined the college students for pictures with the donations.

“We can’t thank you enough for your efforts,” said Stevens, who also encouraged the students to volunteer, including during the popular volunteer book reading program at the Community House each Spring. Stevens added that many college-aged students also help out the agency’s after-school and child care programs in schools throughout West Haven, particularly citing the many volunteers received from the UNH community.

Student spokesperson Brittney Bussiere thanked Stevens, too, for working with the students and accepting the donations. “We are very happy to help out the children and clients at the Community House,” she said. “It’s an especially good feeling to do something like this for the holidays.”

Bussiere was joined by fellow business students including Chris Higgins, Devena Smith and Hanna Nicklas in delivering the donations.

Bussiere added, “Many of the donations came from our families. We also collected donations from UNH students and staff, and we used that money to purchase additional items.”

The West Haven Community House programs include a comprehensive Head Start pre-school program, before and after School Age Child Care and after-school enrichment for public school students, and residential and day service programs for adults with disabilities.

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For more information on the Community House or this release, contact Development & Communications Director Chris Carroll at (203) 934-5221.