LEHIGH UNIVERSITY MOVE OUT COLLECTION DRIVE & THE GREAT SOUTHSIDE SALE 2016

At the end of the spring semester, thousands of American college students move out of university housing, and leave items they cannot or do not want to take with them. Lehigh’s Move Out Collection Drive and Great Southside Sale combat this issue by providing an avenue for students to donate unwanted goods. These goods are sold to members of the community at the annual sale.

250 VOLUNTEERS
faculty, staff & students

20 TONS OF GOODS
including 1.5 tons of food

20,000 DOLLARS RAISED
Averaging $0.50 per item

2600+ hours of service
Spent organizing and selling donations

Filling 4 trucks, 2 cargo vans, and 3 personal vehicles.
Supporting field trips, homework clubs and community events for local schools.

COMMUNITY BUILDING
The sale connects members of our campus with the local community, utilizing Lehigh students, faculty, and staff as volunteers.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Every year, tons of reusable items stay out of the waste stream and go into the hands of people who need them.

SOCIAL JUSTICE
The sale provides low cost, quality goods in a low income neighborhood, and the proceeds provide services for local schools.

PROGRAM GROWTH
The Great Southside Sale started in the community, and worked its way in and on to Lehigh’s campus, thanks to the Community Service Office. The first years were about dumpster diving; a garage sale back in the early 1990s raised $25. The program has grown by leaps and bounds since then, as the CSO developed the internal pieces with Lehigh’s Residential Services, helping establish donation areas and finding space to sort and process goods on campus.