

FIRST FRESHMEN DAY OF SERVICE BENEFITS GREATER NASHUA COMMUNITY (Rivier Today, Summer 2013)



Students add a fresh coat of paint at the American Red Cross in Nashua.



S E R V E S

As part of its “Student Success: Campus to Community” program, Rivier University held its first Freshmen Day of Service in April 2013.

This year-long course helps students strengthen and develop their academic skills and also promotes cultural awareness, commitment to service, and vocational discernment. The Freshmen Day of Service involved students in service projects throughout Greater Nashua, working with agencies including Anne Marie House, Boys and Girls Club of Nashua, Girls Inc. of Greater Nashua, Harbor Homes, The Hunt Community, Nashua Soup Kitchen, The PLUS Company, Nashua Police Athletics League, Salvation Army, and the YMCA.

Nearly 200 freshmen students and 25 upper class Peer Mentor students participated in the Day of Service, providing approximately 675 hours of service to the city’s deserving nonprofit organizations. The Freshmen Day of Service reminds students of the value of community service and sets them on a path to becoming dedicated citizens within their own communities.

“This is an important part of the first year experience, focused on four goals: solidification and expansion of academic skills, cultural awareness, service, and vocational discernment,” said Dr. Bradford Stull, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Interdisciplinary Programs. “Ultimately, it’s part of helping them discover where their deepest heart’s desire meets the world’s deepest needs.”

The Rivier community offers a dynamic leadership experience for students at all levels, with service opportunities integrated in the curriculum, in the culture, and in the hearts and minds of students. The Freshmen Day of Service joins a robust culture of service already in place at the University, where all students in Rivier’s School of Undergraduate Studies are required to earn at least one credit in service learning prior to graduation. ■