Description of the Service Learning in Housing Course:

This is a required course in the B.Com. Real Estate and Housing major at the University of Guelph. It introduces students to the issues of poverty, homelessness, and the struggles low income households face in the housing market.

Students volunteer in groups of 3-5 to help out a local organization that serves the low income population. We hope that by the end of the course:

- the organization has had some useful work or project completed
- students are more aware of the issues faced by the non-profit sector and the people they serve
- students have an appreciation for the rewards of volunteering

Sample projects, other than the ones shown elsewhere on this poster, include:

- Give Yourself Credit: tutoring
- Chalmers Community Service: map of food pantries in Guelph, client survey
- Women in Crisis: fall shelter cleanup, office relocation analysis, office painting
- Wyndham House: web site review

The course won a Guelph Chamber of Commerce President’s Business Recognition award in 2009 as recognition of its contribution to the community.

For more information please contact Jane Londerville: jlonderv@uoguelph.ca

Habitat for Humanity

Working on Builds

- Learning construction skills
- Teamwork
- Interacting with families

Michael House

Activities:

- Sorting donations
- Taking away unsuitable donations
- Preparing walls for painting

Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group

- Students helped organize, publicized and attended an Open House for the neighbourhood.

Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County

In this project students:

- created a training guide for the Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County for volunteers interested in working at Abercrombie Place, supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS
- participated in the agency’s HIV and AIDS 101 training and met with the agency housing worker for an in-depth look at barriers and challenges for this group.

"It was a pleasure to be involved with the Service Learning Course. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is trying to reach an audience that could be the future of our community. I now have a valuable tool to use in training individuals interested in housing issues."

Gary Roche, Community Support Worker, Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County

"There are many important core courses within the Real Estate and Housing curriculum but this one gives a different perspective. By opening our eyes to issues of poverty, homelessness and housing affordability, students learn they have something to offer. It shows how easy and rewarding it is to volunteer and how even the relatively small 15 hours we put in during the semester can make a tremendous difference to a non-profit organization"

Heather Scrannage B.Comm. Real Estate and Housing Student