



Media Release

UNO donation to help families rest easier

Bed replacement project creates new inventory for refugee resettlement

June 30, 2011 (Omaha, Nebraska) – Sleeping in a dorm bed may not seem like a luxury, but when you are used to sleeping on the ground in a tent, it can be a real treat.

Thanks to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), hundreds of former tent camp refugees will experience the pleasure of resting in a bed, on a real mattress.

UNO is replacing the 284 dorm room beds with more efficient furniture. But rather than discarding the old pieces, UNO is recycling – and donating all of the beds to Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (LFS) for its refugee resettlement program.

“This is a tremendous help to us,” says Maggie Kalkowski, Director of LFS’ Refugee Services and International Center for the Heartland. “This single donation will help replenish our bedding inventory needs for almost one year.”

“I wish everyone could see the faces of the children for whom this might be their first experience ever sleeping in a bed...”
--- Maggie Kalkowski

Organizers have set three days aside to move the beds from the University Village dorm rooms and into donated storage space. The moving process begins Tuesday morning and will continue until 6:00 pm each day until completed.

“We are delighted to partner with Lutheran Family Services,” says Bill Pickett of UNO Housing. “Community engagement is one of UNO’s strategic goals, which makes this partnership all the more worthwhile and important in the community we serve.”

The entire project depends on volunteers and donations – from the movers, to the storage, and even the trucks.

“This will make such a difference,” says Kalkowski. **“I wish everyone involved could see the faces of the children for whom this might be their first experience ever sleeping in a bed. It’s priceless.”**

Big thanks to UNO, Ron Thompson, Primus Sterilizer Company LLC, A-1 Metro Movers, Nebraska Machinery Products, LFS employees, volunteers, and **everyone** helping make this happen!

MEDIA NOTE: The media availabilities for this story will be Tuesday 10:00am until Noon. Please plan on meeting Bev Carlson and Wendy Townley at University Village, located on the west end of campus, just south of Criss Library. Reporters and photojournalists must be escorted by University personnel inside residence halls at all times.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is a statewide, community-based organization which impacts over 35,000 individuals annually, from 31 offices in 18 cities in the areas of behavioral health, children services and community services. More at www.lfsneb.org.

Contact:

Bev Carlson

402.978.5646

bcarlson@lfsneb.org

Building and Strengthening Families