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Care Packages for Homeless Has Special Valentine's Meaning

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Valentine's Day will be celebrated in a different way for members of Cedarville University's Department of English, Literature and Modern Languages. Department faculty, staff and students will enjoy a meal together prior to assembling 100 care packages for homeless in the Dayton region.

"Valentine's Day is such a focus inward, and it can make students think they need to have a girlfriend or a boyfriend. But love is so much more than romantic love," said Dr. Melissa Faulkner, department chair. "As a department, we wanted to widen the lens and put the emphasis on our larger call to love one another and love our neighbor."

The department's employees donated gloves, toothbrushes and toothpaste for the packages as well as copies of the New Testament. Students will supply granola bars, snack crackers, deodorant and socks; a handwritten note from faculty members and students, along with a Bible verse on loving one another, will complete this Valentine's Day gift.

Faculty, staff and students participating in this heart-warming program will distribute care packages to homeless people in their communities.

"People often want to help when they see a homeless person, but they don't have cash or food to offer," Faulkner explained. "These care packages will aid with that problem and allow people to help others. It's a good time — especially on Valentine's Day — to stop and love."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.