

Cedarville coffee shop to benefit African country

HEREABOUTS

DIANA BLOWERS



Fresh ground coffee may not be synonymous with Cedarville

yet, but Taylor and Amanda Minor hope to make it so.

In the process, they're also supporting The Luke Commission, a Christian medical mission in Swaziland, a small, impoverished country in southern Africa.

The Cedarville University graduates opened Stoney Creek Roasters at 83 N. Main Street in Cedarville in August. It offers a variety of fresh-roasted coffees both online and in the store, which also includes a café.

He's a 2003 graduate of Cedarville High School and the Greene County Career Center. She's a Pennsylvania native and Miami Valley Hospital nurse.

They met at Cedarville University when he enrolled there after completing a tour of duty with the U.S. Marines, which included a year in Iraq.

"He's been employed by several companies, doing computer-related work, but he's always dreamed of entrepreneurship," she said, noting that it's very much a family business.

The Minors celebrated their third wedding anniversary just two days before the Aug. 8 opening of the store. They have two daughters, Emma Nicole, 19 months, and Madeline Grace, four months.

"Emma loves to interact with our customers so much that many of them know her by name," Amanda said, adding that Taylor's family is very involved in the business.

"His parents, Carrie and Craig Minor, are our business partners and his grandparents, Ernest and Hilda Taylor, are a constant and immense source of help and encouragement to

us. We are truly blessed."

The Minors would "love to see Cedarville become the coffee center for the state of Ohio. In the meantime, we are striving to perfect our roasting process so that our beans are a high quality, sought-after commodity."

Their building includes several store fronts, and the Minors have donated use of one of them for the headquarters for the Luke Commission, founded by two 1996 Cedarville University graduates, Harry and Echo VanderWal, a physician and physician's assistant, respectively.

Stoney Creek Roasters also has created a special coffee blend that the Luke Commission sells as a fundraiser for people in Swaziland, Africa.

"In 2005, a lady who was altering my wedding dress mentioned that Harry and Echo VanderWal, founders of The Luke Commission, were looking for a nanny for their 4-year-old triplets and 1-year-old son. We recommended Taylor's younger sister, Grace, who spent the next several years working alongside the VanderWals," Amanda said.

"Their passion for the people of Swaziland is quickly contagious, and the work they do there is simply astounding," she said of the medical clinics that often see between 500 and 800 patients per day.

"Since then, the VanderWals have become an integral part of our lives, not only as dear friends, but as family. We are thrilled to use Stoney Creek Roasters as a catalyst in raising funds to support the Luke Commission and its vision."

For more information, e-mail the Minors at taylor@scroasters.com, call them at (937) 697-5200 or visit www.stoneycreekroasters.com. For more information about The Luke Commission, visit its Web site at www.lukecommission.org.