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Student Leads Makeover of Treatment Center Childcare Room

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- It takes a big dream and work ethic to make a difference. This is what defines Rachel Nesmith, a Cedarville University junior social work major from Waldorf, Maryland, who has begun the process of remodeling a children's daycare room at a drug rehabilitation center in Springfield, Ohio.

Nesmith and her team will complete the remodel on April 23.

Nesmith was working on an assignment for a social work class when she took a tour of McKinley Hall, a non-profit organization in Springfield that serves people affected by substance abuse disorders. During the tour, she discovered a children's room that could use an update. Children play in the room while their parents receive treatment for substance abuse.

"We talk a lot in social work about ambivalence, where you want to do something and you see the mountain of work it's going to take to get there," Nesmith said. "I think overcoming the ambivalence was the biggest challenge. I want to be the type of person who does things, not just talks about doing things."

She connected with McKinley's CEO Wendy Doolittle, who also sits on the advisory board for social work at Cedarville University, to determine if she could pursue this project. Without hesitation, Nesmith and her classmates began rehabbing the room, which included selecting different furniture and designing the remodel.

Nesmith pursued donations from local churches and business organizations, including Cornerstone Bible Church in Xenia, Ohio. In the end, several churches donated toys and books for the children to enjoy and the local Sherwin Williams store contributed all of the paint.

"It takes all types of personalities to get something done, and I'm grateful that God allowed me to be a part of this," said Nesmith. "I would not be able to make this dream become a reality if it weren't for the girls who were helping me."

This project has also helped Nesmith crystalize what she hopes to do following her graduation from Cedarville. She wants to do macro tasks within the social work sphere, specifically with large-scope advocacy and change.

“This is the call that God has put on my life to make big picture things happen,” Nesmith said. “He makes people different to accomplish different things. Now I know in the future that when I see that ambivalence about all the things that could go wrong, I have confidence in how God can work if you trust Him and others.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 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, including its [Bachelor of Science in Social Work](#) program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Written by Grace Burch

Photo Captions: McKinley Hall children’s room prior to remodel
Photo by Rachel Nesmith