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### Gardner-Webb Continues Efforts to Help Homeless

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Office of University  
Communications

January 7, 2015

## *Student Club's Upcoming Supply Drive Latest in Line of Events to Aid the Needy*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Gardner-Webb University has hosted several events in recent months to help homeless residents in local communities. In the coming weeks, a student club will continue those efforts by collecting a variety of personal care items to aid the homeless in surrounding counties.

GWU's Information Technology (IT) Club will gather toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, and bars of soap from Jan. 14-30. "While we are a small group here at Gardner-Webb, we desire to do our part to assist the local homeless ministries in our community," shared Dillon Stadther, president of the University's IT Club.

The items the IT Club collects will be distributed later this month as part of the Cleveland County (N.C.) Mental Health Association's Point in Time Homeless Count, an annual census of the homeless living in the region. Information collected during the census is shared with legislators to assess the resources different communities need to help the homeless. The event will include the distribution of personal care items, including those collected at Gardner-Webb this month.

In September, Gardner-Webb collected socks for the homeless. The Alumni Relations and Community Engagement offices followed in October by sponsoring a service project in which dozens of students each spent 60 seconds packing a pair of socks with personal care items for the homeless. And in November and December, the GWU Campus Civitan organized the University's annual Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which included a canned food drive to benefit the impoverished.

Micah Martin, director of student leadership development and community engagement, has seen the need to help the homeless and the impact the donation drives have through his involvement with shelters and other aid organizations. He saw first hand the need and opportunities to help people during an October fall break service trip to New York City, where GWU students and staff members volunteered at a soup kitchen and in other aid projects. He said Gardner-Webb's supply donations provide an easy way for community members to make a big difference in the lives of the homeless.

"It's a simple concept," he offered, "but it really matters to someone in need."

The upcoming toiletries drive will collect items at the Caf lobby in the Dover Campus Center and near the front entrance of the Tucker Student Center. For more information, contact Stadther at [dstadther@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:dstadther@gardner-webb.edu) or Martin at [volunteer@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:volunteer@gardner-webb.edu).

*The Information Technology Club is the leading worldwide society of professionals in information technology. Gardner-Webb's IT student club is a medium for students who are interested in technology, computers, and the scientific and practical approach to computation and its applications.*

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).*