



Today at Brown

NEWS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS AT THE UNIV

Stop! Drop off! And make Brown greener

From May 6 to 25, the massive collection effort known as Clean Break will allow departing students to donate leave-behinds for the benefit of needy Rhode Islanders. Last year's program collected 10 tons of clothing and household goods.

By **Anne Diffily** | May 6, 2009 | [Email to a friend](#)

Each spring when students move out for the summer, they leave behind mountains of stuff they can't or don't want to move with them. From nearly new jeans to microwaves to furniture, it's mostly perfectly usable and just waiting for a new home.

This week, from May 6 through May 25, students – and all members of the campus community – can drop off reusable items at any of 13 convenient donation stations around campus. The items will go to people who need them, and students can depart knowing they've left Providence a little greener by donating, instead of trashing, their goods. A list of acceptable items appears at the end of this article, along with a link to the drop-off locations.

The EcoReps student organization and Facilities Management are partnering this year with the Rhode Island Donation Exchange, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the recycling company Cleanscape on the Clean Break project. The two charitable organizations will collect and manage distribution of donated items to Rhode Islanders and institutions in need.

While the "Clean Break" moniker is fairly new, similar collections have taken place on campus for some time.

"The program has been in place in various forms and names for about 18 years," says Ginger Gritzo, energy and environmental programs director in Facilities Management. "Its current name originated around 2006 when it became a joint effort of EcoReps and Facilities." Earlier efforts were organized primarily by student groups and



Two Rhode Island Donation Exchange employees pause on Meeting Street last year while loading donated goods from Brown students into a truck.

Credit: Brown Facilities Management



A 2008 donation station on campus.

graded clothing free of charge to those in need. Meanwhile, the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program collected all items that weren't placed into the Kiducation bins.

This year Kiducation was unable to participate, so Gritzo contacted the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) to arrange for collection bins. "The society works with an organization similar to Kiducation that centralizes all the clothing, shoes, and linens collected from us and distributes them under the direction of SVDP."

Twice daily, the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program will pick up all non-clothing donations and take them to the organization's warehouse on River Avenue in Providence. Items are distributed to those in need directly at the warehouse donations and also at a fall yard sale usually held near Brown and RISD. "Last year," Gritzo says, "they collected close to five tons of material and raised \$3,600 at a fall yard sale on Benefit Street."

Gritzo, who describes her role as "organizer and cheerleader," credits EcoReps and her colleagues in Facilities with making it work. "The hard day-to-day labor to keep things tidy and running smoothly is done by the custodial and grounds staff," she says.

EcoReps is a select group of students who since 2004 have worked to educate the campus community about environmental issues specific to Brown. "Their goal is to build lifelong habits from practice," Gritzo says, "and they work with fellow students and Facilities Management to help make Brown a greener campus through simple lifestyle changes." The group, Gritzo adds, recently was awarded the Student Activities Office's Leadership honorable mention citation for innovative thinking for its role in bringing trayless dining to the Verney-Woolley dining hall.



WHAT TO DONATE

include the memorable "Dump and Run" program.

Gritzo adds that Clean Break benefits the local community and reduces Brown's impact on the environment by recycling usable goods. "Most likely the material otherwise would end up in dumpsters and get sent to the landfill," she says.

Last year, Gritzo says, Clean Break worked with Kiducation to collect 4.5 tons of clothing, linens, shoes. Kiducation, part of the Community Crusade for Children, collects used clothing and other items to generate funds for the education of children. It also donates sorted and

- **Clothing:** Clean clothes, shoes, household linens. Deposit in the St. Vincent de Paul bins.
- **Computers and electronics:** Large items (monitors, printers) may be placed in the donation stations, and small items in the nearby bins.
- **Toiletries and cleaning supplies:** Place usable items in labeled bins near the donation stations.
- **Refrigerators and microwaves:** Take them to donation stations or to the trash room in your dorm; they will be donated after you leave.
- **Furniture and household items:** Lamps, loft beds, plastic drawer units, and the like may be taken to the donation stations.
- **Food:** Unopened, non-perishable food items may be placed in the specially labeled bin near the donation stations.
- **Cinderblocks:** Please don't throw them out. Take them to a donation station.
- **Items belonging to Brown:** Overdue library books and borrowed dining hall items may be placed in your dorm's trash room.

WHERE TO DONATE

Click the link at the top right of the Brown recycling page for a map of donation stations.