

12-18-2017

Young Teachers Meet a Hunger Need with Students

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases

 Part of the [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Young Teachers Meet a Hunger Need with Students" (2017). *News Releases*. 595.
http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases/595

This News Release is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2017

CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein
Executive Director of Public Relations
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)
Mweinstein@cedarville.edu
@cedarvillenews

Young Teachers Meet a Hunger Need with Students

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Philo-Hill Magnet Academy sits in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where poverty affects almost a quarter of its population. Rachel Thorpe and Brittany Palmer, 2016 Cedarville University early education and special education, respectively, now teach at Philo-Hill.

Thorpe and Palmer saw that many of their students suffered from chronic hunger, so they decided to launch a fundraiser in October to raise money for food.

Hosted by GoFundMe, the fundraiser met its goal of \$500 before closing October 31. The money was then donated to New Story Church in Winston-Salem, where Thorpe attends, which buys and packages healthy, high-calorie meals for those who need them. High-calorie foods are essential to children who may not receive another meal at home.

Thorpe was able to offer 250 meals to her classroom at Philo-Hill and makes the meals available to any student. Other teachers throughout the academy announced the opportunity, and Thorpe is hopeful they have enough meals for any child for the rest of the school year.

“It changes the relationship with kids when you’re able to give them the food that they need,” said Thorpe. “They begin to open up about other situations at home, and you can form a better connection. And it’s not always the children you’d expect. Some are very popular and gifted, yet they still struggle with hunger.”

“Time and time again Rachel and I have seen a 180-degree attitude shift in a child once they have had basic needs met,” said Palmer. “Over the past two years, the Lord has blessed us so richly and allowed us to impact the lives of some of our students. He has given us a mission field here in Winston Salem, and the Go Fund Me campaign was such a neat way for Rachel and me to see people supporting us in that.”

“Teaching is a constant stream of decision-making that if made appropriately increases the opportunity for learning,” said Dr. Jeremy Ervin, dean of the education program at Cedarville. “Rachel Thorpe and Brittney Palmer understand that teaching is about the students,” he explained. “In order to increase student achievement, the physical needs of their students must be met. This Christlike character is essential for effective teaching and being light in our world.”

Along with money for meals, one donor made a contribution toward hygiene items for the children.

“Raising money for food for these children has brought so much joy to both Brittany and me,” said Thorpe. “I am thankful that God allowed us to see this need and provide a way for us to meet it.”

“Cedarville prepared me for my job as a teacher by showing me how to view everything through Christ’s eyes,” Thorpe continued. “I’m always thinking about how to bring biblical views into my teaching and how to share Jesus without saying his name. Providing food is one way of proclaiming him.”

“Rachel and Brittany are not just two education graduates, they are two teachers committed to teaching their students and beginning by meeting their basic needs,” said Dr. Lynn Roper, assistant professor of special education.

“I remember having both of these passionate teachers in my classes just two years ago. We discussed the importance of knowing our students and what they need, beginning by creating a safe place for them to learn.

These two teachers took that to heart and are now determined to meet the basic needs of their students.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 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.