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Soccer Teams Volunteer at the Cleft Youth Center

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – The Cedarville University soccer teams are reaching out to the community to build relationships and make a difference in the lives of Xenia youth. They will volunteer at the Cleft youth center for the rest of spring semester.

The Cleft is open every first and third Friday of the month for middle- and high-school aged children. From 7-10pm, Xenia youth enjoy games, activities, and Gospel-centered conversations.

Each week, the Cleft hosts anywhere from 150 to 300 youth, so it’s difficult for staff and volunteers to engage one on one with the kids. Therefore, having plenty of volunteers is crucial to the Cleft’s success sharing Christ through intentional conversation.

Stephanie Zonars, assistant athletic director for marketing and sponsorships, matched that need to the soccer team’s desire to serve the community. “The soccer teams want to give children who might come from broken homes hope and positive experiences,” said Zonars. “They might even like to invite them here for a soccer game or two.”

The women’s soccer team volunteers twice a month, and the men’s soccer team has joined them. Although the soccer teams want to make an impact at the Cleft, they also want volunteering to impact them.

“Often times, we get stuck focusing on ourselves and the things we need to get done,” said student volunteer and soccer player Creslyn Van Dyck. “It is really neat to get outside of ourselves and realize that there is so much more going on in the world.”

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.