

## Give 'N Go Move Out Program at Bentley University Fall 2022 Update

**Summary:** Give 'N Go is the Bentley program to support students during move out with the opportunity to donate useable items to charity rather than having to put them in the trash. Over the last 10 years this program has grown from a student run program to a University-wide program. Bentley is proud of the impact that it has made on its students and the greater community.

Give 'N Go was first created by a group of student Resident Assistants who were appalled at the mountains of items that were trashed at move out year upon year. They took it upon themselves to form a student club and create a program to collect and redistribute this waste in the community. The key element of the program was that students could swap for items that others have donated. This built the excitement for the program and word of mouth promotion among students. Ten years on this program lives on as an institutionalized program and has helped countless people.

In its first iteration, students could donate materials at any time of day. The organizing students used several PODS to collect donations and staffed them loosely during the event. This was successful but due to the swapping element, many of the donations were accidentally destroyed by students sorting through to find items to take. It was also difficult for the organizing team to

In 2012 the Office of Sustainability officially took over the responsibility for planning and running Give 'N Go. In its current form, Give 'N Go is a weeklong program during move out to collect food, household goods and clothing. The donations are collected at stations positioned throughout campus near residence halls during set hours daily. The stations are temporary tents, tables and chairs and the donations are collected in C-bins which are roughly the size of a large bathtub. People are asked to separate their donated items to facilitate delivery to two charities. The two charities that Bentley currently works with are Goodwill Northern New England and Healthy Waltham.

The stations are staffed by Bentley community member volunteers as well as a paid mover. The paid movers are essential because they ensure consistency in staffing of the tents as well as are the ones who move all the donations to on central donation location at the end of each day. The volunteers are faculty and staff that sign up for a 90-minute shift during the event. The volunteers are offered a training session approximately one week before Give 'N Go is held.

The program heavily relies on promotion. Word of mouth is the most powerful promotional tool and as such there is a lot of coordinated outreach students about the event. Residence life is the most powerful partner for the event. They include information in move out paperwork and promote through the Resident Assistants. Each student class has an elected president and emails are sent to those class presidents asking for specific outreach. Lastly signage and emails are also important as ways to spread the message.

This program has helped countless people but also has diverted lots of waste. Bentley has found that in some years nearly half of the costs of the program have been offset by reduced waste disposal costs.

Year*	Pounds diverted (approx.)
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2016	15,199 lbs
2017	15,907 lbs
2018	22,028 lbs
2019	26,460 lbs
2020	Cancelled due to COVID
2021	Cancelled due to COVID
2022	7,981 lbs

\* This program has been running since 2010 but prior to 2016 there was not accurate data.